

# EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

10:00 AM

MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL

**Members Present:** Councilmember Ray Lopez, Chair, *District 6*  
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*  
Councilmember Leticia Ozuna, *District 3*  
Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4*  
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*

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**Members Absent:** None

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**Staff Present:** Peter Zanoni, *Assistant City Manager*; Rebecca Flores, *City Education Policy & Services Administrator*; Gloria Hurtado, *Human Services Director*; Willette P Carter, *Interim Head Start Administrator*; Melody Woosley, *Assistant Director*; Shreyah Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Kristine Duff, *Assistant City Attorney*; Martha Lambaria, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Mark Vargas, *District 3 Youth Commission Representative*; Auriel S. Doss, *District 9 Youth Commission Representative*; Ramiro Salazar, *S.A. Public Library Director*; Dr. Viki Ash, *S.A. Public Library Children's Coordinator*, Molly Cox, *GenTx Consultant*

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At this time, the Committee addressed Item 4.

#### **4. Briefing on Youth Commission Status Report for 2011 - 2012**

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services introduced Molly Cox, Generation TX (GenTx) Consultant, Mark Vargas, District 3 Youth Commission Representative and Auriel S. Doss, District 9 Youth Commission Representative.

Mr. Vargas and Miss Doss provided a status report on the San Antonio Youth Commission. Mr. Vargas introduced Maria Rodriguez, GenTx Executive Director. Miss Doss reported on the new logo and bylaws for the Youth Commission. Mr. Vargas noted that they were able to successfully implement a new mission statement to empower youth to succeed.

Chairman Lopez thanked Mr. Vargas and Miss Doss and expressed his gratitude for their service. Councilmember C. Medina commended Mr. Vargas and Miss Doss for their hard work on the Youth Commission and stated that the future is bright.

#### **5. Briefing on the Mayor's Summer Reading Program**

Ramiro Salazar, Director, San Antonio Public Library

Ramiro Salazar, San Antonio Public Library Director introduced Dr. Viki Ash, San Antonio Public Library Children's Coordinator. Dr. Ash presented a briefing on the Mayor's Summer

Reading Club 2012. She stated that the primary purpose of the program is to encourage children to read for pleasure and to promote self directed learning. She spoke of the extensive calendar of free events.

Councilmembers Saldaña and Ozuna entered the meeting at this time.

Chairman Lopez asked of the global transition from traditional books to electronic books and asked if it was an advantage or disadvantage. Dr. Ash stated that they are still exploring the advantages and disadvantages. She noted that electronic books may appeal to a certain set of children but that we will not lose the book as we know it.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of the June 27<sup>th</sup> Magik Theatre presentation in District 4. Dr. Ash reported that the Magik Theatre presents Science Principles and experiments including audience participation. Councilmember Saldaña asked of the outreach and if students were in the libraries. Dr. Ash reported that partners get the message out to a much broader set of children and that there is an extensive online presence. Councilmember Saldaña suggested that a sign be placed outside of the Cortez Library for outreach and to further get the message out. Dr. Ash stated that Magik Theatre and Spikey Mikey Special Events are very well attended.

Councilmember C. Medina stated that he would like to ensure that the community is aware of the many ongoing opportunities at the Library during the summer. He suggested that a sign be placed in front of one of the libraries or that an over the street banner is placed for outreach.

### **Call to order**

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order.

#### **1. Citizens To Be Heard**

No citizens were present to speak.

#### **2. Approval of minutes of the May 8, 2012 Educational Excellence Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Ozuna moved to approve the Minutes of the May 8, 2012 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. Briefing and possible action on the creation of an SA2020 Commission on Education from the restructuring of the current San Antonio Commission on Literacy and the Commission for Children & Families**

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Gloria Hurtado, provided an overview of the SA2020 proposal. She recommended that San Antonio Commission on Literacy and the Commission for Children & Families be sunset and that two commissions be created that align specifically with SA2020. She proposed that the restructuring be recommended to the full City Council. She noted that the SA2020 Commission on Education would be aligned with the Educational Excellence Council Committee. She further stated that she is collaborating with the Quality of Life Council Committee to discuss sunsetting the Commission for Children & Families and creating the SA2020 Commission on Family Well

Being. She added that her expectation is that Rebecca Flores would assist staff with the aforementioned Commission.

Chairman Lopez stated that he was pleased to see that the aforementioned involves embracing new models and principles tied to SA2020.

Councilmember C. Medina asked how to get the commissions to keep their focus and have quorums and attendance. Ms. Hurtado replied that there is community wide excitement and desire about being a part of SA2020. She stated that as long as the focus is kept meaningful to those appointed to serve on the commission, they will participate.

Councilmember Ozuna commented on the Literacy Commission. She articulated her concern on the digital divide in the elderly community. She conveyed that people who cannot access digital mediums are left behind and that is not a strategy, furthermore it is not to be overlooked. Ms. Hurtado reported on 16 fully operational city senior centers and noted that computer labs are located in all of the facilities. She added that the facilities are very well utilized and that the attendance numbers have increased. Councilmember Ozuna elaborated on how the program is identified, and suggested not to lose sight of it. She further added the importance of an engaged and prepared citizenry.

Councilmember Saldaña affirmed that Ms. Flores is the city representative for the education component and asked for the city representative of Family Well Being. Ms. Hurtado replied that a staff member from the Family Assistance Division would serve as the liaison. Councilmember Saldaña requested updates with regard to quorum for both Commissions.

Peter Zanoni noted that Ms. Hurtado will present to the Quality of Life Committee regarding the Commission on Children & Families on June 19, 2012 and would be brought to the full City Council for consideration on August 2, 2012.

Councilmember C. Medina moved to forward said item to the full City Council. Councilmember Ozuna seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Briefing and possible action on the Family Service Association's proposal to move Head Start slots from Fort Sam Houston to Northside Independent School District**  
Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Ms. Hurtado requested approval of a revised program design plan for Family Service Association for the Head Start Program Year 2012-2013. She asked for approval on reallocating 37 Head Start slots from Fort Sam ISD to Northside ISD (NISD).

In response to Chairman Lopez, Nancy Hard, CEO of Family Service Association replied that there would be no children displaced from Fort Sam I.S.D.

Councilmember Ozuna asked of the decision to move services from Fort Sam to NISD. Ms. Hard responded that it aligned with strategic criteria with regard to more Head Start Services and noted that space was readily available at NISD.

In response to Councilmember Saldaña, Ms. Hurtado affirmed that the City is still the grantee for the program year 2012 – 2013.

Councilmember C. Medina asked of the locations identified in NISD. Ms. Hard replied that NISD has increased their classroom capacity by seven. She added that she would provide the specific locations at a later date.

Mr. Zanoni noted that the school building is generally a safer and more productive environment. He reported that the sites at Family Service Association are older and have challenging traffic patterns. He added that they are less safe than a school and that a school building keeps a continuum of learning.

In response to Councilmember Saldaña, Ms. Hard replied that negotiations and considerations were made with all school districts.

In response to Chairman Lopez, Ms. Hard reported that the said proposal was first driven by the Fort Sam Houston Superintendent (Base Commander), and noted that the Department of Army made the determination. In addition, the aforementioned was presented to parents, families, city, and Policy Council.

Councilmember C. Medina moved to forward said item to the full City Council. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Briefing and possible action on the 2012-2013 Head Start Program Grant Application and recommendation to forward to the full City Council**

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Ms. Hurtado requested approval to submit a Head Start re-competition grant application in the amount of \$35,073,584.00 for the 2013 – 2014 Program Year. She also requested authorization to present the grant application to City Council for approval.

Ms. Hurtado reported that the grant re-competition Request For Proposals (RFP) was issued on April 19th, and that the RFP must be submitted by July 18th. She stated that Health Human Services (HHS) is anticipating making the grant announcement in December 2012. She reported that staff is writing and preparing the grant and that the next step is to take the aforementioned to the full City Council for approval on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Discuss legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.073 and if necessary Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney) relating to deliberations regarding the competitive Head-Start Grant Application process.**

Chairman Lopez recessed the Educational Excellence Committee Meeting into Executive Session at 10:58 a.m. He reconvened the meeting at 11:07 a.m. and announced that no action had been taken in Executive Session.

Councilmember Ozuna moved to forward said item to the full City Council. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. Update on All-America City Award Application Process

Rebecca Flores, Education Services & Policy Administrator

Rebecca Flores reported that the National Civic League named San Antonio as one of 32 Finalists for the All-America City Award, sponsored by the National Civic League. She noted that three local school districts - Edgewood, Harlandale and San Antonio ISD will be the beta sites for implementation of the City's Education Master Plan. She further noted that the plan focuses on the following areas: School Readiness, School Attendance, Summer Learning, and Third-Grade Reading Levels.

In response to Councilmember Ozuna, Peter Zanoni reported that the winners will be announced on July 2, 2012 at the Grade-Level Reading Community Network Conference in Denver, CO. In response to Chairman Lopez, Mr. Zanoni reported that Mayor Castro and City Manager, Sheryl Sculley have been asked to attend the conference. Additionally, a delegation of five staff members will attend the conference.

## 9. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chairman Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Martha Lambaria*

*Martha Lambaria*

*Office of the City Clerk*



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*Ray Lopez, Chairman*