

**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

11:15 AM

CITY HALL MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM

Members Present: Councilmember Ray Lopez, Chair, *District 6*
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*
Councilmember Ray Saldana, *District 4*
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*
Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

Staff Present: Mayor Julián Castro; Peter Zaroni, *Assistant City Manager*;
Leticia Vacek, *City Clerk*; Gloria Hurtado, *Human Services*
Director; Melody Woosley, *Human Services Assistant Director*;
Audrey Abed, *Head Start Administrator*; Shreyah Shah,
Assistant City Attorney

Also Present:

1. Mayor Castro's Challenge & Opening Remarks

Mayor Castro thanked the members of the City Council for agreeing to serve on the Educational Excellence Council Committee. He cited the great opportunity to merge efforts with other entities as with the City's Library System. He asked that the Committee keep in mind the infrastructure, and educational components as it relates to the next Bond Issuance. Councilmember Taylor spoke of the Committee's role to bring together the larger players and link them to obtain the best outcome. Councilmember Soules concurred with Councilmember Taylor and expressed an interest to engage School Districts in the common purpose. Councilmember Cris Medina thanked Mayor Castro for implementing the Committee and expressed excitement about the prospects for the Committee to better improve education for the community. Councilmember Saldana expressed appreciation for the opportunity to focus, not on teacher curriculum, but educational options after school such as mentoring or tutoring services. Mayor Castro mentioned the goals set forth in SA2020 that will need to be addressed. Chairman Lopez stated that the Committee's efforts need to be very specific and that progress made be thoroughly tracked.

2. Briefing and discussion on possible items/topical areas of consideration for Educational Excellence Committee

Presented by Councilmember Ray Lopez, District 6 and Peter Zaroni, Assistant City Manager

Peter Zaroni provided an overview of the Educational Excellence Council Committee's purpose. He reported that an Educational Policy and Service Administrator would be hired and would be provided support from the Human Services Department. Chairman Lopez mentioned the Sales Tax Education Initiative and noted that investment needed to be identified. Councilmember Soules spoke of the importance to dialogue with School Districts and recommended that School District Representatives address the Committee on a rotational basis in order to plan for infrastructure. Councilmember Taylor spoke of opportunities for GED programming and classes and expressed concern from her constituents of the lack of opportunities. She also spoke of the

inclusion of charter schools in this effort and noted that partnering could help educational outcomes and neighborhood revitalization. Councilmember Soules asked of scholarships in terms of total budget. Mr. Zaroni responded that the SAEP Scholarship Funds totaled \$2 million. Councilmember Soules spoke of exploring need-based scholarships to meet the needs of the community and cited the shortage of Veterinarians in the State of Texas. Councilmember Cris Medina spoke of exploring the education and skills training perspective for students interested in technical schools. Chairman Lopez suggested that the Committee take inventory and maintain issues that need to be addressed on federal and state levels and prepare to lobby legislation regarding such issues.

3. Briefing and possible actions on items related to the Head start Program

Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Resources

Gloria Hurtado provided an overview of Head Start matters. She reported that 6,789 children and families were served annually through the Head Start System. She stated that the Educational Excellence Council Committee will assume the shared governance responsibility with the Head Start Policy Council. She noted that there were 23 new/revised policies and that staff was requesting to rescind 26 outdated policies. She provided an overview of the Federal Review Update and informed the Committee that Health and Human Services would return October, 2011 and November, 2011 to verify implemented corrections. She spoke of the following matters: 1) 2011-2012 Program Design Plan; 2) 2011-2012 Goals and Objectives; 3) 2010-2011 Self Assessment; and 4) 2011-2012 Teacher Requirement Waiver. She stated that the 2010-2011 Self Assessment was required in a four stage process (planning, data collection, analysis, and program improvement). She spoke of the 14 waivers for teachers who do not yet have their certification outlined requirements for approval. Ms. Hurtado requested approval of the following items: Program Design Plan; Goals and Objectives; Self Assessment; and the Teacher Certification Waiver Request. Councilmember Soules asked of the deficiency area. Ms. Hurtado responded that there was not a good monitoring system in place (i.e. health screenings). She stated that a monitoring unit is now in place and that many of the policies presented for approval address the issue.

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve said item as presented by staff. Councilmember Saldana seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

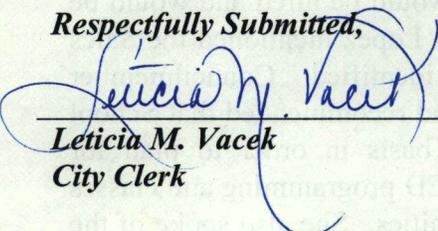
4. Citizens To Be Heard

No citizens were present to speak.

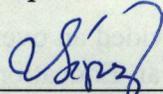
5. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Leticia M. Vacek
City Clerk



Ray Lopez, Chair