

**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012
10:00 AM
MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL**

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

Members Absent: Councilmember Leticia Ozuna, *District 3*

Staff Present: Peter Zaroni, *Assistant City Manager*; Gloria Hurtado, *Human Services Director*; Willette P. Carter, *Interim Head Start Administrator*; Melody Woosley, *Assistant Director Department of Human Services*; Michael Rodriguez, *Department of Human Services*; Kristine Duff, *Assistant City Attorney*; Martha Lambaria, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Nancy Hard, *Family Services*; Rey Madrigal, *Harlandale I.S.D. Interim Superintendent*; Leslie Ann Garza, *Harlandale I.S.D. Public Information Officer*

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 3.

3. Briefing on Harlandale Independent School District

Presented by Rey Madrigal, Interim Superintendent, Harlandale ISD

Rey Madrigal, Harlandale ISD Interim Superintendent introduced Leslie Ann Garza, Harlandale ISD Public Information Officer (PIO) and provided an overview of the Harlandale Independent School District (HISD) to include the following:

- ✚ 2012-2013 School Year Enrollment
- ✚ Demographics
- ✚ Student Participation
- ✚ 2010-2011 State Accountability (Last Year of TAKS)
- ✚ 2011-2012 State Accountability (First Year of STAAR)
- ✚ Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Federal Accountability
- ✚ Initiatives

In response to Chairman Lopez, Mr. Madrigal reported that he is aware of 100 PreK 3 and 100 PreK 4 students in the HISD Community who are on a waiting list due to full student capacity. Mr. Madrigal stated that HISD was landlocked and that student enrollment growth over the last four years was due to the high quality of education provided by HISD. Chairman Lopez noted that the student count is growing because of new families with children and reiterated that the trend is not new housing; but new families. Chairman Lopez asked of students not being served in HISD. Mr. Madrigal stated that HISD District-Wide Surveys show that there are an estimated 2,000 students in HISD that would qualify for PreK 3 & 4 Services due to their economic status. Chairman Lopez asked of Title I Campuses in HISD. Mr. Madrigal replied that all schools in HISD are Title I except for the Frank Tejada Academy. Chairman Lopez requested clarification

on the Co-Teaching Model and asked if Gifted and Talented, and Heterogeneous Classes were offered. Mr. Madrigal articulated that classes include Gifted and Talented as well as Heterogeneous Students and that Co-Teaching consisted of a highly qualified teacher and a content expert teacher co-teaching. In response to Chairman Lopez, Mr. Madrigal reported that as classes get larger, teachers teach five classes with one additional 50-minute class period dedicated to Professional Development.

Councilmember Saldaña thanked Mr. Madrigal for being present and asked of the eligibility of students on the waiting list. Mr. Madrigal reported that the children are eligible and meet requirements but HISD does not have the funding or slots to service them.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of HISD's relationship with Avance. Mr. Madrigal stated that this is HISD's 19th year of partnership with Avance. Councilmember Saldaña asked of the Dropout Recovery Academy. Mr. Madrigal affirmed that HISD identifies students who are two years or more behind and not successful in the traditional high school environment. Those students are transferred to the Frank Tejada Academy where they are surrounded with more support than offered in the traditional high school environment. In response to Councilmember Saldaña, Mr. Madrigal responded that the statistics for the served and underserved students were gathered from the Curriculum and Instruction Department.

Councilmember C. Medina spoke of the beautiful new Harlandale High School Campus. He asked that Mr. Madrigal expand on the Career and Technology Programs. Mr. Madrigal stated that Harlandale ISD provides an alternative to students with Career Technology Certifications in: Automotive, Cosmetology, Nursing, Phlebotomy, etc. Ms. Leslie Garza added that several students are using Career Education as a stepping stone and plan to pursue more education.

1. Citizens To Be Heard

No citizens were present to speak.

2. Approval of minutes of the August 22, 2012 Educational Excellence Committee Meeting

Councilmember Saldaña moved to approve the Minutes of the August 22, 2012 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember C. Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Briefing and possible action on the Head Start 2012 – 2013 enrollment and requests for approval of the 2012-2013 Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives and the 2011-2012 Self Assessment and Action Plan

Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Gloria Hurtado, Department of Human Services Director provided a briefing on the Head Start Program 2012-2013 Enrollment Process. She requested approval of the 2011-2012 Self Assessment and Action Plan and 2012-2013 Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives.

Chairman Lopez asked for clarification of the waiting list for Head Start and the critical component of the State's 15 Student Rule and Waiver. Ms. Hurtado reported that Head Start serves 30% of the eligible population; eligibility for Head Start is 100% poverty. She added that because of the mobility of families, there is a high turnover rate with the population. Thus, the

waiting list is always ready and slots are filled immediately. Ms. Hurtado stated that children with disabilities, foster care, dual language and homeless are a higher priority for placement.

Chairman Lopez expressed concern in the uncertainty of the 15-Student Special State Waiver and noted that it has never been clear; thus it is a critical component that needs to be articulated. Peter Zaroni concurred with Chairman Lopez and stated that he would research said issue.

Ms. Hurtado noted that there is a Special Meeting scheduled for September 18, 2012. Mr. Zaroni asked if the list of non-compliance was significant. Ms. Hurtado noted that it was her own self assessment of the program to identify and monitor said program. She added that other education service providers conducted their assessments as well to identify and monitor said program.

Councilmember C. Medina moved to approve the request for approval of the 2011-2012 Self Assessment and Action Plan and 2012-2013 Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Briefing on the 2012 Ambassador Program Implementation

Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Gloria Hurtado introduced Michael Rodriguez who was recently reassigned to work on the Ambassador Program. She informed the Committee that the goal of said program is to expose college students to career opportunities in the City.

Councilmember Taylor commended the program but noted that there should be more focus on private contributions. She asked why the City would take on the full cost of the program and suggested having a concerted effort with major sponsors contributing to it.

Councilmember Saldaña concurred with Councilmember Taylor and stated that the private sector recognizes that this is an asset and should contribute to the program.

Councilmember C. Medina also concurred with Councilmember Taylor & Saldaña and spoke in support of said program. He stated that employers have the opportunity to attract talented, young employees to their companies and should be engaged in sponsoring the Ambassador Program.

6. Update briefing on the Pre-K 4 SA Initiative

Peter Zaroni, Assistant City Manager; Rebecca Flores, Education Policy Administrator

Peter Zaroni provided an update on the PreK 4 SA Initiative. He reported that one key factor is that there are six weeks left for early voting which begins on October 22nd. He stated that City Staff is engaging larger forums such as business groups, interest groups and neighborhood groups to help them understand the program. He noted that the City of San Antonio has made many presentations on said initiative and has created a full page of upcoming engagements and other events. Mr. Zaroni added that the City has drafted an informational guide that will be released to the community and be available online as well. Furthermore, he reported that a five to ten minute video would be available for the City Council and available online on TVSA 21. In response to Chairman Lopez, Mr. Zaroni stated that the video would be available Friday, September 21. Mr. Zaroni reported that in efforts to get the word out, PreK 4 SA Vote Signs will be placed and TV Ads will be broadcast. He reiterated that early voting begins October 22nd.

In response to Councilmember Taylor, Mr. Zanoni replied that the City had engaged Judson ISD and other Superintendents in meetings but they had not engaged Judson ISD in a one-on-one meeting. Councilmember Taylor asked how it was decided to have one-on-one meetings with Superintendents. Mr. Zanoni replied that there are one-on-one dialogues at pre-calls with Superintendents before board meetings. He added that in areas of concern there will be a follow up between the City and Superintendents.

In response to Councilmember Saldaña, Mr. Zanoni stated that analysis and statistics can be used to explain the district-wide served and underserved children to the Superintendents.

Chairman Lopez requested that a fact sheet be created of frequently asked questions by districts. In response to Chairman Lopez, Mr. Zanoni replied that the date of the panel discussion is early October and affirmed that this initiative is a partnership with districts.

7. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Chairman Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Lambaria

Martha Lambaria

Office of the City Clerk



Ray Lopez, Chairman