

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 08, 2012

10:00 AM

MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL

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

Members Absent: Councilmember Ray Lopez, Chair, *District 6*

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

Also Present: Jose Cervantez, *Edgewood I.S.D. Superintendent*; Ramiro Salazar, *S.A. Public Library Director*; Viki Ash, *S.A. Public Library Children's Coordinator*; Zekeriya Yuksel, *School of Science & Technology Superintendent*; Archie Wortham, *School of Science & Technology Associate Professor*

Call to order

In the absence of Chairman Lopez, Councilmember Saldaña presided over the meeting.

Councilmember Saldaña called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens To Be Heard

No citizens were present to speak.

2. Approval of minutes of the April 10, 2012 Educational Excellence Committee Meeting

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the Minutes of the March 13, 2012 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Ozuna seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Introduction of Rebecca Flores, Education Policy & Services Administrator for the City of San Antonio Presented by Peter Zanoni, Assistant City Manager

Peter Zanoni provided a welcome and introduction of Ms. Rebecca Flores, Education Coordinator. He reported that the new Educator Coordinator Position has the following key duties:

1) To assess the expenditures of Education Dollars and analyze if the City is receiving the best outcomes and buying the right services. 2) To build a strong network/rapport with the Mayor's

Office and City Council, as well as School Districts, Charter Schools and Colleges; and further, to work on City Business with School Superintendent. 3) To formulate the Education Initiative with Mayor Castro's Education Package.

Ms. Flores introduced herself as a Native San Antonian and she articulated her passion for education. She further expressed her excitement to learn and improve the City's Education Policies.

Councilmember Saldaña welcomed Ms. Flores and expressed his enthusiasm with regard to her concentration in areas of primary concern and new developments in education.

Councilmember C. Medina welcomed Ms. Flores to the City of San Antonio. He spoke of the Council's vision and focus on increasing Literacy and Education Attainment Goals.

Councilmember Taylor welcomed Rebecca Flores back to San Antonio and stated that it was a great opportunity to get involved at such a critical time. She encouraged Ms. Flores to become involved in the Promise Neighborhood Initiative and noted that her main interest is inner city revitalization.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that he was hopeful that this position had the latitude to encompass everything that is necessary for San Antonio and that Ms. Flores could implement what she learned in Houston.

Ms. Flores conveyed that she had plenty to learn, and that she was very excited to be in this position. She stated that there are others in the State and Nation who are paying attention to what is occurring in San Antonio in the area of Education.

4. Briefing on The School of Science & Technology Charter School

Presented by Zekeriya Yuksel, Superintendent, School of Science & Technology

Mr. Zekeriya Yuksel, School of Science & Technology Superintendent provided an overview of The School of Science & Technology Charter School:

- Total enrollment: 1647
- 4 Campuses in San Antonio & Corpus Christi
- Student Demographics
- Economic Disadvantage Status
- Total Fund for 2011-2012 is \$12.6 M
- Keys to Success
- Learner Centered
- High Expectations
- Student Support
- Continuous Improvement
- Closing Gap
- College Readiness
- Long Term Goals

Mr. Yuksel introduced Mr. Archie Wortham Ph.D., Parent, and Educator. Dr. Wortham provided highlights on "Making it Real" Adapting a Speech Class to Prepare Dual-Credit students for College:

- Mission
- Education Goals
- The School
- Faculty/Student Ratio
- School History
- Class Meeting & Time
- Class Structure
- Syllabus & Student Learning Objective
- Dual-Credit Standards
- Student Demographics
- Test Scores

In response to Councilmember Saldaña, Mr. Yuksel reported the grade levels were 6–12th grade. He reported that The School of Science & Technology is an Independent School District. He stated that the locations are Judson & I35, 410 & Nacogdoches, 410 & Bandera, and Corpus Christi. Councilmember Saldaña asked of the challenges with their facilities. Mr. Yuksel replied that there was no internet or additional revenue, which limited the renovation of buildings. Dr. Wortham added that there are parking and traffic hazards in and around the current facilities.

Councilmember Taylor asked of the total number of students at the 410 & Bandera Campus. Mr. Yuksel replied that there are almost 420 students. She commended The School of Science & Technology on success with the top College Acceptance. She recommended that School Faculty and Staff encourage students to apply to the best schools, noting that Texans are underrepresented in the top schools. She suggested that they think creatively as a community and further stated that there is a need for these institutions in the inner city for lower income students.

Councilmember C. Medina suggested that Technology Staff work with school districts in trying to attract institutions and organizations to return back inside Loop 410. He further commended Dr. Wortham on his son's success. Dr. Wortham added that home visits and attending college are very instrumental at The Technology School.

5. Briefing on Edgewood Independent School District

Dr. Jose Cervantes, Superintendent, Edgewood ISD

Dr. Jose Cervantes, Superintendent provided an overview of the Edgewood Independent School District to include:

- Pride
- Traditions
- Demographics
- Challenges
- Initiatives
- Roadblocks
- Mission

Councilmember Saldaña thanked Dr. Cervantes. He asked of problems with recruitment of high quality teachers. Dr. Cervantes replied that the media image keeps quality teachers away. He reported that Edgewood I.S.D. has raised the pay for teachers and offer the highest pay for teachers in the city. In response to Councilmember Saldaña, Dr. Cervantes replied that Teach for America does have quality teachers, but it was a hurdle to utilize them due to their fees. Councilmember Saldaña stated that Metro Health is working on an In Class Pilot and that they would be great partners for Edgewood I.S.D.'s Initiative. Dr. Cervantes mentioned that Bienestar provided good guidance and a Dietician, educating parents as well.

Councilmember C. Medina thanked Dr. Cervantes for his commitment to Edgewood I.S.D. He asked of the relationship with the military and the ROTC. Dr. Cervantes replied that Edgewood I.S.D. collaborated with Port SA for the job market and use of facilities. He elaborated that Edgewood I.S.D. had a great ROTC and that many ROTC students go on to join the service or pursue a University.

Councilmember Taylor empathized with regard to the economic development challenges. She asked if Edgewood was in the target area for the Westside Development Corporation (WDC), and that they would be an important partner. She suggested employing Teach for America and encouraged the district address issues with Teen Pregnancy.

Councilmember Saldaña thanked Dr. Cervantes for the presentation.

7. Briefing and possible action on items related to Head Start Program

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Ms. Gloria Hurtado introduced Ms. Willette Carter, Head Start Interim Director. Ms. Hurtado provided a briefing related to the Head Start Recompensation Process and requested the approval of two policies:

1. Internal Dispute Policy and Procedure (revised).
2. CLASS and Classroom Observations (new).

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

6. Briefing on the City Library "Every Child Ready to Read" Initiative

Presented by Ramiro Salazar, Director, San Antonio Public Library

Mr. Ramiro Salazar, San Antonio Public Library Director introduced Dr. Viki Ash, San Antonio Public Library Children's Coordinator. Dr. Ash provided an overview on the Early Literacy Initiative under the umbrella of "Every Child Ready to Read".

Dr. Ash elaborated on three foundational assumptions made by "Every Child Ready to Read":

1. Children who have early literacy skills are much more likely to be successful in school.
2. Literacy begins at birth.
3. Parents and primary care providers are a child's first and best teacher.

She reported that long term predictors of school success are talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing. She stated that the said initiative is undertaking direct services to children, early childhood education workshops for parents, play & learn sessions, and a public awareness campaign.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of the locations serviced. Dr. Ash replied that the outreach team travels city-wide to provide training at parent gatherings, head start sites, and high schools. Councilmember C. Medina commended the Public Library and asked of the locations being targeted in District 7. Dr. Ash replied that they have participated in family events at Villarreal and Powell Elementary Schools. She reported that monthly services have been provided to the Circle North Head-Start Site. In addition, she noted that 127 in house programs in two District 7 branches were carried out.

8. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Martha Lambaria

Office of the City Clerk



Rey Saldaña , Councilmember