

**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013

1:00 PM

MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL

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

Members Absent: Councilmember Leticia Ozuna, *District 3*
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*

Staff Present: Peter Zanoni, *Deputy City Manager*; Melody Woosley, *Interim Director of Department of Human Services*; Ramiro Salazar, *Director of San Antonio Public Library*; Richard Keith, *Interim Assistant Director of Department of Human Services*; Kristine Duff, *Assistant City Attorney*; Martha Lambaria, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Rolando Posada, *Executive Director of IDEA Public Schools*

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 January 8, 2013 Educational Excellence Committee Meeting

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2013 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Briefing on IDEA Public Schools [Rolando Posada, Executive Director]

Rolando Posada, Executive Director for IDEA Public Schools thanked the Educational Excellence Committee and presented the following:

- College For All Children
- About IDEA
- College Matriculation
- Expansion
- Partnerships
- IDEA: San Antonio Vision
- Central TX Attachment - Gap
- IDEA S. Flores – Phase 1
- IDEA S. Flores – Construction Photos

- Proposed San Antonio Housing Authority - SAHA/MLK Site
- Results
- School-Based Results
- IDEA Core Values
- One Child's Story

Chairman Lopez thanked Mr. Posada for the presentation. He expanded on six Education Lawsuits, including one that spoke of charter schools specifically. He asked for clarification on statistics regarding third-grade level measurement for numeracy and literacy proficiency. Mr. Posada responded that there was a tremendous alignment between low third-grade scores and those who went to prison. He noted that the Academy's major goal was for every child to be on grade level by end of year or make one-and-a-half year's growth.

Councilmember Taylor thanked Mr. Posada for his work. She asked of concrete plans for establishing schools in neighborhoods. Mr. Posada elaborated on plans for the following sites:

- Carver
- South Flores
- Eastside
- Northwest

Councilmember Taylor asked for data indicating which neighborhoods students were from. Mr. Posada replied that transportation was not offered due to the high cost; as a consequence, students are from a wider radius.

Councilmember Taylor asked of non-academic courses offered at the school. Mr. Posada responded that non-academic courses include Technology, Art, Health and Physical Education in Middle School and that High School was a little more diverse.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of IDEA's conversation with public school districts. Mr. Posada replied that outreach had been conducted with San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD), but that said ISD would not meet at that time. He expanded on Brownsville ISD and indicated that both positive and negative levels had been encountered with school districts. He expressed interest in establishing a conversation with Local Leaders in hopes of a positive outcome. Councilmember Saldaña asked of challenges encountered with In District Charter Schools. Mr. Posada responded that Austin had cancelled the contract after one-year and that one-year was not adequate time for progress. He added that the media's negative response to Charter Schools was also encountered. Councilmember Saldaña asked of the flexibility to work with innovative strategies that Charter Schools could use but that public schools could not. Mr. Posada reported that they still had control of Curriculum and Culture but that there were caveats such as needing a clearer delineation with regard to results. Councilmember Saldaña asked of funding. Mr. Posada informed the Committee of Senate Bill 2 not passing the Charter School part of the Bill. In addition, he stated that facilities located closer to the inner city where most need is, cost large amounts of money.

Chairman Lopez thanked Mr Posada for his briefing and work.

4. Head Start Program briefing and possible action on a) request for approval of the 2013 – 2014 Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) Selection Criteria Point System Matrix; b) training and information on ERSEA processes for the 2013-2014 School Year; c) update on Head Start program activities; and d) Impact of Federal Sequestration on the Head Start program [Melody Woosley, Interim Director, Department of Human Services]

Melody Woosley, Interim Director of Department of Human Services provided a Head Start Program Update and requested approval of the 2013–2014 Eligibility Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) Selection Criteria Point System Matrix. In addition, she spoke of providing training and information on: 1) ERSEA related processes and 2) Strategic planning for the 2013-2014 School Year. She presented on the following:

- Re-designation application
- Sequestration
- Monthly Program Report (January)
- ERSEA Selection Criteria Points Matrix
- ERSEA Training
- 2013-2014 Strategic Planning

In response to Councilmember Saldaña, Ms. Woosley responded that everyone applying for re-designation would receive the same timeline.

Councilmember Saldaña moved to approve the 2013–2014 Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) Selection Criteria Point System Matrix. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Briefing on Teen Library Leadership Council Initiative [Ramiro Salazar, Director, San Antonio Public Library]

Ramiro Salazar, Director of San Antonio Public Library introduced Jennifer Velasquez, Teen Services Coordinator. Ms. Velasquez provided a briefing on the San Antonio Public Library's Teen Library Leadership Council. She elaborated on the great success at Libraries. She spoke of teenagers' interests such as Music, Art, Science, Gardening and Comics. She noted the importance of targeting high school aged teenagers.

Councilmember Taylor asked of teen recruitment and how often they meet. Ms. Velasquez replied that word of mouth is the most powerful way of recruiting. She stated that Electronic means such as Facebook, Twitter and the Library's online blog were also used in recruiting. She added that outreach visits to schools and community venues were other means of recruiting teens. Ms. Velasquez noted that teens meet every week.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of volunteer hour opportunities for teens and the Council's length of existence. Ms. Velasquez conveyed that teens are the strongest group of people who volunteer hours at the Library and that the Council had been in existence for a long time.

Chairman Lopez asked of outreach conducted in places where teen leadership is lacking. Ms. Velasquez reported having teen programs at every Library, every week and noted that Library staff were addressing teens at weekly programs and transitioning them into a more active role.

Chairman Lopez thanked Library Staff for their work.

6. Update briefing on the Pre-K 4 SA Initiative [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Rebecca Flores, Education policy Administrator]

Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager presented an update on the Pre-K 4 SA Major Areas of Focus to include:

- Budget Preparation
- Development of Two Initial Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers
- Site Selection for Additional Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers

In response to Chairman Lopez, Mr. Zaroni responded that subsequent center locations might be outside of Loop 410 but not outside of Loop 1604. He stated that a potential Westside Site might be at District 4 and 5 Boundary Lines and that an East or Northeast Site might be in the Windcrest Area.

Mr. Zaroni continued with the presentation and spoke of:

- Curriculum Development
- Independent Program Evaluation
- Transportation

In response to Chairman Lopez, Mr. Zaroni replied that transportation for students would be provided from six drop-off depots around each center. He noted that parents would be responsible for transporting students to and from the drop-off depots and that no accommodations for parents who do not have transportation to the drop-off depots would be provided at this point.

Mr. Zaroni presented on:

- Student Enrollment Process
- Child Nutrition Services
- Employee Recruitment
- Public Outreach
- Pre-K 4 SA Education Center Opening Activities

Mr. Zaroni recognized a team of 20 City Staff, particularly Jose De La Cruz from the Budget Office who is assisting with Pre-K 4 SA.

In response to Councilmember Saldaña, Mr. Zanoni replied that Marketing Groups and the Human Services Department would assist in the Grassroots Campaign to conduct outreach in the community. Councilmember Saldaña expressed interest in providing locations for door-to-door outreach in his District. In response to Councilmember Saldaña, Mr. Zanoni replied that 700 student slots would be filled by August.

Discussion ensued regarding outreach, student selection and drop-off depots.

7. Adjourn

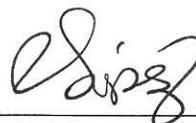
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Lambaria

Martha Lambaria

Office of the City Clerk



Ray Lopez, Chairman