

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011
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 Carlton Soules, *District 10*

Members Absent Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*

Staff Present: Peter Zaroni, *Assistant City Manager*; T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; Gloria Hurtado, *Human Services Director*; Melody Woosley, *Human Services Assistant Director*; Edward Gonzalez, *Human Services Assistant Director*; Audrey Abed, *Head Start Administrator*; Jeanne Russell, *Office of the Mayor*; Jed Maebius, *Office of the Mayor*; Shreyah Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Edward Guzman, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Herminia Saldivar, *SAEP*; Michelle Reyes, *SAEP*; Nancy Hard, *Family Service*; Charles Karulak, *Winston School*; Rick Alvarado, *ESC-20*; Ronny Board, *ESC-20*; Jessica Weaver, *Community In Schools of SA*; Cam Missina, *Voices for Children*

1. Citizens To Be Heard

No citizens were present to speak.

2. Approval of the November 8, 2011 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Saldaña moved to approve the Minutes of the November 8, 2011 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember C. Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Briefing and possible action on the Ambassador Program Redevelopment and Policy Input

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Gloria Hurtado requested redevelopment and policy input from the Committee regarding the Ambassador Program. She reported that the program has operated as a paid summer internship program with a focus of matching college students with their career interests. She stated that there was an increase in program funding providing for options to broaden the program to include:

- Continuing the current operational calendar (summer internships) and increasing the number of intern slots available

- ✦ Expanding the program operational calendar to include a 2012 spring internship opportunity, and year-round opportunities in subsequent years

She informed the Committee that a Senior Management Analyst would be assigned to coordinate the Ambassador Program and that the Department Website had been updated to include program information.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that he had conferred with Councilmember C. Medina and they both concurred on expanding the summer program to include more slots providing that several slots be allocated for local students.

In response to Councilmember Soules, Ms. Hurtado responded that the interns were paid approximately \$10.00 per hour. Councilmember Soules requested a summary of the businesses that hosted the program participants. He also requested information on the process utilized to engage private companies to participate in the program. He spoke of exploring options to pursue local businesses to match funding for quality interns. He requested details regarding program successes and recommended focusing on unmet needs in the community in addition to matching participant career interests.

Councilmember Taylor spoke of her experience in the Inroads Internship Program and recommended exploring an outside source to manage the program. She spoke in support of expanding the program appropriately for a city the size of San Antonio.

Councilmember Soules asked that the requested information be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

Councilmember Saldaña moved to expand the current operational calendar for summer internships. Councilmember Soules seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Briefing and discussion on San Antonio Partnership Scholarships

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Ms. Hurtado reported that the San Antonio Education Partnership (SAEP) Board will begin a Strategic Planning Process in January 2012 that will include reviewing the administration of City Scholarships. She provided an overview of the program and requested input from the Committee to provide information to SAEP for inclusion in the strategic planning process regarding San Antonio's City Council Policy Priorities.

Councilmember Taylor spoke in support of revising the policy to allow scholarships to any college in the United States and not limit the options of local students. She expressed concern that the scholarship award amounts were minimal and mentioned exploring a review of award criteria to 4-Year University versus Community College recipients.

Councilmember Soules concurred with Councilmember Taylor regarding the minimal scholarship award amounts and spoke of utilizing higher qualifications to award larger scholarship amounts. He stated that scholarships should be awarded regardless of the type or location of the institution.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that he had received an SAEP Scholarship but the funds were disqualified when he left the city to attend college. He spoke in support of providing more students with larger scholarship awards.

5. Briefing and discussion on NAEYC Early Childhood Education/Learning Outcomes and initial recommendations to encourage more NAEYC accredited centers in San Antonio

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Ms. Hurtado reported that the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) was the largest early childhood professional organization with a focus on development/education of children 0-8 years of age and their families. She stated that the NAEYC national voluntary accreditation system was established in 1985 and currently has 7,000 accredited programs in the U.S.; 25 in San Antonio. She added that there were barriers to accreditation that include: A) Costly to programs/centers; B) Bachelor & Associate degrees required for classroom staff; and C) Cost of care (\$9,000 annually/\$775.07 monthly).

Councilmember Taylor referenced the cost barriers for many childcare centers to obtain accreditation and spoke of exploring options to provide centers with information on the ten (10) early childhood program standards. Ms. Hurtado stated that discussions regarding Consolidated Funding Priorities would begin next month to receive Council direction for targeted funding. Councilmember Taylor requested data regarding Head Start disparities and a map of the NAEYC locations in San Antonio to assist in the Consolidated Funding discussions.

6. Briefing and possible action on items related to Head Start Program and Corrective Action Plan

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Ms. Hurtado provided information on the status of deficiencies, new Head Start (HS) Program competition requirements, and requested approval of four HS policy actions and School Readiness Plan. She reported that a review by the Health and Human Services (HHS) Monitoring Team regarding the lack of monitoring systems deficiency was completed on December 6, 2011 and that a final report was forthcoming. She stated that notification from the Department of Human Services (DHS) was received on November 16, 2011 declaring a second deficiency to the HS Program due to an incident where a student was slapped by a teacher in the SAISD HS Program. She added that SAISD did not notify staff even though the existing contract requires notification within 48 hours. She stated that staff met with contractors; implemented a corrective action plan; and resolved the issue with SAISD. She noted that HHS will return to review the deficiency on December 14, 2011.

Ms. Hurtado provided an overview of Designation Renewal Regulations, HS Policy Action, and the School Readiness Plan. She stated that staff recommended approval of the HS Policy Actions and School Readiness Plan.

Councilmember Taylor moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

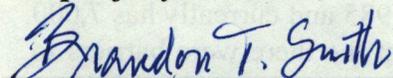
7. Consideration of items for future meetings

- ✚ School Attendance/Truancy
- ✚ City-Year Presentation

8. Adjournment

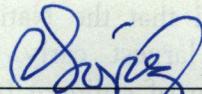
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith

Office of the City Clerk



Ray Lopez, Chair