

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2012

10:00 AM

MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL

Members Present: Councilmember Ray Lopez, Chair, *District 6*
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*
Councilmember Leticia Ozuna, *District 3*
Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4*
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Peter Zaroni, *Assistant City Manager*; Rebecca Flores, *City Education Policy & Services Administrator*; Ramiro Salazar, *S.A. Public Library Director*; Jennifer Velasquez, *S.A. Public Library Team Services Coordinator*; Gloria Hurtado, *Human Services Director*; Willette P. Carter, *Interim Head Start Administrator*; Melody Woosley, *Assistant Director*; Rhonda Roach, *Department of Human Services*; Shreyah Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Kristine Duff, *Assistant City Attorney*; Martha Lambaria, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Nancy Hard, *Family Services*

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 3.

3. Briefing on the Library's programs for Online Tutoring and Homework Help

Ramiro Salazar, Director, San Antonio Public Library

Ramiro Salazar, Director of San Antonio Public Library spoke in support of the Library's programs for Online Tutoring and Homework Help and noted that the program is underutilized. He spoke of a promotional campaign to inform the community of the program. He introduced Jennifer Velasquez, San Antonio Public Library Team Services Coordinator. Ms. Velasquez spoke of the Live Homework Help Service offered from 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm daily to receive help from a live tutor with Math, Science, Social Studies and English in English and Spanish. She stated that the only requirement to use the service is to have a free San Antonio Public Library Card.

Chairman Lopez asked how the program works and how the tutors are recruited. Ms. Velasquez replied that the City is a client of Tutor.com which recruits the tutors. Chairman Lopez asked how we ensure that people are able to utilize the service. Ms. Velasquez replied that the service is very user friendly and that they are conducting outreach at the high schools and Parent Teacher Associations (PTA's).

Councilmember Taylor asked for clarification on the Live Homework Help Résumé and Job Search Bookmark, which was issued by Ms. Velasquez. Ms. Velasquez reported that they are trying to promote résumé and job search services which include a skills center, résumé writing help and job search strategies help.

Chairman Lopez asked of the grade level most utilizing this program. Ms. Velasquez responded that tenth grade Algebra users are the highest, followed by Geometry and Algebra II.

Councilmember Ozuna spoke in support of the program. She asked of the 30-minute time slots and if a computer time waiver was offered. Ms. Velasquez reported that time is expanded or reserved for Live Homework Help. Councilmember Ozuna asked that Live Homework Help be posted across the terminal at the Mission and McCreless Libraries.

Councilmember C. Medina spoke in support of the program and stated that it was a great educational tool for students and the community.

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 June 12, 2012 Educational Excellence Committee Meeting

Councilmember C. Medina moved to approve the Minutes of the June 12, 2012 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Briefing and possible action on the Head Start 2012 – 2013 School Year Center Enrollment Plans

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Gloria Hurtado, Director of Department of Human Services reported that Michael Brightman will be the new Head Start Administrator. Ms. Hurtado provided a briefing on the Head Start Grant Application and requested approval of the 2012-2013 School Year Center Enrollment Plans. She also presented the 2011-2012 Head Start child outcomes.

Peter Zanoni asked for clarification on the presentation with regard to three and four-year-olds. Ms. Hurtado responded that the slide presentation was a snapshot of four-year-olds.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of the different providers Head Start is partnering with, in regard to the grant re-competition. Ms. Hurtado affirmed that the following were partners:

- San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) & Edgewood Independent School District for Education Services
- Center for Healthcare Services for Mental Health
- Metro Health for Dental Services
- University Health Services (UHS)
- Family Service Association

Councilmember Saldaña asked of Slide 9 on the Power Point. Ronda Roach, Department of Human Services (DHS) reported that the slide shows that four-year-old children experienced loss

in vocabulary within the language and literacy domain from the beginning of the year (BOY) to end of the year (EOY). She stated that it has been a big concern and that there are many variables such as: 1) New Curriculum and 2) First year that all classrooms used the CIRCLE-C-PALS Assessment Tool. Councilmember Saldaña reaffirmed that there is a correction action plan by Head Start and that there is an area for improvement with Family Service Association.

Chairman Lopez asked of the applicant count that is waiting to request Head Start. Willette P Carter, Interim Head Start Administrator reported that it is the average of 6,789 with ten percent disability enrollment, and that Head Start is expected to meet the count. She stated that the numbers will be known for certain on Monday after viewing the ongoing wait list.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of the percentage of total eligibility on the waiting list. Ms. Carter stated that it changes by provider but will get back with more information and that the larger the program; the larger the wait list.

Mr. Zanoni reported that 21,000 three and four-year-olds in San Antonio are eligible for Head Start; however, only 7,000 can be served with the grant. In contrast, 14,000 are under served or not served.

Chairman Lopez asked if students who have special needs were identified. Ms. Hurtado reported that 10% of the slots are for children with disabilities.

In response to Councilmember Saldaña, Ms. Hurtado responded that a Blended Head Start/PreK through collaboration with local school districts allows all Head Start children to receive a full day program. She stated that Head Start funds half day and that the second half of the day is funded by the School Districts.

Councilmember Saldaña motioned to approve the 2012-2013 School Year Center Enrollment Plans. Councilmember C. Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lopez suggested scheduling organization meetings to report what Head Start is doing, where we are and how it is blended in with the Pre K Initiative. Mr. Zanoni recommended scheduling a meeting in September.

5. Discussion of Calendar Year 2012 Educational Excellence Committee Major Policy Goals & Objectives

Councilman Ray Lopez, Chair, Educational Excellence Committee; Peter Zanoni, Assistant City Manager

Mr. Zanoni provided a recap of the past year. He reported that there has been an Educational Excellence Meeting every month from January to present. He stated that Department Heads were brought in to brief the committee on the following:

- PK16 Council
- Promise Neighborhood
- Library – Every Child Ready to Read
- Action Item on the Creation of Education Commission
- Action item on Anti-Bullying

He stated that the aforementioned was to inform the committee on the said initiatives and action items.

Mr. Zanoni recommended that the September Educational Excellence Committee Meeting encompass bringing back Head Start; a recap on the Ambassador Program; and discussion of improvements for the next session for next year. He proposed that the October Meeting include the School Finance Lawsuit, ALDEF and the Legislative Agenda for school districts. Chairman Lopez asked how the aforementioned would be pursued. Ms. Flores reported that Region 20 holds meetings with Superintendents with the potential of all San Antonio School Districts coming together on one or two legislative issues that can be taken to Austin. In response to Chairman Lopez, Ms. Flores stated that there is time to encompass the aforesaid. Mr. Zanoni stated that the district's suggestions and concerns could be brought forth in October. He added that in November, the Role of Educational Excellence Committee could be addressed. Ms. Flores recommended that No Child Left Behind be included in November. Mr. Zanoni suggested that December could include the Dropout Rate, Adult Literacy and to bring back Superintendents. Chairman Lopez added that the Bexar County Federation of School Boards could be included. Councilmember C. Medina suggested that more focus on programs with regard to graduation rate and local universities be present, to include the President of St Mary's University, Thomas M. Mengler, J.D.

6. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chairman Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Martha Lambaria

Office of the City Clerk



Ray Lopez, Chairman