

**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 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*

Members Absent Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4*
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*

Staff Present: Peter Zaroni, *Assistant City Manager*; Gloria Hurtado, *Human Services Director*; Ramiro Salazar, *Library 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*; Martha Lambaria, *Office of the City Clerk*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Paul Garro, *City Year*; Erica Heizel, *City Year*; Brittany Bartlett-Pina, *City Year*

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 4.

4. Briefing on City Year

Presented by Paul Garro, Executive Director, City Year San Antonio

Paul Garro introduced Erica Hizez and Brittany Bartlett-Pina and asked Brittany to provide a synopsis of her experience with City Year. Ms. Bartlett-Pina spoke in support of City Year. She stated that she decided to join City Year to share her love for education. She added that she chose San Antonio due to it being the 7th largest city in the Nation and for its demographics.

Mr. Garro provided an overview of the City Year process and composition.

Councilmember Ozuna entered the meeting at this time.

Peter Zaroni, asked of the City Year locations. Mr. Garro responded that San Antonio is the only Texas City in which City Year is located; they are in five schools in San Antonio.

Councilmember Taylor asked of most common reason that students miss school. Ms. Bartlett-Pina replied that most students miss school due to a lack of motivation after arriving to school.

Call to order

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens To Be Heard

Thomas Tompkins spoke in support of the creation of an Education Commission.

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

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2012 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Ozuna seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Briefing and possible action on the creation of an Educational Commission from the restructuring of the current Literacy Commission and the Commission for Children & Families

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Gloria Hurtado reported that the goal is to establish a new Commission on Family Well-being and Education to align with SA2020 Goals. She reported that, San Antonio Commission on Literacy and the Commission for Children and Families are over 25 years-old. She stated that many changes have occurred in the community and the focus has changed. Ms. Hurtado added that the aforementioned presents itself as an opportunity for realignment.

Ms. Hurtado reported that in speaking with the Mayor's Office; it was determined that volunteers want to have a focus and a direct connection to the Council and Mayor's Office. She stated that to have a direct alignment to this Committee, the newly formed Commission would report to the Educational Excellence Committee at least twice a year.

Ms. Hurtado reported that the new Commission would sunset the two existing Commissions. She stated that the charge of the newly created Commission would be to analyze and advise this Committee on the alignment of all City Programs under the SA2020 umbrella. She requested that the Commission also be charged with identifying the community partners that compliment the various City Programs and Services. The former will also review all Programs and Services and their impact on College Readiness.

Ms. Hurtado stated that Board Members for both the San Antonio Commission on Literacy and the Commission for Children and Families are anxious to continue to serve as Commissioners. She noted that the makeup of the new Commission would be Council's decision.

In response to Councilmember Ozuna, Ms. Hurtado stated that there are entities focusing on the 0-5 year-old age group and kinder readiness that are a part of the SA2020 efforts. Councilmember Ozuna affirmed that the committee itself would not be a part of the charge of 0-5 year-old age group, unless the Council requested it to be one of the charges. Ms. Hurtado confirmed same.

Councilmember Taylor spoke in support of combining the Commissions, but expressed concern with the scope of focus. She suggested that there be a more defined recommendation. She also requested additional information on what the Commission on Children and Families and Literacy Commissions were doing. Ms. Hurtado replied that their charge was to recommend to the Council on matters that affect children and families. She reported that in the last year, the Commission only managed to meet a couple of times due to lack of quorum, and that the current Commission has had limited accomplishments.

Chairman Lopez recommended that the Council not prescribe what the guidelines should include, but give the new Commission a level of charge. He further recommended that the Commission meet with the Committee and other individuals who would like to give further insight as to the creation of the new Commission.

Mr. Zanoni requested clarification from the Council Committee on the number of members, noting that he believed that having eleven members was ideal.

Carri Wiggins spoke of the difficulty of categories, and asked the committee to consider flexibility.

It was the consensus of the Council Committee to proceed with the development of recommendations for the Education Commission, which will be brought back in April before being presented to the full City Council.

No motion required.

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

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Ms. Hurtado asked for approval in three areas:

1. Head Start Policy Changes to include: clarifying minimum classroom staffing requirements implementing policies and procedures regarding shared decision making, improving program selection processes; and consolidating personnel policies. She added that staff is also requesting authority to rescind six outdated policies.
2. Selection Criteria Point System to include: children with a disability, teen parents, homeless families, parents in school or training, and children in foster care.
3. Disability Waiver Request to include: changes to program model, recruitment strategies, and disability identification processes increasing the number of enrolled children with disabilities.

In response to Councilmember Ozuna, Ms Hurtado noted that 8% of the 2011-2012 disability enrollments equated to approximately 500 students.

Mr. Zanoni requested that 'Disabilities' be explained. Ms. Hurtado described it as delayed language and physical disabilities.

Councilmember Ozuna asked of the gap of only capturing 30% of the target families. Ms. Hurtado stated that Head Start received \$48 million in funds for 6,789 slots. She stated that the 6,789 slots represented only 30% of eligible 3 & 4 year olds in this community. She added that over 21,000 3 & 4 year olds are living in or below poverty in this community.

In response to Councilmember Ozuna, Ms Hurtado reported that open enrollment will receive 10,000 applications. She added that by applying a point system, they will take the top 6,789 students with highest points, based on geographical area, which will allow Head Start to serve the highest need. Others will be placed on a waiting-list based on the point system. Councilmember Ozuna asked if point criteria show that those are effective interventions for at-risk children. Ms. Hurtado replied that points target groups and priorities. She added that they target populations that the Federal Government has identified.

Councilmember Ozuna affirmed that the point criteria are a program requirement.

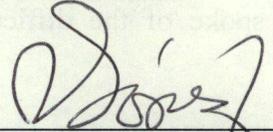
Councilmember Taylor moved to approve said item as presented by staff. Councilmember Ozuna seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

6. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Lambaria
Martha Lambaria
Office of the City Clerk



Ray Lopez, Chair