

# EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014**

**11:30 A.M.**

**PLAZA ROOM B, MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Rey A. Saldaña, Chair, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Ivy Taylor, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Cris Medina, <i>District 7</i>
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Councilmember Joe Krier, <i>District 9</i>
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Dale McNeil, <i>Assistant Director, Library</i> ; Matthew Schwiegar, <i>Mayor's Office</i> ; Mikel Brightman, <i>DHS</i> ; Gloria Hurtado, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Kristine Duff, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Richard Keith, <i>Interim Assistant Director, Human Services</i> ; Ryan J. Cook, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Also Present:</b>	Councilmember Diego Bernal, <i>District</i> ; Patricia Stout, <i>Alamo Travel</i> ; Cristina Salazar, <i>SAHCC</i> ; Celina Moreno, <i>MALDEF</i> ; Clarissa Rodriguez, <i>Presente</i> ; Ivalis Gonzalez, <i>Presente</i> ; Laurie Posner, <i>IDRA</i> ; Jean Brady, <i>SAPL</i>

## **1. Citizens To Be Heard**

No citizens were present to speak.

## **2. Approval of minutes of the February 18, 2014 Educational Excellence Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2014 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

## **3. Discussion and Possible Action on Local Impact of Texas House Bill 5 Implementation** [Ivalis Meza Gonzalez, ¡PRESENTE!; Laurie Posner, Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA)]

Ivalis Gonzalez provided a briefing and presentation on the Local Impact of Texas House Bill 5. She stated that HB5 modifies End of Course Testing, District and Campus Accountability, and Graduation Requirements by removing Algebra II as a Required Course. She compared the current Texas High School Diploma and Graduation Plans to the requirements of HB5. She stated that the Minimum, Recommended, and Distinguished High School Diploma Plans would be replaced with Foundation, Foundation/Endorsement, and Foundation/Endorsement with a Distinguished Level of Achievement. She reported that 80% of Texas Students graduate under the current Recommended Plan which is a rough equivalent to the new Distinguished Graduation Plan. She recommended that the City adopt the Distinguished Plan as the Default Plan for all San Antonio Schools, Present HB5 Graduation Plans to Neighborhood and Community Organizations, and Provide HB5 Informational Material in a Bilingual Format.

Laurie Posner spoke in favor of adopting the Distinguished Graduation Plan as the Default Graduation Plan for the City of San Antonio. She stated that the Students of San Antonio should have access to a quality education that prepares them for all Career Options.

Patricia Stout stated that the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce would stand alongside Business Leaders and Parents to urge all San Antonio School Districts to ensure that Algebra II is included in all endorsement tracks for High School Education across the City. She further stated that Algebra II has shown to be a determining factor for Automatic College Admission. She stated that if the City wanted Hispanic and Minority Students to be able to compete effectively, Algebra II should be a fundamental component of their Educational Career.

Councilmember Taylor asked if School Districts had the flexibility to choose the Distinguished Plan. Ms. Gonzalez replied that they did. She noted that the San Antonio ISD, Austin ISD, and Houston ISD have all adopted the Distinguished Plan as their Default Plan. Councilmember Taylor asked if Charter Schools were being engaged. Ms. Gonzalez replied yes and noted that Brooks City Base has adopted the Distinguished Plan.

Councilmember Gonzales asked how the adoption of the Distinguished Plan would affect the school's hiring process. Celina Moreno replied that the hiring process would not be affected since Algebra II is a requirement and is presently being taught schools.

Councilmember Taylor moved to forward the Local Impact of Texas House Bill 5 Implementation to the full City Council. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

**4. Discussion and Possible Action on the recent Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) literacy study referenced in Time Magazine.** [Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager; Dale McNeil, Assistant Director, San Antonio Public Library]

Dale McNeil provided a briefing and presentation of the Culture of Reading in San Antonio to include the following:

- Defining the Term: "Culture of Reading"
- Number of Bookstores
- Library Resources
- Internet Resources
- Newspaper Circulation
- Educational Attainment
- Periodical Publishing Resources
- Southwest is the Lowest Ranked Region
- Culture of Reading, Literacy
- Comparing CCSU Ranking with Rates of Illiteracy
- What does the City do to Encourage a Culture of Reading?
- What does SAPL do to Encourage a Culture of Reading?

Councilmember Medina excused himself from the meeting at this time.

Councilmember Bernal stated that the Willie Velasquez Learning Center was part of the Study conducted in 1984 initiated by Mayor Henry Cisneros in an attempt to identify San Antonio's

Literacy Rate. He stated that the Learning Centers were part of the City's response to the results yielded from said Study. He spoke in favor of conducting a new Study based on current standards.

Councilmember Taylor concurred with Councilmember Bernal and suggested that the City formulate a plan based on its needs and current standing to create a base line. She offered various ideas to create more Library Traffic and promote reading.

No action was required for Item 4.

**5. Discussion and Possible Action on Head Start Briefing Items** [Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Department of Human Services]

Mikel Brightman provided a briefing and presentation of the Head Start Program to include the following:

- Purpose
- Strategic Plan Process
- Monthly Program Report
- Recommendations

Ms. Brightman reported that the Head Start Performance Standards required an ongoing Program Planning Process. She stated that the Planning Process must include Community Assessment, Short and Long-Term Program Goals and Objectives, and Written Plans for Implementation of Services. She reported that the Strategic Plan Document Includes Measurable Objectives, Action Items, and an Implementation Timeline. She reported that the Head Start Strategic Planning Session for the 2014-2015 Program Year will be held on May 2, 2014.

No action was required for Item 5.

**6. Discussion and possible action on a City of San Antonio Education Policy Statement** [Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager]

Councilmember Taylor moved to forward the City of San Antonio Education Policy Statement to the full City Council. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

**Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Rey Saldaña, Chairman*

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*Ryan J. Cook, Office of the City Clerk*