

**AISD/City of Austin  
Task Force on Education and the Quality of Life  
in Austin for Hispanic Students**

**Meeting of April 12, 2006  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
ACC, Highland Business Center**

***Minutes***

Members in Attendance:

Rick Burciaga, Eyna Canales-Zarate, Janis Guerrero, Rosie Mendoza, Veronica Rivera, Angela Valenzuela, Linda Velasquez

Others in Attendance:

John Moore, Della May Moore, Joey Crumley, Justin Fried, Representatives of HABLA

Proceedings:

- Dr. Guerrero provided a brief overview of items on the meeting agenda, including planning for the upcoming community forum, update on the public review draft of the task force report, final results of the online survey, and discussion with members of HABLA.
- The first order of business was planning for the April 28 community forum. Dr. Guerrero described several efforts that had been made to publicize the forum, including newspaper and radio ads, press releases, announcements on the AISD and City of Austin websites, email announcements to AISD employees and campuses, and email announcements sent to a large list of organizations and community members.
- It was agreed that the implementation plan section of the draft report should include a specific recommendation from the task force that the plan actually be directed, with a continuing role for the task force.
- Rosie Mendoza expressed concern over AISD not informing or involving the task force in recent discussions over the possible repurposing of certain campuses.
- In order to conserve time, Dr. Guerrero asked task force members to go over the remainder of the draft report and online survey results on their own.
- Robert Martinez explained that HABLA was a coordinated group of representatives from several Hispanic community and business organizations. He said HABLA presented several specific concerns to AISD Superintendent Pat Forgione in November.
- Discussion points included:
  - Disproportionate number of dropouts and disciplinary actions among students of color
  - Need for more meaningful interventions for struggling students
  - Need for more Hispanic and bilingual teachers

- Need to better address the needs of immigrant English language learners
- Over-identification of students of color in Special Education; difficult to remove label of Special Education once it is applied; disciplinary and other problems often result in Special Education referrals; need to change the attitudes of teachers
- Need to provide more opportunities for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) to participate equitably in AISD projects; more outreach and monitoring is needed
- Not all Campus Advisory Councils (CACs) are working effectively; they need to be continually working to build and maintain safe and nurturing learning environments
- Need to increase college and scholarship applications; need to start college and career preparation at an early age
- Stakeholder communications are largely lacking; AISD often devises plans internally and then imposes them upon the community
- Task force needs to come up with recommendations that truly impact systems
- The Hispanic and African American task forces do not seem to really be working together
- Ongoing staff development is needed at all levels
- Community forum should be in a more accessible setting east of I-35 and not on a Friday evening
- A joint meeting with the chairs of the parallel African American Task Force was set for May 3. A debriefing on the community forum was set for May 6. The final meeting of the task force was confirmed for May 17.