

**Joint Meeting of the Task Forces on
Education and Quality of Life in Austin for
Hispanic and African American Students**

May 3, 2006

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**ACC Highland Business Center
Conference Room 224**

(Revised Minutes)

Hispanic Task Force Attendance:

Eyna Canales-Zarate, Dr. Janis Guerrero, John Limon, Rosie Mendoza, Veronica Rivera

African American Task Force Attendance:

Dr. Kevin Foster, Dr. Ted Gordon, Jeffrey Richard, Jeffrey Travillion, Dr. Darlene Westbrook

Others in Attendance:

Brett Cormier, Joey Crumley, Della May Moore, John Moore, Beverly Reeves

Summary of Proceedings:

- Dr. Janis Guerrero called attention to the handout materials provided, including the recommendations, community forum PowerPoint presentations, and community forum minutes for each task force.
- Jeff Travillion commended AISD and City of Austin staff for their support offered to the task forces.
- Veronica Rivera asked those in attendance to take a few minutes to review the handout materials.
- Ms. Rivera said both task forces would be presenting their final reports to AISD and the City of Austin on June 13. She said she recognized that budgetary restrictions could be applicable to many of the recommendations of the task forces. She said the main purpose of this meeting was to seek a united front on common recommendations, as well as to have an open dialogue on where we have been and where we are going.
- Jeffrey Richard felt there were more similarities than differences in the two sets of task force recommendations. He said he would also know more about the costs associated with the recommendations. He felt there was a good trust level between the two task forces, and many of the members were old friends.
- Dr. Guerrero felt it would be most productive to identify the critical things and state some strong budgetary priorities.
- Ms. Rivera described the processes the Hispanic Task Force used for gaining community input, including several individual interviews and an online survey.

- Dr. Guerrero summarized the community forum for the Hispanic Task Force. She said there was a good cross section of speakers and felt validation in the fact that nothing new came out in the comments.
- Eyna Canales-Zarate felt that follow up on the recommendations of both task forces would be very important.
- Mr. Richard summarized the community forum of the African American Task Force. He said most of the comments focused on school operations and the quality of instruction. He said he was also concerned about what happened to the task force recommendations once presented.
- Rosie Mendoza said she wanted to make sure that comments received at the Hispanic Task Force community forum and comments previously provided by HABLA were taken into account in preparing the final task force report.
- Dr. Kevin Foster felt the quality of comments received at the African American Task Force community forum were good, although he wished the attendance had been better.
- Dr. Guerrero summarized the recommendations of the Hispanic Task Force, and Dr. Westbrook summarized the recommendations of the African American Task Force.
- Dr. Westbrook and Mr. Richard explained that the African American Task Force had come up with a short list of its top recommendations to help better identify priorities.
- Several commonalities in the two sets of recommendations were identified, including: the need for more cultural sensitivity and culturally relevant instruction; better preparation for college and career; the need for more rigor combined with supports; increasing the number of highly qualified teachers; the need for more equity in resource allocation; better addressing behavior and discipline; and the need for more professional development.
- Mr. Travillion suggested that the City of Austin direct resources to after-school services. He also suggested that mentor programs work to include retired teachers.
- Dr. Ted Gordon suggested that communications be established with teacher training institutions to train teachers for “urban teaching.” He also suggested identifying where the majority of African American and Hispanic students attend high school and providing a community leadership magnets for those students.
- Ms. Rivera felt the Hispanic Task Force should also establish a short list of top priorities. She said that she wanted to continue to share information, and that she was impressed by the quality of work of both task forces and glad to be involved.