

[**http://ntrp16.org/**](http://ntrp16.org/)

**North Texas Regional P-16 Council Meeting Minutes**

**February 7, 2017**

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Fort Worth Chamber

306 W. 7th Street

Fort Worth, TX 76102

**Members Present: Pam Brown, Michelle Buggs, V. Barbara Bush, Joe Butler, Althea Chaderton, Ray de los Santos, Denise Davis, Natalie Farinacci (for Denise Devora), Mary Harris, Kimberly Hilley, Raul Hinojosa, Christine Hubbard, Linda K. Johnson, Jean Keller, Karrabi Malin, Raul Martinez, Cornelia McCowan, DeShandra O’Neal, Anita Perry, Don Perry, Juanita Reyes, Fred Schmidt, LaToya Stewart**

1. **Greetings, Introductions and Refreshments**
* Jean Keller opened the meeting with thanks to the Fort Worth Chamber for hosting and acknowledgement to Cynthia Miller.
* Council meeting minutes from December 13, 2016, were approved by consensus.

1. **Regional Data**
* V. Barbara Bush stated revised gap analysis data will be presented at the next meeting. She shared legislative recommendations for higher education and asked the Council to think about funding, recommendations for the General Academic Increase (GAI), and support for the 60x30TX. She noted a focus on successful student completion fostered by the state’s setting aside 10% of funding, and institutions of higher education earning points for every student who graduates. The new formula would provide funding for advising, tutoring, and the other interventions students need to complete degrees in a timely fashion. David Saenz, CTE Director, Fort Worth ISD, stated accountability is important, and all organizations need to follow similar models through uniform programs that evaluate success on the same level. In the last legislative session, House Bill 505 granted students access to dual credit courses in 9-12 grade.
* Dr. Susan Hull, Superintendent, Grand Prairie ISD, stated early college high school programs are very beneficial because teachers hold students accountable, and they learn to meet college expectations. A few students miss participation in high school activities.
* Barbara asked the Council to consider how universities can help dual credit students’ use all the hours they have taken. If we could project legislative proposals, we would be more proactive.
1. **Moving Texas Students Forward: An Examination of Texas Education Legislative Topics**
* Pam Brown acted as moderator for the panel discussion with panel members: Lanet Greenhaw, Vice President, Education, Dallas Regional Chamber; Dr. Susan Hull, Superintendent, Grand Prairie ISD; David Saenz, CTE Director, Fort Worth ISD. Pam focused on public education legislature issues.
	1. With our 85th Legislature in full swing, what legislative initiatives do you think will be ones to watch as we progress in this session?
* Susan Hull said we need to watch out for distractions such as disallowing payroll deduction for union dues, bathroom and education savings account bills in the fight for early education, literacy, and school funding.
* Lanet Greenhaw stated the budget is a key issue. Many decisions will hinge on the budget. The school choice bill may hold up other issues if it doesn’t move forward. Another issue is the A-F grading of schools. She felt it probably won’t be changed, but it needs to be refined to make it work.

2. What do you see as critical areas that the Texas Legislature should emphasize to provide Texas PK-16 students with opportunities for college, career, military, or life success?

* Susan Hull commented that student success has little to do with academics but is more about life choices, habits, students as people: how do you get along in workplace, manage time, make decisions, and handle stress. Provide flexibility and incentives to reach goals. It is wasteful to provide more seats in charter schools when public schools have space. We need to prioritize and get back to listening to educators. Rating systems need to deal with more than one pathway in Career Technical Education, where she thinks public health is overemphasized.
* Lanet Greenhaw said that quality Pre-K is critical. School finance is capped by law, and the state is decreasing the share of money they give to education. We need to push to keep education dollars local.

3. One of Governor Abbott’s top legislative priorities for this session is school choice. What do you see as the benefits or challenges of school choice for Texas school students?

* Susan Hull noted that parents should have choice, and local schools have obligations to provide choices. Neighborhood schools are often the best choice. More affluent families have more options. If schools mandate where a child goes to school, it’s their fault if the child fails, but parents accept the consequences if they pick the school. Vouchers give choices only to the parents who can drive their children to different schools. This might be an incentive for transportation vouchers.
* David Saenz commented that there should be help for our neediest students, and funding for transportation is important.
* Susan Hull added that financial accountability is key. Parents accepting options need to be accountable for progress of their students.

4. What is one thing that could be done to improve the A-F Accountability Rating System? Other things?

* Lanet Greenhaw pointed out that the data used to determine ratings is not real time. It is a year old. The business community could fix this if the legislature engaged them. Another issue is that attendance is a measure, but schools don’t have control over children’s attendance. We need to find a way to amend the five ratings so they will work.

5. In your opinion, what are the key elements of the Texas school finance system that need to be addressed, and what might be done to address them?

* David Saenz said funding cuts would cause issues for dual credit. Senator Nelson needs information to understand transfer and articulation. Universities need to look at how to use credits toward moving students to degrees and certifications. Keep teachers focused on education. Keep our children the number one issue.
* A quarter million dollars is invested in each child, each child should get to contribute to society instead of being deported.
* Lanet Greenhaw believes we need to stand on the ground that the state of Texas says we will educate any child that comes to us. Our focus should be on children and families.

Pam thanked the panel for their time and commented there definitely is work to be done.

1. **Discussion, Reflections, and Actions**
* Christine Hubbard summarized five ways the NTRP-16 Council can take this information and focus on solutions.
1. Advocate or create a way to track students from Pre K through 16.
2. Have unified advocacy; work together more effectively.
3. Continue focus on transfer articulation.
4. Maintain strategic partnerships.
5. Support professional development for educators and students.
* V. Barbara Bush stated the need for data sharing. The gap analysis report will be shared with NTRP-16 groups and can be used to benefit other organizations.
* Mary Harris said a solution may be local data sharing agreements.
* Don Perry stated TEA and THECB have a data sharing warehouse and research for the entire state. More regional data and more focused research are needed.
* Lanet Greenhaw said we need more students ready to enter the workforce, and our workforce needs to be kept in the loop.
1. **Updates and Information Sharing**
* Jean Keller showed the group the new form to complete when there is an activity that needs to be posted on the NTRP-16 website.
* Lanet Greenhaw spoke about the Pre-K Registration Campaign and solicited help to promote the event (<http://commit2dallas.org/prek2016/>). She also passed out a flyer on the State of Higher Education meeting with Admiral William H. McRaven, Chancellor, University of Texas System on Friday, March 24, 11:00 – 1:30 pm at Fairmont Dallas. (<http://ntrp16.org/events/state-higher-education>)
* Christine Hubbard reminded the Council that the North Texas Community College Consortium is partnering with NTRP-16 Council on April 12 to facilitate the 2017 Dual Credit Conference. A planning meeting followed the Council meeting.
* Mary Harris mentioned the Regional Alignment Network Mathematics event on April 22 and asked for suggestions of alignment issues common to 9-12 and college students in mathematics.
1. **Committee Reports**
2. **Communications, Networking & Social Media –** Fred Schmidt thanked Jean and Melodie for generating the activity form and encouraged members to complete it. He reported the committee will actively work on getting the NTRP-16 Council Twitter and Facebook accounts up and running. They will also make sure that information on website is current.
3. **Funding & Sustainability –**Don Perry said the committee had nothing new to report.
4. **Professional Development –** Pam Brown shared a professional development session was planned for February 22 at Region 11 to bring together counselors and advisors. Some Council members will talk to get the ball rolling.
5. **Research, Assessment & Accountability –** V. Barbara Bush reconfirmed they will present gap analysis report information to the group. Region 10 can provide data about homeless students. Barbara also said they wanted to gather fresh data on undocumented students.
6. **2016-17 NTRP-16 Council Meeting Dates and Programs – 9:00am – 12:00 pm**

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| *Date* | *Place* | *Host* | *Topics* | *Program Facilitator* |
| *May 9, 2017* | ***Preston Ridge Campus***PRC Conference Center Section C*9700 Wade Blvd.**Frisco, TX 75035* | *Raul Martinez* | *Dr. Rex Pebbles**60X30TX Update* | *Raul Martinez, Michelle Buggs and Barbara Lerner* |

1. **Adjournment**

Jean Keller adjourned the meeting; she thanked the panel members and Fort Worth Chamber for hosting a wonderful meeting.