Approval for the Planned and 'Piloted' Programs For Popo and Lupe Gonzalez School for Young Children

February 9, 2010

SUMMARY:

There are three pilot programs and three regular programs for the Popo and Lupe Gonzalez School for Young Children that is being recommended for approval by the Gonzalez Pre-School Task Force.

These recommendations are the result of the Gonzalez Pre-School Task Force's numerous exploratory and informational meetings that were conducted during the past six months, along with research and visitations to other school districts in the North Texas area. These recommendations also includes the findings from parent surveys that were sent to elementary and pre-school parents, input from parent phone calls and data received from other informational meetings.

The Gonzalez Pre-School Task Force recommends the following programs be approved:

Regular pre-school programs:

- Pre-Kindergarten Program (½ day program)
 - o ESL/Bilingual Pre-Kindergarten Program (½ day program)
- PPCD Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities

'Pilot' pre-school programs:

- Extend Pre-Kindergarten Program for three-year-olds (½ day program)
- Pre-School Academy tuition based for 3-year-olds/4-year-olds
- Extended School Day for Pre-School students

BOARD GOALS:

I. Vision ...

In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

• remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus

II. Teaching & Learning...

In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- expect full curriculum implementation on each campus by instructional leaders
- establish quality staff development programs and promote professional learning communities
- strive to deliver all academic programs through teachers possessing advanced degrees and demonstrable competence in their areas of professional responsibility
- stay abreast of and incorporate best practices into teaching, learning and leadership

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

- The board received extensive information as workshop items at its Dec. 8 and Jan. 19 Board of Trustees meetings.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The background information has been presented in detail on Dec. 8, Jan. 19 and Feb. 9.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: Budgetary issues were outlined Jan. 19

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

• The operational impact will be determined after early registrations are conducted in February and March and the regular registrations in April and possibly May.

The financial implications were outlined at the Board of Trustees meeting on Jan. 19. The number of students who attend the Gonzalez School for Young Children will determine the financial implications to the district.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

It is important for the Board of Trustees to approve these recommended programs on Feb. 9 so that registration can be initiated on Feb. 20. The district needs ample time to recruit and register students into this new facility.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

The Superintendent has requested that the Texas Education Agency approve Denton Independent School District's request to provide pre-kindergarten programs and be able to charge tuition.

The district will continue working with TEA to follow all pre-school guidelines established by the agency.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

These recommendations are the result of the Pre-School Task Force's numerous exploratory and informational meetings that were conducted during the past six months, along with research and visitations to other school districts in the North Texas area. These recommendations also includes the findings from parent surveys that were sent to elementary and pre-school parents, input from parent phone calls and data received from other informational meetings.

ALTERNATIVES:

- No alternative actions are proposed.

OTHER COMMENTS:

-None

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the approval the Gonzalez Pre-School Task Force's following recommendations:

Regular pre-school programs:

- Pre-Kindergarten Program (½ day program)
 - o ESL/Bilingual Pre-Kindergarten Program (½ day program)
- PPCD Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities

"Pilot" pre-school programs:

- Extend Pre-Kindergarten Program for three-year-olds (½ day program)
- Pre-School Academy tuition based for 3-year-olds/4-year-olds
- Extended School Day for Pre-School students

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Dr. Roger Rutherford, Assistant Superintendent
- Dr. Ron Arrington, Director of Pre-School Programs
- Sharon Cox, Director of Communications and Community Relations
- Steve Johnson, Director of Adult Education/Extended School Day

ATTACHVIENT:
- Attachments are part of the Dec. 8, Jan. 19 and Feb. 9 Board of Trustees Workshop Packet
APPROVAL:
Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation:
Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: **Roger** **Litherful**
Signature of Superintendent: