



West Area Council
January 26, 2012
Tarleton State University
9:00 a.m.

Transaction Notes:

In Attendance: Kayla Kelly, Reagan Ferguson, Jim Brown, Dena Newell, Nolan Atkins,

Absent: Bill Fairley, Marcus Mendoza

Special Guest: Jennifer Orona

Chamber Staff: Pennie Blossom

Chair Kayla Kelly called the meeting to order welcomed the board and introduced our new board member, Nolan Atkins with Comerica Bank, and Jennifer Orona, Principal of Monnig Middle School.

Kelly gave an overview of Tarleton 2012. They are growing in leaps and bounds. They currently have 1,153 students. Their two main issues are not enough classrooms and not enough parking. These two things are being addressed and some solutions are forthcoming. This year they have had a 13 percent student increase and a 35 percent course increase. Fifty-five percent of growth at Tarleton is on the Fort Worth Campus.

Action Plan

Education - Monnig Middle School

- Orona gave the board an overview on Monnig. They currently have 583 students and are an evenly diversified school with 30 percent African American, 30 percent Hispanic and 30 percent White. This year for the first time they fell below acceptable. One of their challenges is reading. They are now on the new STARS exam program and she feels they will get back into the acceptable range this year. Library usage has doubled this year. Their focus is preparing these students for higher education.
- Orona has five core values that she expects from each student:
 - Respect
 - Responsibility
 - Academic Achievement
 - Community
 - Consistency and Fairness
- The board will start their reading and mentoring program on February 8 with 12 students. The first book we will all read and discuss is *The Pact* by Dr. Sampson Davis, Dr. George Jenkins and Dr. Rameck Hunt, all three friends that grew up in the ghetto and pledged to help each other achieve at a very young age. They made it through with flying colors. Two are medical doctors and one is a dentist. A movie based on the book is coming out in a couple of years.

- The trees donated by TXU will be planted in February. Courtney Dabney, PTA, is coordinating with Lacy Sperry, TXU.
- Ridgmar Mall will work with Monnig for another fashion show featuring Fashion Trashion, where all fashions are made of recycled materials and designed solely by the students.

Retention

- New members will be called or emailed.
- The Membership was unchanged for this reporting period.

Programming

- Programming:
 - February programming is in the packet.
 - Upcoming Programs. Please visit the Chamber Website at www.fortworthchamber.com for a list of all programming.

Monitoring – 7th Street

- 7th Street continues to grow and parking continues to be an issue. The tenants are waiting to see how the new bridge construction will affect their businesses. Summit Press has merged with another printing company and will be moving from their Bledsoe location out to the far West Side.

Business from the Floor

- The Komen Race for the Cure will be at Ridgmar again this year with the same route as last year. It is scheduled for April 14.

With there being no other business Kelly adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: March 23, 2012
 Comerica Bank, 6388 Camp Bowie
 9:00 – 10:30