

# Workforce, Education and Equity Committee

## Meeting Record

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**Meeting Date:** March 3, 2020

**Convened:** 9:00 a.m.

**Adjourned:** 10:00 a.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Casey Thomas, Chair  
Jaime Resendez, Vice Chair  
Lee Kleinman  
Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano

**Committee Members Absent:**

Paula Blackmon

**Other Council Members Present:**

N/A

**Presenters:**

Kimberly Tolbert, Chief of Staff  
Usamah Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent Post-Secondary Partnerships and Programs  
Cheryl Nevels, Executive Director, PTECH /Early College Programs  
Angie E. Gaylord, Deputy Chief Transformation and Innovation, DISD

### AGENDA

Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)

#### 1. Approval of the February 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by: Vice Chair Resendez  
Item passed unanimously: X  
Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by: CM Kleinman  
Item passed on a divided vote:  
Item failed on a divided vote:

#### 2. P-Tech Initiative

**Presenters:** Usamah Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent Post-Secondary Partnerships and Programs; Cheryl Nevels, Executive Director, PTECH /Early College Programs

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** The Goal of 60 x 30 Texas is by 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree. Texas' Strategic Plan for Higher Education is focused on students earning credentials and assisting with the growing issues surrounding student debt. Dallas ISD representatives explained to the committee that P-Tech is high school, college and industry partners working together to prepare students to enter middle skill level jobs. They discussed the locations of these campuses and the goals of the program to include up to 60+ college credit hours at no cost to students and parents. Currently, there are 77 Industry partners with upwards projections of more than 600 associate degree acquisitions across the district in 2020. Committee members asked specifics regarding class load and metrics for students that are currently participating. Students in the program are completing both the college degree requirements and the requirements to meet the high school plan. As this item was for informational purposes only, no vote was taken.

#### 3. Downtown PK-12 School

**Presenter(s):** Angie E. Gaylord, Deputy Chief Transformation and Innovation, Dallas ISD

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** DISD hopes to transform all schools in neighborhood quadrants (Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest) to more transformative and innovate schools. Using a lens of racial equity, DISD provided committee members with a map of the transformation school applicants which spans over all of Dallas County. There are three school choice models: Neighborhood, Transformation, and Magnet. Presenters discussed these models in depth and the importance of choosing public schools. DISD provides additional school choices and models for Dallas parents and recaptures market share from parents

currently not choosing Dallas ISD. The new downtown school will be new construction not in an existing structure. As this item was for informational purposes only, no vote was taken.

**4. Texas Central High Speed Train – Workforce Component**

**Presenter(s):** Stephanie Nellons-Paige, Texas Central Partners

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** The high-speed train project will be changing the future of Texas, this train includes 3 passenger stations in Houston, Dallas, and Brazos Valley. This train is safe, fast and all electric. This will be a \$20 billion dollar investment to include three passenger stations, 48 million pounds of structural steel and 10,000 direct jobs per year. Texas Central is working with financial advisors, technology partners, and systems installation partners on civil contracts and what future operating partnerships will consist of. Benefits include \$36 billion in economic impact, 25% permanent jobs in rural communities and roughly 14,000 cars removed from 1-45 annually reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Texas Central is intentional with ensuring that small, women, minority, rural, veteran and persons with disabilities have contract opportunities in all facets of the project. Committee members asked for a timeline of hiring, Texas Central is currently working on participating in future job and school fairs. As this item was for informational purposes only, no vote was taken.

**5. Equity Indicators Update Briefing Memorandum**

**Presenter(s):** Victor Obaseki, Equity Officer, Office of Equity

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** There was no discussion on the equity indicators memo however, discussions did occur regarding the Reentry Program RFP. Staff has been working with procurement services to release the RFP as soon as possible. There were some concerns around the prior tracking and reporting and how staff needs a better understanding of individuals coming into the program and what the follow thru looks like once they have been released from that program. Staff will also be monitoring metrics throughout the program to evaluate the return on investment and researching partnerships in line with the reentry program. Chair Thomas requested a memorandum relating to the timeline of the RFP to include a summary of the specifications. Staff will be providing the memorandum put forward by procurement services.

Adjourn (10:00 a.m.)

**APPROVED BY:**

*Casey Thomas*

**Casey Thomas, Chair  
Workforce, Education & Equity Committee**

**ATTESTED BY:**

*Victoria Moe*

**Victoria Cruz, Coordinator  
Workforce, Education & Equity Committee**