

TO: Board of Directors
Brownsville Chamber of Commerce
FROM: David Merrill, Chairman
Education Reform Task Force
RE: Update Report
DATE: 11-15-2004

The Task Force was authorized at the regular meeting in July, 2003. Since then, the work has mostly amounted to collecting information.

In October, however, we had an organizational meeting for a small start-up committee. The goal of this committee is simple, but profound: **Improve the quality of decision-making on educational issues in Brownsville, Texas.**

Using a \$10,000 grant from the Brownsville Foundation for Health and Education, we have hired consultants Kay Karr and Chip Pike of Quality Learning Associates. Chip has created a web site as the starting point for the committee. Kay will facilitate as the group develops an action plan for Brownsville.

Those attending our organizational meeting:

Reba McNair – Cardenas Development
Beth Pace – Board Chair, Children’s Museum of Brownsville
Mary Hall – Executive Director, Children’s Museum of Brownsville
Marty Bogart – CFO, Paseo de la Resaca
Michael Rodriguez – Attorney at Law
Dino Esparza – Attorney at Law
Carrie Brinkley – Healthy Communities – UH – Health Science
Norma Garza – Success By Six/United Way of Southern Cameron County
Ruben Rodriguez – Ruben Rodriguez Construction
Keely Rodriguez – Pfizer
Harold Averill – Corrigan Dispatch
Dr. Joe Zavaletta, Jr. – UTB-TSC Center for Civic Engagement

The Education Reform Task Force was authorized by the Board in July, 2003, with a three-year sunset provision. I serve as Chairman at your discretion. Please feel free to contact me at anytime if you have questions or concerns.