Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District

SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

January 11, 2018

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 11:44 am by Sulema Solis, SHAC Coordinator.

1. **Welcome**

Sulema Solis, Director of Health Services, welcomed and thanked those that were in attendance. Ms. Solis thanked Child Nutrition for the mini food show that was provided to the parents at the previous meeting once again. Ms. Corina Gonzalez said that Child Nutrition is still gathering the results, but students were surprised with the whole process that they were shown from a tour to the facilities and the making of some of the food on site, the students enjoyed the whole process. Ms. Solis said that minutes would be accepted at the end and can be seen on line. The school board is also invited to come to the meetings and are very interested in coming and hope to be at our future meetings because not only is the student’s education important but all aspects of our students is important to the school board.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed by the committee. Rubina Cavazos motioned to accept the minutes; Yadira Pedraza second the motion. The minutes were approved.

1. **Flu**

Ms. Sulema Solis shared with the committee that a health advisory has been issued to alert health care provides of the recent increase in Influenza A activity. Due to the historical reduction in vaccine effectiveness to type A Influenza, the immediate use of antiviral drug treatment is highly recommended, especially in hospitalized and high-risk patients. Ms. Solis said that we will continue to have flu clinics for all staff and the community as long as we need to. Ms. Solis said that if students are extremely sick, please make sure that they stay home and do not return to school until they are 24 hours fever free without the use of antipyretics like Tylenol or Ibuprofen. Sulema Solis asked parents to please share this information with other parents. Ms. Solis informed parents that flu shots would be provided at different campuses for students $5.00 and $15.00 for adults, but still needed to confirm the price for adults. Ms. Solis said that the clinics for students and the community will be different than the clinics for staff as the staff has to provide their insurance from the district.

1. **Counseling-Gina Saenz**

Mrs. Gina Saenz began by sharing that the Counseling and Guidance Department is a high quality comprehensive developmental program for all students which goals are: a systemic approach for all; address immediate concerns; consult with staff, parents, and community members; involve parents in the education of their children; and advise students on their post-secondary education. Ms. Saenz shared how many students are serviced in the district and how many counselors are in the district which is 30 counselors for 5 high schools; 3 counselors for 3 special purpose high schools; 1 counselor for the alternative campus; 16 counselors for 8 middle schools; and 25 counselors for 25 elementary schools, servicing 32,050 students in the district. The counselors provide a core curriculum which include lessons for students; individual planning with goal setting for students; responsive services which meet immediate needs of students and referrals to outside agencies when necessary; system supports which establish, maintain and enhance the counseling program which includes: professional development, collaboration, community outreach, district committees-which meet over the summer to develop curriculum for the following year over the summer. Mrs. Saenz said that a comprehensive school counseling program for students means: improved academic performance, reduced discipline referrals, improved attendance, higher graduation rates, and increased participation in post-secondary education. Mrs. Saenz said that all information is kept confidential unless the student is going to harm themselves or others or if the counselors are informed of abuse or neglect, then it has to be reported. Mrs. Gina Saenz said students or parents can see the counselor by calling or e-mailing the counselor for an appointment, walk-in self-referral, parent request, administrative referral, or a teacher or nurse referral. Mrs. Saenz said that the Counseling Department has started a new monthly initiative this school year called Counselors Café which is designed to provide a casual environment for parents and counselors to get together and engage in discussions related to what students are going through. Every month there will be a topic presented with time set aside for questions and answers. Mrs. Saenz shared with committee that the next counselor’s café will take place in February. Mrs. Norma Garza said that parent educators have monthly meetings and Mrs. Saenz and Mrs. Garza can get together over the summer and maybe plan to have the counselor’s café coincide with the parent meetings for next school year. Mrs. Saenz ended by saying a quote: “All students have gifts; our job is to help them unwrap them”. Ms. Solis asked Ms. Saenz if she could develop a one sheet of a very brief description of each test that students take from middle school to high school and what exam in which grade is each exam taken in by the next meeting. Ms. Solis said that this would be helpful for all parents and committee agreed because it is hard to break down the tests that students take and when students are to take it, Ms. Solis said many parents hear the names of the tests, but does not know what the test consist of or when the student is supposed to take the test.

1. **Parental Engagement-Norma Garza**

Mrs. Norma Garza began by sharing parental meetings begin in September with Title I and every month there is a topic that must be covered. Mrs. Garza said that Dr. King is about providing College for All including the parents. Mrs. Garza said the Parental Engagement program is very structured and is about forming strong relationships with schools, parents, and the community. PSJA has 9 centers which are: Bowie, Buckner, Napper, Carnahan, North San Juan Mobile, Marcia Garza, Cesar Chavez, Garcia and Ramirez. The courses provided are: ESL, GED-in English and Spanish, Computers I & II basic computers or programing, Arts and Crafts, Cake Decoration, Cosmetology, Cross Stitching, Doll Making, Facials, Nutrition, Sewing, Wreath Making, and Zumba and many more. Many of the courses offered are taught by volunteers who are retired teachers. Ms. Garza said the courses that are offered by Region One are open to anyone who lives in the Valley and they are yearlong courses which end in June. Parents who attain their GED are given a mini-graduation and are encouraged to go to college and are able to go to South Texas College if they are a parent of a child who attends PSJA. Mrs. Garza said that Parental Engagement pays $100.00 dollars for every parent to attend a semester. Mrs. Norma Garza said that there are more than 3,000 students enrolled in the courses. Mrs. Garza shared that a DAC meeting for the officers will be taking place tomorrow. On February 23rd there will be an event that takes place at Bowie from 8-11:30 a.m. and there will be booths, door prizes, and light breakfast provided, pamphlets and fliers will be sent to the schools soon. Mrs. Garza also shared that there was a pilot program that began at McKeever showing children to eat better, walk and other topics on health through a book called “Bien Estas” authored by professor and researcher Dr. Roberto Trevino. Mrs. Garza said this is through a grant that was funded to the district and next month 7 more schools will be added and curriculum will be implemented. In June another grant will be issued to PSJA for this project and will make this project to have all Kinder students in the district participate. This project is being led by Dr. Robert Trevino and Dr. Wong from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Mrs. Garza said that on February 8th she and Ms. Benford will be attending a parent conference in Austin to learn more about the law regarding parental involvement and will bring back to share with the committee. Mrs. Garza shared that Mr. Badillo, site manager for Ramirez would share how parents and other parents in the community can register for classes. Mrs. Garza shared that all classes are open to anyone and are free, the only courses that are not for everyone are the courses that are offered by STC. Mrs. Garza said that the courses by STC are for parents of students of PSJA only. Mrs. Garza said any course the community would like to participate in they can they do not have to sign up for the GED course prior to signing up for another course. Mr. Jorge Badillo shared that the dream is that all parents would be able to further their education so they can in the long run help their children further their education as well. Mrs. Garza shared that STC are semester courses and Region One are yearly courses. Mrs. Garza shared that the students that obtain their GED are tracked. Mrs. Garza shared that there were 19 students that obtained their GED last year and a mini graduation was offered and the parents are then offered the opportunity to continue with their education at STC. Mr. Badillo also shared that Ramirez the only parent center that is offering a Spanish class and the Winter Texans have really enjoyed taking the course. Overall, the purpose is to better the community as a whole, Mrs. Garza said we would like to leave you today by saying, “what you sow, you will reap”.

1. **Next SHAC meeting 11:30 a.m., February 7, 2018 CCTA, Star Room**

**Host: Physical Education-Jaime Chavana**

1. **Question & Committee Comments**
2. **Adjournment**

Ms. Solis thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.