Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District

SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

March 27, 2019

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order/Welcome**

Meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by Edgar Garcia, Health Services Supervisor.

Edgar Garcia welcomed and thanked those that were in attendance. Mr. Garcia informed the committee that Ms. Solis was not able to be in attendance today, as she was attending a conference. Mr. Garcia informed the committee of what speakers would be sharing at the present meeting.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed by the committee. Corina Gonzalez motioned to accept the minutes; Astrid Garza second the motion. The minutes were approved.

1. **BCFS-Heather Chavez**

Ms. Maggie Chavez and Ms. Maria Cancino presented to the parents the partnership that BCFS has with the school district and the success that has taken place with the abstinence classes for 7th graders that have taken place. Ms. Chavez and Ms. Cancino said that they are re-applying for a grant, but as of right now this program will not be available for 7th graders in the 19-20 school year; however if it becomes available in the 20-21 school year then they will try to make it possible for the 8th graders at that time. Ms. Chavez and Ms. Cancino informed parents that this course not only teaching students abstinence but also touched a little on making better choices in their peers and teaching students on sexting, cyberbullying and bullying and how to develop healthy relationships. One parent voiced that she was glad that this course was available to her child and preferred that a course be available first to her child so that she could then in turn discuss the topic of human sexuality with her child. Ms. Chavez and Ms. Cancino shared that they offer materials available to parents from their office and will be willing to go to the different campuses to speak to the parents on how to start the conversation of human sexuality with their children and also offer classes that are abstinence only or classes that teach about safe sex from their office for students in high school.

1. **Safety & Security-Ramiro Martinez & Mario Flores**

Mr. Ramiro Martinez and Mr. Mario Flores began by sharing with the committee of some new drugs that they have come across and the new over-the-counter medications that are being used, such as Severe Cough and Cold syrup with sprite, Coricidin tablets for cough are being crushed and inhaled, Pop Clouds which is a Nicotine Liquid and Liquid Marijuana. Mr. Martinez and Mr. Flores then proceeded to address the committee by discussing the following questions.

**What do you think can be done to prevent drugs in schools?** Parents voiced that they feel very strong about having backpacks checked; however, one parent voiced that this should be done by the parent and how it is mainly the responsibility of the parent to know their child and to get to know their child at school by the school personnel to know if there is any suspicion of drug use, or any problem. Another parent voiced that it is important to be frank with your children and speak the truth and not try to minimize reality.

**How can social media impact our students negatively?** Mr. Ramiro Martinez asked the parents how many parents check their child’s cell phone. About 5 parents raised their hand. Mr. Flores then asked do you think that it is an invasion of privacy that student’s social media accounts are being monitored daily through the school district? Mr. Martinez informed parents that as of last March when PSJA began to surveillance the social media accounts of students the Office of Security and Safety has helped 28-30 students who wanted to commit suicide and prevent shootings at schools of about 10-15 students who made a threat though social media; Mr. Flores and Mr. Martinez said some students express that it is a joke, but it is critical for parents to encourage students to report, because if an incident does occur it is better that one student get hurt than 5 or more, because that is always a possibility.

**How can we best use the additional 14 police officers and 30 security officers?** Parents expressed how they are very pleased that at the high schools there are 7 security officers, 2 for the middle schools, and 1 for the elementary schools.

1. **Question & Committee Comments**

Mrs. Norma Garza informed the parents that there are still 3 slots left for parents to take the security course and there is also a Citizenship Class that is taking place at Carnahan Elementary Monday-Wednesday from 6-8 p.m.

1. **Adjournment**

Mr. Edgar Garcia thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone that the next meeting is April 10, 2019 and it would take place in the library at PSJA Bowie Community/Parent Center. The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.