Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District

SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

May 3, 2019

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order/Welcome**

Sulema Solis, Health Services Director, called meeting to order at 11:52 am. Ms. Sulema Solis welcomed and thanked those in attendance, being that many parents were not at this last meeting since state testing was taking place on this particular day at certain campuses.

1. **Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. Rubinia Cavazos motioned to accept the minutes; Liliana Reyes second the motion. The minutes were approved.

1. **SHAC Overview**

Ms. Solis reminded committee that a leadership meeting would be taking place prior to next school year SHAC meetings. The leadership meeting would be to discuss pending plans that were to take place through SHAC this year and when they can be completed before the next first SHAC meeting next school year or to be completed by the completion of next school year. Parent concerns that may arise or discussed upon the conclusion of this meeting. Also, following up with Coach Chavana in regards to the exercise video with the parents of the committee and posters throughout campuses reminding parents to follow up on health referrals and return to the school nurse. Ms. Solis also shared with the committee about Operation Lone Star and all the different health services that are available to the community to participate in free. Ms. Solis encouraged parents to please go if they have never gone. Operation Lone Star will be taking place on July 22-July 26 from Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m.to 3:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ms. Solis also shared that there have been 0 cases of measles in Hidalgo County and 26 confirmed cases and 14 isolated cases of mumps, meaning that a family member also contracted the mumps, but 0 cases in PSJA ISD. Ms. Solis shared there have been some suspicious cases, but if more than 5 days have passed, they no longer can be tested, the test would not be valid. If there is suspicion of a case immediately, classrooms here at PSJA ISD are disinfected. Ms. Solis reminded parents of the symptoms to look for with measles there are many complications, including a person contradicting pneumonia and with mumps the symptoms appear to be flu like symptoms and pain to chew and swollen lymph nodes, as well as, sterility. Ms. Solis said there is a swab or blood test done to determine if a person has the mumps. Ms. Solis said if there is a case of the mumps exclusion for students is 5 days. Ms. Solis said that a person’s immunity can decrease and the recommendation is vaccination again if this occurs. Ms. Solis shared there is a medication given with the measles so the body can help in fighting the infection, but for the mumps only for the symptoms, such as, Tylenol for the fever.

1. **Family & Community Engagement-Norma Garza**

Ms. Garza informed the committee that many parents have voiced their desire to have structure with in the programs, meetings, etc. and working with the parent educators to be on the same page. Ms. Garza said that there are many ideas, but no organization. Ms. Garza shared that Brownsville has a model in their district policy and she would like to have a committee of a few parents to review policy in English and translate it in Spanish. Ms. Garza would like to speak to curriculum to make sure that the policy is shared and then also speak to the principals, so they are aware and know the policy that is in place regarding Title I. Ms. Garza said that each district must have campus and district policy and Title I meetings must take place once per semester. Ms. Garza said that creating policy will provide the structure and meetings must take place in the morning and in the afternoon. In addition, schools must have the school parent compact and policy. The committee is to look over the policy and will include parents and community leaders. Ms. Garza hopes that the policy becomes reality, and everyone is on the same page and is familiar with the policy.

**What are some concerns or questions parents have?**

One parent said that she would like to see nutrition teaching for students. Ms. Garza informed parent that currently there is a grant in place for some campuses and possibly will expand to include the parent educators to help. Second recommendation from a parent was having a class once a week during PE to teach them specifically on nutrition during middle school. Ms. Solis said that the CATCH program is essentially the suggestion that parent said taking place in the elementary and middle school level. Third recommendation parent suggested was educating students about bullying, drugs, and suicide and how they can stand up for themselves. Ms. Solis informed committee that information for students is presented at Expo on those topics at the beginning of the school year. The fourth recommendation was a concern that teachers were not available to meet at scheduled events, such as Meet the Teacher because they are professors and parents would not be able to meet. Parents would also like to see organization and more structure with verifying when student arrives on campus in the secondary campuses as well as information regarding meetings, events, etc. more frequently, one time is not enough.

1. **Counseling-Gina Saenz (Director)/Shirley Villescas (Escalante M.S.)/ Maria Zuniga (Yzaguirre M.S.)**

Parents were informed about procedure that takes place when student comes to them or when they are informed of students dealing with suicide ideation and what additional support is available for crisis intervention. Ms. Saenz, Ms. Villescas, & Ms. Zuniga informed parents of small group counseling that can take place with their consent. When students have to be referred outside of the school for further counseling, such as Palacios Management, Tropical, Abundant Grace, and DHR consent is obtained, and services are free, for most. Students can be seen at school, but if they need outside services they are referred. Parents were also informed that every counselor has a list of resources and can ask to speak to any counselor about the resources that are available. Parents were informed of services that counselors provide not only academically but as well as emotional support and parents are notified and provided information. Counseling sessions for parents take place monthly at Counselor’s Café. Parents were also informed of making contact with school liaison for resources that can help parents. The counseling department also informed parents about social media safety and a website where they can always go on called Net Smartz (an online safety education program) as well as provided parents with tips of what to do, such as have technology use in an open area, not in their own room as well as encouraged parents to inform their children that things on social media do not get permanently deleted.

1. **Question & Committee Comments**

Encouraged parents once again to give recommendations on topics they would like discussed at the Counselor’s Café.

1. **Adjournment**

Ms. Sulema Solis thanked everyone for coming and told parents she looked forward to seeing them at Operation Lone Star in July. The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.