

Hitchcock Independent School District



Minutes of the School Health Advisory Council

April 17, 2019

Members Present: Douglas Hoffman, Gracie Mendoza, Brianna Landry, Sue Taylor, Vickie Rabino, Darlene Blackwell, Katrina Cruz, Chris Filidei, Russell Mawby, Matthew Fleming, Floyd Clay, Tara Garza, Jayden Preston, Rona Smith and Kathy Potts. (15)

The meeting was called to order by parent chair, Sue Taylor. Each member was given a copy of the minutes of the January 16, 2019 meeting. The minutes were reviewed and accepted.

The agenda was “open forum” for the members to speak about the changes and forthcoming ideas for 2019-2020 school year in their respective departments.

Mr. Hoffman began by introducing his new cafeteria manager, Gracie Mendoza, and then shared some of the grant and federally funded programs that would begin with the “Summer Lunch Program”. All school aged children will be able to come to the school from 12:00-12:30 daily, Monday-Thursday, for a free lunch. In addition, high school students will have a “salad bar” for the 2019-2020 school year, and also look forward to a “make your own taco bar”.

Students responded positively to the new changes. Mr. Hoffman asked the students several times to contact him if they had any suggestions or complaints, and also let him know about they were doing right. He talked about plans for a “Food Truck” that would go into the neighborhoods in our school district to deliver food. Next school year, breakfast will be free and served ten minutes past the tardy bell, and will be more of a grab and go for high school.

Elementary will be the same. Lunch will also be free and at dismissal, students can take a free meal home for dinner. Therefore, students can receive free of charge, 3 meals a day from the school.

Officer Filidei talked about the successful active shooter training for Crosby and High School. He also shared that he is addressing crosswalks to the Dollar General and speed bumps in the High School parking lot. He touched on the recent increase in drug related incidents at the High School, but also the decrease in physical altercations on campus.

Athletic Trainer, Mr. Mawby, shared that athletic physicals would begin at High School on May 1,2,3rd and have already begun at Crosby.

Mrs. Potts, gave each member of copy of the Board approved ‘Dress Code’ for High School for 2019-2020. Some of the student members were opposed to some of the additions. (hair color, make-up, piercings, and hoodies).

Ms. Rabino, Crisis Counselor, spoke about the National School Safety Summit that Ms. Gilcrease, Kathy Potts, and she had attended last month at Region 4. In summary the biggest concern from principals, parents and students that were survivors of school shootings, expressed was, to conduct a “Threat Assessment” of your school’s population. That assessment was to include students, teachers, faculty, and parents that could pose a life threatening event on your campus. Begin to focus on the mental health component of health and safe schools. She shared that all the survivors said the same thing. A district can put up bullet proof windows, barricade doors, have metal detectors at all entrances, practice drills, teach “Stop the Bleed”, etc. but until we start addressing all the mental health issues that students are dealing with, and until parents become more involved with their children, and our society becomes less self-centered, and more tolerate of others, we are going to see mass casualty events increase, not just at school, but around the world in general. Mrs. Potts added that areas where school shootings had occurred should gear up on anniversaries of shootings, (Santa Fe, May 18th) because history, since Columbine, had shown that copy cat killers may try to threaten or carry out similar acts on anniversaries.

And finally, students wanted to thank Mr. Hoffman for his efforts to improve the food at school. They voiced a few concerns of the new dress code. They had questions about the possible 8th period next year, “Teaching the 11 Principles of

Character” and if it would add hours to the school day. In general, they were supportive of all the changes.

The question of Mandated Drug Screening for UIL sports, band, activities, was brought up again. Of course, the adults, were in favor and the students didn’t respond officially. Unofficially, they thought “there would not be anyone left to play sports” which tells us that we have a HUGE drug problem in intermediate and high school students. At some point, we are going to have to intervene in order to deter drug use on our campuses. If it is State mandated, why aren’t we doing it?

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am. The next meeting will be the following school year 2019-2020. Date to be determined.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Taylor (Parent Chairman) and

Kathy Potts, RN (District Liaison SHAC)