

# Hitchcock Independent School District



## School Health Advisory Council

### Annual Report:

Initially, I would like to report that our committee members have regularly attended our quarterly meetings throughout the past year. Our parents have made a commitment to stay involved in the school decision making process and bring forth great ideas, as members of the committee. Our students bring a level of understanding to the committee with their ideas, concerns and knowledge of climate and school culture. Together, every member of this committee brings a valuable contribution to the success of SHAC.

We have been able to retain all our members from one year to the next, except for our graduating senior student representative each year. Ms. Sue Taylor has agreed to remain the parent Chairman for another school year. **We have added three new members this school year 2018-19. They are: Officer Filidei-Police Chief for Hitchcock ISD and Vickie Rabino-Crisis Counselor for HISD and Mr. Doug Hoffman, Director of Food Services.** The membership represents parents, community leaders, teachers, nurses, clergy, administrators, students and athletics.

**Meetings held in 2018: February 21, 2018 - April 18, 2018 - October 10, 2018**

Each Board Member has been sent copies of the minutes for review in the month following each meeting.

### Areas of discussion on the eight components of the School Health Advisory Council :

**Physical Education/Athletics**-the committee feels like a lot of focus/ budget has been allotted to sports and athletics without the end result producing competent adults to enter college or skilled jobs in the workforce. The SHAC Committee brought up the point that of the female athletes that were awarded athletic scholarships this past year, only one out of the four has been able to keep their scholarship in the first semester of college. Unsportsman like conduct,

unforeseen family planning, and disrespectful behavior toward faculty and teammates were just some of the reasons for losing scholarships within this identified group. The SHAC Council proposed that monies be put into the academic budget for laptops/Chromebooks.

Safe Schools- The committee had many concerns about school safety following the tragic school shooting event on February 18, 2018 in Santa Fe, Texas. Our student members shared their feelings and surprisingly wanted tighter security measures in place, in order to feel safe at school. Some of the committee's suggestions included: Locking all exterior doors and classroom doors, developing an access controlled entrance where ID is checked for students and parents alike.(Staff and Student ID) They welcomed metal detectors, cell phone lockers, clear backpacks, tip reporting system, more counselors, and a stricter discipline policy.

Students were also concerned that fire, shelter, lock down, AED drills were not being done on a regular basis in order to practice the skills needed and what to do in a real emergency situation. The student body or adults had no idea where the "off-site" meeting area was for the High School. The District Nurse volunteered to put together Emergency Buckets to be used during all emergency drills. \*A sample has been provided for the Board's inspection along with a list of the contents. Students need and must be involved in practice drills in order to minimize problems during a real emergency.

Parent and Community Involvement-This is the area where we have the most difficulty in making improvements to our campuses. The elementary campuses do a great job with "Room Mothers" and volunteers to help out for major events, but by the time our students are in Middle School and High School, we hardly ever see a parent on campus. (in a positive visit) Parents can be great assets as volunteers at special events, tutoring, mentoring, and community projects. On the High School level, students do not come to school prepared to learn. They bring no supplies (furnished by teachers), most will not complete work or projects at home, and with their basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, safety) going unmet in many households, they cannot reach their full educational or personal goals and become productive individuals in the community or workplace.

The SHAC Council has discussed ways to focus on bringing the parent back to the central goal of “taking responsibility for their child’s education”. The committee has suggested the following: the use of parents as extra monitors at sporting events, calling on parents to organize fund raising for recognized school organizations, assisting at school with reading, writing, or research projects.

Health Services- Many parents, faculty and students did not realize that 3 of our 4 schools did not employ a full time Registered Nurse on each campus. The terminology of calling our clinic aides “School Nurses” is misleading. It also puts an unfair burden on those clinic aides to perform duties they are not qualified to do and out of their scope of practice. Aides cannot do assessments for injury or illnesses. They are to contact the parent concerning healthcare decisions. Only an RN can do physical assessments, create healthcare plans, emergency action plans, attend ARD meetings, take verbal orders from physicians, and conduct staff trainings for medication administration, Diabetes Management, Epi-pens and check off skills for students with self administer, self-carry medications.

Our district employs one RN and she is the District Nurse providing guidance, training, and supervision to all the schools in our district as well as man the High School campus clinic. Primary, Stewart and Crosby do not have licensed medical professionals on campus. The aides have a “certificate” of completion in a short term course of approximately 6 weeks of health care training.(CNA or EMT )

The Headstart Program requires a Registered Nurse for their continued funding, and she is not to be pulled from that campus to assist on other campuses.

If and when the budget supports hiring more RN’s, Primary Elementary needs to be the first position to consider. There is no way one Nurse alone can operate that clinic without an aide as an assistant. It’s overwhelming, chaotic, and the busiest clinic within the district. (student clinic visits)

All our neighboring Galveston County School District’s employee Registered Nurses on all their campuses. With the influx of more and more medically fragile students, drug impairments, and level of poverty in our district, “Every child deserves to have a RN on their campus.”

In addition, please note that ALL our unlicensed “Clinic Aides” work under the Registered Nurse’s license and she must train and supervise ALL those staff members that are designated UPA’s, and UDCA’s on a regular basis on their

campuses performing first aid and medication administration. The committee felt they needed say something about the possible liability that could pose, bring it to the attention of the Board, and also make recommendations to replace any vacancies in the clinics with RN's.

Staff Wellness- The Right-Way Imaging program was provided again this school year on Monday, November 26, 2018. Those who used the diagnostic service last year had profound results. Many employees were referred to their PCP with detection in the early stages of the disease process and our faculty had positive outcomes in being able to seek medical attention and treatment for liver, kidney, thyroid, cancer, and blocked arteries that could have gone undetected or untreated for years to come.

Health Education- The only mandated Health Program that the district must provide each school year is the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Growth and Development Program. Again this school year the date has been set for April 11<sup>th</sup> for the Parent Preview at 6pm and the student education for April 12<sup>th</sup> at Stewart Elementary. *Aim for Success* will be conducting the lesson. The boys and girls are separated for the educational program which is approximately 2hrs.

Counseling and Mental Health-Teachers, parents and especially students were happy to see that our district now employs a Crisis Counselor in addition to our academic counselors. This had been a topic of concern brought up at almost every meeting of the SHAC Council. "We need counselors that can intervene early with students that exhibit aggressive, unusual, and distorted thinking behaviors." Ms. Rabino sees all students within our district as well as employees of the district seeking counseling or resources in the area.

Nutrition-Mr. Doug Hoffman was able to apply for FREE breakfast and lunch for all students within HISD for the school year 2018-19 Students on the High School level spoke with Mr. Hoffman one day when he was on campus and voiced their concerns to him directly. He was open to their comments and agreed with some and others took a little more explanation of nutritional compliance. Students were validated that he listened to their suggestions and he told them that he was working on a soup and salad bar for High School.

Summary - The committee would like to see our district using technology in every classroom. The committee would like to suggest that textbooks be phased out and replaced with technological advancements. They would like to see adding more field trips that promote learning outside of the classroom, activities within the classrooms that engage students and promote the love of lifelong learning. Teachers are working with little or no budgets for classroom lessons. This limits the opportunities for our student population to experience life and learning outside the city limits of Hitchcock, and contributes to the behavior issues that we find among our High School students. (low achievement and lack of motivation)

Comparing our student population to our neighboring districts, our students are not working on the higher level of problem solving, inference, predicting outcomes and scaffolding information to build thinking skills and the ability to hold employment or find success in secondary education, post high school graduation. Most of our students are struggling in oral and written language competencies.

The consensus of the membership agreed that cell phones have no place in the classroom, during the school day, and still contribute to most of the discipline issues in some way. The cell phones **MUST GO!** Students have been given the opportunity to “self monitor” their use at school and they have continued to disrupt the educational process on a daily basis.

The SHAC committee is asking that equal attention/ funding be made available for academic extracurricular activities such as FFA, HOSA, Robotics, Forensic Science, Theatre Arts, Culinary Programs, Welding and Auto Technology to prepare the majority of our students with the skills necessary to enter the workforce.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Sue Taylor (Parent Chairman)

Ms. Kathy Potts, RN (District Liaison for SHAC)

12/05/2018