

Tomball ISD School Health Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Ms. Karen Graves, Director of Administrative Services, opened the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) meeting at 3:30 pm in the TISD Board Room at the Administration Building. She welcomed everyone attending and thanked them for serving on this council. Attendees introduced themselves and were as follows:

Cathy Pool, Director of Health Services
Whitney Johnson, Director of Child Nutrition
Kevin White, Asst. Director of Child Nutrition
Vince Sebo, Director of Athletics
Bob Thompson, Dean of Student Advancement
Dana Vestal, TES Nurse
Lance Culver, DPES Nurse
Julia Farmer, Parent
Jackie Estrada, Parent
Jennifer Kratky, Parent
Craig Doherty, Parent
Rebecca Masciola, Parent

Karen discussed the upcoming meeting dates for the SHAC. Meetings will be held on December 14, 2021, February 15, 2022, and April 12, 2022, in the TISD Board Room, 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Per law, meetings are all recorded and posted on the TISD website.

The purpose of the SHAC was defined as a parent-led group representing the community and assisting the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction.

Karen presented information about the state legislative requirements for the SHAC. A parent must serve as co-chair and a volunteer is needed to serve this role. A majority of voting members must also be parents who are not employees of the district.

The TISD Wellness Plan Goals were presented and discussed. These include nutrition promotion and education, physical activity and school-based activities. Karen noted that a new goal added last year is a district regulation requiring at least 20 minutes of daily recess for elementary and intermediate students. An objective for secondary student recess was also added to the plan last year.

Cathy Pool, Director of Health Services, presented an update on covid19 counts through the school year to date. A question was raised regarding the sources of advisory information used by the district. Cathy reported that the district relies on advice from Houston Methodist Hospital, Region 4 and the Harris County Public Health Department. She also works with a regional group of district Health Services directors. Another question was raised regarding adding hospital-grade ventilation in campuses. Cathy responded that she would get more information on this.

Cathy informed the group that the district is participating in the American Heart Association “Go Red” promotion for heart-healthy messaging. Response from the district staff has been positive so far and additional information regarding incentives for campus participation will be implemented in the next few months. Cathy also discussed the “Glitterbug” campaign to promote proper hand-washing in the elementary and intermediate campuses this fall.

Ideas for additional wellness activities were discussed. The Tomball Education Foundation would like to sponsor a Superintendent’s Fun Run on April 30, 2022, if possible, promoting staff and student wellness prior to the stressful month of May testing and end of year activities. Another suggestion was for additional mental health wellness support for students and staff. Cathy responded that she would ask Dr. Michael Webb, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support, to present information at the next SHAC meeting.

Whitney Johnson, Director of Child Nutrition, discussed the USDA School Lunch program and the new availability for all students to have free meals this year. She also mentioned the ongoing staff and supply chain shortages as the department is feeding many more students. She indicated that this program may be for this school year only per USDA and TEA. Whitney showed a short video from the School Nutrition Association on supply chain resources.

Vince Sebo, Director of Athletics, gave a brief overview of the increase in athletic participation in the district over the past several years and stressed the district’s priority of keeping athletes safe with the best protective equipment. Athletic college scholarships are increasing every year. Vince discussed the new stadium and welcomed feedback from parents on ways to improve the community experience.

Karen Graves continued the meeting with a discussion about SHAC recommendations for the 20-21 school year. She asked for a parent co-chair volunteer. She also asked for any additional questions. There was a brief discussion regarding the curriculum for Human Sexuality in 4th - 7th grades. Karen again thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.