

SHAC Committee Meeting Notes

Date: May 10, 2022

Karen Graves talked about voting that would take place.

Bob Thompson, Dean of Student Advancement indicated the committee will review Health Textbook and Companion Text, giving general thoughts about them and other resources.

Tomball usually reviews what the state presents. Other resources can be looked at in the future if SHAC recommends.

Mr. Thompson indicated that regarding the Companion Text, it's only available to those parents who opt in.

Regarding the use of "pregnant person" instead of "pregnant woman/women" the discussion from the group:

Mr. Thompson indicated that the textbook rep did not know if this was in previous textbooks.

Cathy Pool indicated that the language was not new to textbook – referring to "pregnant person". That "pregnant person" has always been assumed to be a female. She speculates that it was used because it wouldn't be appropriate to use "pregnant child," or "pregnant teen."

Mr. Thompson asked for thoughts from committee members.

Member 1 – Has a letter from someone explaining why she thinks the answer should be NO on Health Textbook; it conflicts with Texas values. She said the language about "pregnant person" was mentioned 49 times, 0 times for female. She thinks this is representing the current CDC views on woman's health. This is a cultural decision using this type of language, and the Tomball community will not want to go this direction because this does not reflect the values of Tomball.

Mrs. Graves – indicated that the committee needed to know the gist of the letter.

Member 1–indicated that the standards of the local community are not reflected.

Member 2 - asked why is it offensive to woman (not understanding).

Member 1 - said it was concerning because paperwork is changing at doctor's offices referring to pregnant person, birthing person, etc. She sees a trend towards gender- neutral language around motherhood.

Member 3 - indicated that society is changing and that we need to move forward with it - get out of bubble. Kids are being faced with all of this, and we need to be aware of it. She indicated that our "education" needs to continue to put kids first. The way kids behave in school is not the same as the way they behave at home. She indicated – I think the community needs to move forward, open doors and accept kids the way they are. I think we need to be realistic about identities.

Mrs. Graves – indicated that SHAC is here to hear everyone and to represent the community values. The community will not "all agree" and the committee will not "all agree". It is important that we all express our differing values to get a good consensus and represent the community. SHAC will take recommendations to board.

Member 4 - indicated that her concern was that if health/sex education (too many parents opting out) is not taught in school some/majority of kids will not get it at home. This will result in a gap in their education and there is a bad social issue that will result from this.

Member 1 – indicated there are other options to explore regarding textbooks.

Mr. Thompson acknowledged concern by some regarding the usage of pregnant person and indicated that, yes, we could have other options to explore. He does not want to “microwave” the process.

Discussion was had about not having to rush the decisions.

Member 1 - indicated FBISD only took a week to review and then they voted on it. She preferred to wait a year. She presented two resources, textbooks. If teacher used these textbooks, there would be no room for teacher bias. Extreme – has 90% of TEKS. CPR & First Aid – not provided. Tyler ISD uses Good Heart & ESTEEM from EMBARK. Developed by professionals in Tyler, TX.

Member 5 asked, “Who pays for textbooks?” – this was unknown.

Mr. Thompson indicated that school districts have budgets for textbooks.

Member 1 – indicated that in the textbook there are survey questions that she felt parents would not appreciate. The info collected is personal and of sexual nature.

Mr. Thompson – reiterated that parents would see the curriculum beforehand and could opt in or out.

Member 1 – had concerns about peer discussion activities and their topics, which were not appropriate, and that parents would not like the Identity chapter because it is “values based” as opposed to being about health.

Mr. Thompson indicated that SHAC would present to the board what is supported by the committee and all of the issues raised.

Mrs. Graves indicated that essentially, we would present our recommendations and the board would consider them as part of their decision.

Member 1 – concerns not all information/concerns presented to board. Wanted to make sure they were presented with all of the perspectives put forward.

Mr. Thompson- indicated they would know both sides.

Member 2 – voiced concerns about the need of health and sex education at school because parent won’t do it at home. Too many people would opt out.

Member 1 – was concerned about the peer to peer prompts that were in the book regarding potential situations a student could be faced with. She indicated this was an interaction opposed to a teacher teaching the material. She indicated she would trust a teacher more so than trust another kid to “teach” give situational opinion to influence another student.

Cathy Pool – asked Trisha Smith (PE/athletics teacher) how she would use these prompts in the classroom. She asked her how she would present this in the classroom.

Trisha Smith – indicated that there would be guidelines to follow and she would give instructions as to what was appropriate. She indicated there would be plenty of monitoring. She would emphasize that respect is expected.

She indicated there would be expectations and students out of line would be disciplined. She would set guidelines. She would walk through scenarios with them.

Mrs. Graves asked committee members about their thoughts on the textbook's approach to opioid awareness instruction.

Parent 4 – asked about how drug awareness was taught in TISD and wondered if the district could do more on this topic.

Mrs. Graves said it could be taught in some other courses such as Anatomy & Physiology, or Biology and also through programs in District. There is also some instruction in early years on substance abuse and drugs.

Mrs. Graves indicated that the committee has traditionally been small and anyone who wanted to join could but that By Laws might need to be created by the committee. Things such as time limits, voting rules, email votes, etc.

Mrs. Graves passed out ballots. Each committee member voted “yes” or “no” on the textbook, and “yes” or “no” on the companion text. There were three ballots cast by email. The end-result was 10 votes in favor of the textbook and the companion text and 3 votes that were not in favor of the textbook or companion text.

Cathy Pool updated the committee on Health Services regarding COVID cases and employee health initiatives. As always she recommended lots of water and sunscreen for the upcoming hot summer.

Coach Sebo gave updates on athletics. Two students are going to state track meet, and TMHS and THS are still in the playoffs for baseball. He announced to the committee that he is retiring in June.

Kevin White, gave update on Child & Nutrition. He said the district is still still dealing with food shortages and staff shortages. The department has made some improvements...ipads/scanners, growing keydrop locations for early morning deliveries.

Mrs. Graves- Update on sub-committee – researching on recess recommendations – recess at secondary campuses. At Oakcrest, students spend part of lunch going outside when weather is good. There was not a negative comment when students and staff were surveyed. Most enjoy and look forward to outside recess. Oakcrest allows lunch to be eaten outside. Emphasis on being outside.

Member 5 – concerned that this would take award minutes from an already short lunchtime.

Mrs. Graves – indicated we can discuss adding minutes to lunch but this messes up scheduling in the day. Concerns are staffing because recess has to be supervised. This would involve more campus involvement who already work with limited time.

Member 2 – indicated that any time outside is good because of the benefits of sunshine and fresh air. A break for student to reset no matter what they choose to do at recess time, sitting, hackysack, etc.

Mrs. Graves indicated that the board will get all the information and will be made aware of the results of the textbook vote. She asked for everyone to email her with concerns or could request to meet with her. Everyone should present their viewpoints from the community.

Mrs. Graves asked for additional comments or questions. Presentation for the board would be at next board meeting, June 13 and 14. The information discussed is important so that the board will know all the thoughts and discussion relating to these topics. She indicated that she hoped that everyone present would consider

being on the committee again next year. More discussions for next year again will be – resources, By Laws, employee wellness, recess, etc.

Mrs. Graves reassured everyone that the board listens and is interested in everything the committee puts forward because the committee represents the community.