

Notice of School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Meeting

Tomball ISD (Minutes)

The Tomball ISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) hosts its second regular meeting of the year on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, beginning at 3 PM in the Board Room of the John P. Neubauer Administration Building, 310 S. Cherry St., Tomball, TX 77375.

The subjects to be discussed or considered are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice:

1. Opening – Karen Graves

Welcome everyone. Announced that the committee would need to postpone the vote on the Health Curriculum module until a later date due to lack of information posted on the web prior to today's meeting for full disclosure. Asked if Tuesday 2/21 at 3:30pm would work for everyone.

2. Questions or Comments from the committee on the Health Module

Janice- felt it didn't give enough information in some areas

Beth- questioned is this everything that is provided by the district on health- 4th and 5th grade and then nothing until 9th grade? Bob Thompson answered Yes.

Monique- felt the modules did a good job of following state guidelines

Karen Graves thanked Kimm Montgomery for being here to help.

3. Anti - Vaping Campaign Information and Update

Cathy Pool, Director of Health Services spoke about the anti-vaping content that will be given to campuses 6th grade and up. The public has asked alot of questions on this topic and the district wants to focus on 4 themes around vaping-

- 1. What is it/What does it do/How does it affect our bodies?*
- 2. Prevention*
- 3. Resources to quit*
- 4. Advocacy to get it out of our communities*

Say What.org and Catch.org were mentioned as web sources

Each campus will be given content, has a team to work with their students and put the info out that they feel best applies to their campus. This information was given to the administration last month and should be going out this month. Questions from the committee:

How big of an issue is this in schools? Cathy answered that it was hard to gauge and administration would have better data on that than her, but many parents and the community have come to the district with concerns

Jennifer asked does any of this involve discipline around vaping? Karen answered that it was more about information and prevention rather than discipline.

Rebecca asked where can kids who are addicted get help, especially if they are embarrassed? "ThisIsQuitting" is a resource and also asked about vape detectors

4. SHAC Process

Karen Graves shared a printout of EHAA School Health Advisory Council Program and briefly went over the duties and policy recommendations appropriate for the committee to make; the committee needs to make sure it's the best avenue and determine if its appropriate or if there is another avenue to address the issue

5. Attendance Presentation by Mark White, Asst. Superintendent of Accountability and Governmental Relations

Explained how the attendance rates are a school funding issue (student by student count), an accountability system (school vs school comparison) and teachers in the classroom. Last year had a lower attendance rate. The district wants to work with and engage families on attendance in the following areas-to plan for things outside of illness (vacation), not let weather-related issues affect attendance, to communicate with staff about "on-watch" child doesn't feel great but isn't sick enough to stay home, managing allergies by partnering with parents/staff. He also went over information about official attendance times, excused or unexcused absences, exemptions all related to attendance.

Beth asked about "excused or unexcused" related to illness with or without a doctors note. It is excusable as long as the school is notified by the parent.

Rebecca asked if the funding issue is at state level and how do you change that? The answer is that legislation is looking into that, possibly an enrollment based vs. daily attendance based system.

Mark S. asked several questions- 1: About the finals exemption criteria at the high school level? State rule is 90% attendance. 2: Does the state exempt for medical (with note) and still fund? The state does not look at excused or unexcused, only the district. 3: Where does each campus get their numbers/goals? Each campus does their own from a committee. 4: What if a chronic illness was not coded properly? Please contact your campus and let them know so they can make the correction.

The goal is to not exclude kids, but to bring them in when it comes to attendance. Karen thanked Mark for his time on this topic.

Karen Graves re-stated for those members who came in late that the vote will be post-poned to 2/21 *due to the SHAC requirement that meetings are recorded and the minutes have to be posted.*

6. Sub-Committees

They are not under open meeting requirements if not in regular SHAC meeting and not the entire group. We must figure out realistically what we can accomplish this year to make recommendations to the board in June.

Mark S.- Attendance Incentives proposal. Since it is not a policy, should we recommend that in the wellness plan?

David- Later school start time proposal.

Janice- Nutrition. Interested in looking into healthier food choices. Concerned about sugar/dye regulations, lack of industry testing, can we bring back salad and sandwich bars?

Beth- Recess, more time for elementary and intermediate. Wants to explore what this looks like for each school and how does it affect all the other things

Rebecca- Mental health of kids and teachers

Karen said we will have to prioritize and vote on these next time.

Whitney Johnson, Child Nutrition Director - gave a staffing report that there are 36 vacancies out of 150; they average 1-2 applicants a week; it is very difficult to staff so unfortunately we cannot offer students lines right now like Salata and Subway.

Cathy Pool mentioned the Superintendent Fun Run on April 22nd and encouraged the committee to attend. Karen Graves thanked everyone for their time and passion and closed the meeting at 4:10pm