



Higher Heights Committee

Admin Building Rm 125

11/10/22

4:30pm

Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm; Committee members present: Corey Hickerson, Jill Johnston, Holly Mallory, STUCO President and VP, Tanya Chernow, and Jane Seamster. Visitor: April Garvin

1. October - Bullying Prevention Month [Feedback](#)

In addition to the campus feedback linked above, JHS Stuco representatives spoke about the initiatives to make all students feel included and getting them to participate in activities. They have participated in numerous activities on their campus such as new student ice cream socials. Which is an opportunity to meet any new students at Joshua ISD, and allows for those students to develop a friendship. Various organizations are looking at purchasing shirts that say "sit with me", letting students know there is an opportunity to sit with someone new or just a safe place to sit for lunch. STUCO has also started inspirational quotes in the bathrooms to be placed on the mirrors for all students to see.

Mrs. Chernow and Mrs. Seamster shared how their respective campuses participated in Bullying Prevention Month. The overall feedback was very positive from all campuses.

2. Proposed Minimum [Standards](#) (TEA)

Mr. Hickerson reviewed the proposed standards from TEA. He mentioned that TEA is still taking public comment before finalizing the standards for the school districts. He encouraged those if they would like to submit comments to do so.

3. Bullying Surveys ideas

- a. District- the committee would like to have the district survey edited by Spring so that it can be distributed to all stakeholders.
 - i. Ideas shared: parents need to know the true definition of bullying as defined in the education code. Discussion was made about the district providing training to parents on what constitutes bullying. This could help with the perspective placed on bullying and further understand what actually is bullying versus mean or rude behavior.
- b. High school - Student Council - Mr. Hickerson talked about the lack of understanding what bullying is and asked how they can convey accurate information so that the data is valid. Mr. Hickerson charged Stuco with revamping the questions for the student survey to make it more applicable to helping to understand where the true problem lies. Discussion was had about providing the definition on the survey.

4. Spring Future Ideas: Discussion about purchasing Lonely Benches for elementary playgrounds as means for students to sit and other students to come invite to play. Discussion continued with campus instruction for students on how to handle a physical (face to face) bully instead of focusing only on cyberbullying. It was further discussed about having “statement papers” for those intimidated to speak up for themselves and have them put the information down on paper to share with the counselor.
Suggestion was made about having theater students work up a bullying production to share with peers and younger students, truly acting out what bullying is and what it looks like. This was brought up since students lose interest in presentations and as a means to keep the students engaged.
5. Upcoming campus presentations February 13 and 14 LMS and NMS will have a presentation from the “Believe in You” series by Kevin Atlas. High school recently completed their BMX bike presentation about bullying and it was shared in the meeting that this message was a big hit with the student body.
 - a. Possible Future presentations: This is in the beginning stages, and if possible the district would like to have these presentations done in person and not virtual. This grant would provide the opportunity to present this program for free to respective campuses.
 - i. Texas Department of State Health Services through the Grant Halliburton Foundation - Rise: Change your World!
 - ii. **RISE: Change Your World!** An interactive presentation designed to help students reframe their thinking and behaviors related to bullying.
 1. Objectives Grades K–5:
 - Learn about the different types of bullying
 - Understand the impact of bullying on the victim and bully
 - Know how to support a victim by being a friend, not a bystander
 - Report bullying to a teacher or trusted adult
 - Objectives Grades 6–12:
 - Learn about types of bullying and how cruelty has been normalized in our society
 - Understand the impact of this culture of cruelty and how you may be contributing to it
 - Know how to make a difference and create a culture of kindness in your friend group, school, and community
 - Gain the confidence to stand up to injustice, cruelty, and bullying
6. Future meeting dates
February 9, 2023
April 13, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.