



Always Innovating

**South
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 6-12

7001 E. EXPRESSWAY 83, MERCEDES, TX 78570

P: 956.565.2454

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**STISD SHAC MEETING
March 20, 2024
South Texas ISD Administration Building
Minutes**

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting was called to order by Marcos Flores at 5:30 pm.

Attending: Dr. Javier Saenz, Ileana Hinojosa, Ricardo Viader, Hanani Vasquez, Amy Pena, Alicia Rios, Marcos Flores, and Janette Bristow.

Approval of Minutes

Dr Saenz motioned to approve prior minutes from November 28, 2023 meeting. Mr. Viader second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Counseling and Guidance

Update on Comprehensive Counseling Program

Mr. Flores spoke about the district comprehensive handbook and how it would be specific to our district. Dr Lerma who designed and created the Texas Comprehensives Model is working with our district to create handbook. Information is already being gathered specific and unique to our students' needs. The handbook will be available in our campus probably in the reception area for any parent to view. Our counselors will focus more on student's wellbeing instead of being in charge of testing. The counselors would still assess to make sure the student is in the correct class for example if student is in GT class or bilingual. DR. Saenz spoke about a case of a 14 yr. old with gender issues, not sleeping, not eating well. Mother going to see him for recommendation.

MARCO ANTONIO LARA, JR., ED.D.
Superintendent

EFRAIN GARZA
Deputy Superintendent

MARLA R. KNAUB
Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

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He answered mom about using school resources like the school counselor first then maybe psychiatrist. States Hidalgo County would be able to send a person to evaluate if a student is wanting to harm himself or another student. That counselor can evaluate if a student needs a psychiatrist or hospital stay. Recommending for school to have more posters on the walls of numbers for student to call if any problems. Ms. Pena states every school with social emotional lessons and every student with #'s in the back of their IDs of crisis prevention numbers. Mr. Flores also informed committee of district wellness specialist in campus and school psychologist as well as our counselors ready to assist in any crisis. Also explained has been present when calls to Tropical Behavior Center or city police made because a student is in a crisis. Continues to explain procedures of how teachers and administration get together and speak about student concerns.

Health/Wellness

Nurse Report on Opioid Antagonist Training

Mr. Flores asked Nurse Rios to give report on nurse training. Nurse Rios states as per Texas Education Code each school is responsible for training school personnel in the administration of Narcan. All district nurses were trained thru Region one in partnership with Texas A and M Opioid Task Force. All campuses now have Narcan available in case of an overdose. Every campus has a designated area easily accessible to anyone. Ms. Bristow asked where the Narcan medication was purchased? Mr. Flores responded at HEB Pharmacy. Ms. Bristow also asked if police officers carry Narcan? Mr. Flores responded at Mercedes campus there are 2 Hidalgo County sheriff officers who carry Narcan, an off-duty Edinburg police officer also carries Narcan and in the San Benito and Olmito campus Cameron County sheriff also carry medication. Also informed committee that every campus principal and campus nurse would collaborate and decide on who would be trained.

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February 23,2024 Professional Development

Youth Mental Health First Aide

Mr. Flores explained senate bill states 100% of all staff who interact with students, i.e., include teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria staff etc., need to be trained by 2028/2029 school year in increments of 25% each year. Right now, our district is already at 30%. During the professional development in the month of May 75 more staff will be trained. Our district LPC in partnership with Tropical Behavior Center can only train 25 people at one time. Everyone will be trained to know what to look for in case of a crisis. Even bus drivers need to be trained because they see students in the mornings and when they work as custodians throughout the day. Ms. Pena also explained that the training identifies signs of mental health crisis. It provides resources and how to address situations involving our students. Mr. Flores added, gives information for adults to notice behavior changes in a student. Students at our district feel comfortable speaking to our staff for example, as a principal in Health Professions many students went up to me and asked a lot of questions. Something that is very unique in our district. Ms. Bristow asked who can train? Mr. Flores responded only an LPC and psychologist, people who specialize in mental health. Ms. Bristow continues to say that her son who is in 8th grade (Rising Scholars) has been encouraging his little sister because she is nervous about leaving her school and going to a new campus next year. Expressed that her son feels very comfortable with staff on his campus. Mr. Flores asked permission to share report about her son with campus principal. She agreed.

Next Meeting

April 18,2024

Meeting Adjourned

Dr. Saenz motioned to adjourn meeting. Ms. Pena second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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