

## Parent Feedback Forum | April 2, 2024

### Questions & Answers

#### School Safety:

- Does LPD and other departments train WITH LISD on school drills?
  - *Constable Deputies or our SROs participate at their respective LISD campuses with their drills.*
- Can we use Drug Dogs to keep school free of drugs?
  - *We have secured a K9 Vendor and they are now on the calendar for random drug sweeps.*
- Have we tested the emergency response with all local, County, and State officials?
  - *Sheriff Lane and Chief Williamson have already begun that training at our campuses and are bringing in Lockhart Fire and EMS into those trainings.*
- Why are the passing periods so crowded?
  - *Campuses are growing in student enrollment and we continue to work with our campus administrators to make sure that procedures and processes are in place in order to monitor passing periods. We have implemented staggered bell schedules at LJH.*
- How can we decrease the number of students vaping in the bathrooms at LHS?
  - *We limit the number of bathrooms open during passing periods so that open bathrooms can be monitored. We have installed vaping detectors but found them to not be reliable and accurate.*
- Do our school buses have seat belts?
  - *All Lockhart ISD school buses, except for one, are equipped with seatbelts. The only bus that is not equipped with seatbelts is an 84-passenger bus used for athletics transportation purposes. The district plans to retrofit that bus and install seat belts.*
  - *Parents, please remind your students to always wear their seatbelts when riding the bus, encourage them to stay seated, and follow all safety protocols and instructions from bus drivers.*
- When will the schools do active shooter drills?
  - *While every school does drills for all types of possible responses we have decided to not do live active shooter reenactments to not further cause trauma for students. We will ensure that lockdown drills more frequently utilize Lockhart PD.*

#### Teacher Support / Discipline:

- What is the district doing to retain the best teachers?
  - *We have a Navigate to '28 committee that is focused on retention strategies and our potential pay scale supports staff members with experience. We continue to discuss and implement retention strategies based on feedback from our staff.*
  - *We plan on providing a raise to all staff this year.*
  - *We are planning to provide high quality low cost health insurance that is the best in Texas.*

- *One of the focuses of our Shared Leadership Model professional learning sessions is classroom management. We will continue to provide campus leadership with strategies to support campus leadership including having our Special Education department providing Tier III behavioral strategies.*
- If a student is repeatedly disruptive or reported for bullying, they should not be allowed to continue on campus to create a disruption for others.
  - *LISD has procedures to investigate bullying. Students found to have bullied other students are disciplined following our discipline matrix and discipline policies.*
- How can we as a community have a greater impact or involvement? These are our children, our community.
  - *There are multiple opportunities to volunteer, including Lion Guard. In addition, LISD continues to grow family engagement strategies held on campuses. Families can contact campus personnel, including counselors, administrators or Community in Schools for information.*
- Why are restrooms locked at LHS?
  - *There are always restrooms open on all campuses with staff notified of the open facilities. The closing of restrooms is reviewed by campus staff and adjusted as deemed appropriate to maintain a safe environment.*

#### **Education Quality and Resources:**

- How many classes do not have a teacher?
  - *Our vacancy rate is about 1%. We have approved flexibility in certification requirements in order to hire in hard to fill positions. We have also increased stipends in these areas to attract candidates.*
- What changes can we expect in the gifted and talented program to improve support for GT students?
  - *We have added an extra TAG teacher and increased the stipend to help attract the best candidates.*
  - *GT students are assessed and progress is monitored throughout the year. Cluster teachers are responsible for monitoring them and providing challenges commensurate with their needs in the four core areas. GT teachers use a pull out model to provide general themes at each grade level and provide activities with advanced rigor and depth and complexity.*
  - *We are currently hiring a part time GT facilitator to support the workload for the remainder of the year and will be interviewing in May for a third position in order to lower caseloads. In addition, we are adding to the robust offering of yearly professional development requirements for teachers.*
  - *Cluster teachers are required to receive a 6-hour update annually and apply the strategies of GT differentiation of content, process, and product in daily planning. One of the embedded advantages to cluster grouping is that planning is easier if it is done by one teacher for a group.*
- Elementary “grading” system. Not really sure how my student is doing/progressing. Curious how teachers feel about the current elementary “grading” system?

- *The Curriculum and Instruction Department will be reviewing the standards based report card with staff during the beginning of the year professional learning to include a refresher to veteran teachers and the reasons behind our system with new to district personnel.*
- Can students who are of age become poll workers?
  - *LISD will research and provide opportunities as allowed.*

**Nutrition:**

- Why can we not have more protein in the options for breakfast?
  - *Our breakfast service model in our elementary campuses is Breakfast in the Classroom. We chose this model because it provides us the best opportunity to feed all our attending students every morning. We offer on most days from 11 to 17 grams of protein daily in our breakfast meals. All of this and we continue to menu popular fruits and 100% juices. We are consistently working with our food distributor and manufacturers for new protein based items that are applicable with our breakfast model.*
  - *Our Nutrition program is consistently looking for new menu items to offer to our students here at Lockhart. In the past two years we have used scratch cooking more and offering whole muscle chicken products to our students, and we are surveying our students to ask our customers what they would like to see more of. All of this and we continue to menu popular fruits and vegetables such as strawberries and watermelon. We encourage all of our families if they have feedback on our menus to please reach out to our Nutrition Department at 512-398-0292.*
- What is the process for teacher accountability?
  - *We have a set of instructional tenets based on our district values for all staff. All staff are evaluated using a state approved evaluation system that includes classroom observations, feedback and a full evaluation.*
- Why was there not an emergency board meeting after the week of the Lockdown? What necessitates an emergency meeting?
  - *The Board President shall call special meetings at the Board President's discretion or on request by two members of the Board. The Board President shall call an emergency meeting when it is determined by the Board President or two members of the Board that an emergency or urgent public necessity, as defined by law, warrants the meeting. The board policy can be found here <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=245&code=BE#localTabContent>*
- Is there an employee assistance plan offered to staff?
  - *Yes, we have an employee assistance plan through Deer Oaks. They offer services such as short-term counseling, legal services and financial counseling*

- What protocol is in place for employees of LISD once under investigation for inappropriate relationships with students?
  - *LISD places the employee on leave while the situation is being investigated. Lockhart ISD reports to local law enforcement to determine whether or not a crime has been committed. The district also reports the incident to TEA and CPS for them to investigate as well.*

**Attendance and Student Services:**

- How can we get help with attendance discrepancies at Lockhart High School?
  - *If a parent has an attendance issue, they will need to contact the teacher to address the attendance error. If a parent does not receive a response within 48 hours, they are to contact the Assistant Principal.*
    - *A - Gon Lucia Ramos 512-398-0342*
    - *Goo - Pen Juan Orozco 512-398-0333*
    - *Per - Z Donye Curry 512-450-3613*
  - *If there is an attendance correction to be made, it will be corrected within 24 hours from the time the teacher submitted the correction to the attendance office.*
  - *If a parent has an attendance issue with school-related absences, they will need to contact the classroom teacher to correct the attendance discrepancy. If a response is not received within 48 hours, please contact the Assistant Principal listed above.*
- How can we ensure 504 plans are enforced and followed in the district?
  - *504 plans are implemented by general education teachers. Proper implementation is ensured by incorporating professional learning on a consistent basis. The on-going process will be a focus for school year 2024-25. In addition, monitoring should occur during walkthroughs and evaluations.*