



Aledo ISD SHAC meeting minutes – October 14, 2021

- I. **Introduction of members** ~ Meeting started at 5:32pm, 24 members were present, including 20 voting members and 4 non-voting members. Additionally, two AISD trustees were present, Jennifer Taylor and David Lear, along with AISD Deputy Superintendent, Lynn McKinney. Introductions were done to start the meeting.

- II. **Virtual meeting structure** ~ The structure and general etiquette of the virtual setup of the meeting was reviewed – the virtual format of SHAC meetings will be the planned practice during this school year or until further notice. A request to keep cameras on and microphones muted was made. Participation by everyone is crucial for the success of the group.

- III. **SHAC Purpose & Mission** ~ Purpose and Mission of the SHAC Committee were reviewed. This committee is required by law. The majority membership of this committee are parents who are not employed by the district. This group will examine different programs, curriculum, and instruction but does not serve as a regulatory group and will only make recommendations to the Administration or School Board.

IV. **Public Comment** ~ SHAC meetings are open to the public. Public Comment is part of the agenda at each meeting. Members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes and are permitted to speak during the designated section on the agenda, but are not permitted to participate in discussion outside of the designated section on the agenda. Two individuals requested to make public comment for this meeting. Each spoke to the topic of character education, item XII. listed on the agenda. Trish Watson was the first public speaker and she expressed concern about the updates to the Positivity Project (P2) content happening in real time (while she was previewing material). Additionally, Ms. Watson added that she felt students should be warned about sharing what they are writing during P2 activities and should be told that there is no promise of confidentiality outside of the classroom. Ms. Watson shared that she has suggested tweaks to some of the P2 content, to one of the program co-founders, so the lessons and activities will not hurt people who may be hurting already. Ms. Watson also expressed concern about Aledo ISD utilizing a working group outside of the SHAC and selecting a program before the SHAC could be involved. Lastly, Ms. Watson stated a request that SHAC should require AISD to give constant access to parents to be able to preview P2 content after any potential changes are made by P2 staff if the program content is to remain 'alive'. The other public speaker was Marcy Galle. Ms. Galle stated that the statute requiring character education be included in schools only requires that the character traits be taught once during the school year. She also stressed the importance of the SHAC, especially the role of parents in reviewing and reflecting community values. Ms. Galle added that she supports the teaching of good manners and good citizenship in schools, but that she is opposed to other Social-Emotional-Learning (SEL) elements being included in school programming. Lastly, Ms. Galle expressed concerns about assessments that are associated with SEL programs which may ask about the attitudes, values, and beliefs of students, sharing she did not believe it was appropriate for students of any age to be asked these questions in school.

- V. **Future meeting dates / times** ~ SHACs in school districts are required to meet 4 times each school year. AISD has 5 meetings planned for this school year. The committee voted to approve the following meeting dates: November 8, January 24, March 7, and April 25. SHAC membership approved the dates (above), 16-0.

- VI. **Nomination/selection of parent Co-Chair** ~ The statute requires that the SHAC committee nominate a parent to be Co-Chair of the SHAC along with the district liaison. Jeff Wade, Walsh parent representative (and also a McAnally parent), was nominated and agreed to accept the position. Jeff was approved by the voting membership to be the SHAC Parent Co-Chair for this school by a vote of 15-0.

- VII. **Subcommittee on Physical Fitness & Activity** ~ The requirement for a subcommittee on Physical Activity and Fitness was explained. The subcommittee will look at data and determine if recommendations for physical activity at school should be considered. The group was asked for 3-5 people to consider serving on the subcommittee with meetings to begin later in the fall semester or early in the spring semester. The following members agreed to serve on this subcommittee: Dr. Carolyn Rekerdres(parent), Sue Spreier (PE teacher), and Ashely Ihle (parent).

- VIII. **Review Bylaws** ~ The committee was asked to review the bylaws (shared prior to meeting) and provide input if anything needed to be changed or addressed. Details related to the proposed changes shared were reviewed. No additional comments or suggestions were made related to the bylaws at this time. It was suggested to allow additional time for review of SHAC bylaws by members and to follow-up at subsequent meeting. A revisit to SHAC bylaws and potential amendments will take place at a future meeting.

- IX. **SHAC webpage** ~ Members were shown how to access the SHAC webpage on the district web site. Parts of the site and how the public could access any information they needed were also shared. All the information is posted for them to use as they may need, as members, at any time during the school year. All members were made aware their name is posted on the website as a member of SHAC. Minutes will be sent to each member within ten days of each meeting and posted on the website as well.

- X. **COVID-19 Update** ~ A short overview on COVID-19 cases and the AISD dashboard was presented and reviewed.

- XI. **Human Sexuality Instruction** ~ A review of the previously SHAC-approved Human Sexuality program *Real Essentials* was shared. Recent changes in statute altered the requirements of districts opting to teach Human Sexuality Instruction from an opt-out, or passive consent, to a now-required opt-in, or active consent. A revised parental consent letter, now as an active consent was reviewed with the membership. No comments, questions, or suggestions were shared by members.

- XII. **Character Education** ~ A review of the process and feedback related to the Positivity Project (P2) was done with the SHAC membership. Opportunities for preview and feedback from parents and community members provided to the District, from the preview process, were shared with SHAC members before the meeting. The working group process and timeline for narrowing down to a single option for a character education program was described. Feedback from the SHAC was requested related to the content of the P2 program and separately feedback was requested from SHAC members related to the input/feedback provided by parents and community members. There was extensive conversation amongst SHAC members with some sharing positive feedback related to P2 program content and some asking questions to clarify.

A few of the SHAC members were also members of the smaller working group and they shared their perspective on the process. Some questions were asked of the working groups members and those were answered and talked through as well. Additionally, input from SHAC members was requested related to the feedback provided about the P2 program and content. There was no specific response or feedback from SHAC members that was related to the input shared with the district during the preview and feedback period. A full recording of the 10.14.21 SHAC meeting is available for review on the Aledo ISD website. The link to view this recording is [here](#). The conversation about character education and the P2 program begins at the 1:04:20 mark in the video. Anyone wishing to view this portion of the SHAC meeting and hear all of the conversation about character education is encouraged to view the video at that point.

Adjournment ~ Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm