



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
November 7, 2024
South Texas ISD Administration Building
Minutes**

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Marcos Flores at 5:34pm.

Attending: Angela Aceves, Dr. Clark Boyer, Ricardo Aguirre, Hanani Vasquez, Alicia Rios, Armando Salinas, Rocio Calderon, and Marcos Flores.

Student Health Advisory Council

Mr. Flores explained the purpose of SHAC to look at health and wellbeing as a whole for our students; provide advice and recommendations to health education curriculum areas appropriate for specific grade levels. Recommendations are presented to School Board members and may be implemented.

Recommendations which approved curriculum and education on opioids; implemented the first 2 weeks of current school year.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion to approve minutes by Ricardo Aguirre, second motion by Armando Salinas. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the 2025 Texas Youth Tobacco Survey

The Texas Youth Tobacco survey is sponsored by DSHS and conducted by the Bush School at Texas A&M University. Rising Scholars Academy was randomly selected to participate, and is one of the 200 schools selected in Texas. Public school students between sixth and twelfth grade will take the survey in the state of Texas. It is estimated that 15,000 students will participate. Mr. Flores asked if the committee had questions.

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

EFRAIN GARZA
Deputy Superintendent

MARLA R. KNAUB
Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

LISSA FRAUSTO, MBA, SPHR
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources



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Angela Aceves asked: Are there two schools or one participating in the survey?

Mr. Flores answered: Sorry, there was an Amendment done in October 2 and only Rising Scholars will participate, but committee can approve today for either school to participate.

Ricardo Aguirre asked: How is the survey going to be done?

Mr. Flores answered: Two options available one with paper-pencil version and another an online version. Survey will be offered thru the academic mentoring /enrichment classes and will not disrupt classes.

Angela Aceves asked: What kind of questions do they ask in the survey? Do you smoke?

Mr. Flores answered: Survey will probably ask if student has been offered any products with tobacco. The survey intended to evaluate if students are exposed to products containing tobacco. Texas mandates if a student caught vaping/vaping device /distribution of illegal substance they are sent to DEAP.

Veronica Pisharodi asked: What about 1st time offenders? What if they vape in the school restrooms?

Mr. Flores answered: Restrooms have a system which detects vapor. Campus principals get notifications. Cannot catch every person. Everyone needs to be vigilant. The opioid education and prevention curriculum in place to help to stop.

Veronica Pisharodi asked: What about selling it in school?

Mr. Flores answered: It all depends on the student. Every school has metal detectors. Principal can search back pack, locker, cars if they have reasonable suspicion. The use of K9 units to search classrooms, lockers, and backpacks. First conversation with these students is why and how can we help them. Most student also report because they want to ensure their schools are safe. Also, school nurses assist with evaluation and detection if the student is impaired. Safety is always priority.

Veronica Pisharodi asked: Is student reporting anonymous?

Mr. Flores answered: Yes, but we don't know if another student sees them walk out of the office. Principals are trained legally; they have monthly meeting where different situations are discusses. The focal point is to help the student first.

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Ricardo Aguirre asked: Is the survey anonymous? Will teachers see results then say this student is using?

Mr. Flores answered: No open-ended questions asked from students. Survey can influence legislation and policy change.

Angela Aceves asked: The \$300 payment goes to the school?

Mr. Flores answered: The School board will approve or deny payment. The campus will give a proposal of how they would use the money to the Board.

Armando Salinas asked: Participation is voluntary? The goal is to achieve 90 to 95% participation, can we get to this percentage?

Mr. Flores answered: yes, most of our school have high percentages in school attendance. Especially our middle school. There should be no problems.

Rocio Calderon: Is there a conversation with students about survey not having any punishment and informing them why it's important to be truthful?

Mr. Flores answered: Campuses will send notifications to parents. Student will be told no punishment for being truthful.

Rocio Calderon: Will this survey make school look bad?

Mr. Flores answered: Survey is not reported to TEA. For example, reports on weapons on school property, any parent can look it up.

Ms. Calderon commented that it is good for our kids to know that they can make a difference with research and their contributions.

Dr. Clark Boyer asked: Do we get a report?

Mr. Flores answered: Not on a specific student just percentages of the data.

Ricardo Aguirre motioned to approve 2025 Texas Youth Tobacco Survey and Veronica Pisharodi second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports- Board of nursing update regarding OTC's

Mr. Flores reports Board of Nursing with guidance of OTC's this year. In the past a parent would write a note and nurse was allowed to administer medication such as Advil. Now we need a prescription from the doctor to administer. Our district has physician standing orders with parent consent to administer OTC's. Last year

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SHAC approved physician orders. Parent still needs to sign consent form and send medication in the original unopened packaging. No updates from Board of Nursing since 08/19/2024. Working closely with director of service center Ms. Hardin.

Dr. Clark Boyer asked: Will the medication that has a label from the pharmacy, need a prescription?

Mr. Flores answered: Different scenarios were discussed such as a dad bring in medication for his daughter and another parent bring in a prescription for planter fasciitis.

Armando Salinas Asked: Does it work for virtual academy?

Mr. Flores answered: yes. In the future, a generalized consent form could be used during registration forms. The parent would only need to bring in medications to school nurse.

Discussion on staff to be trained on EpiPen administration:

Mr. Flores reports that all campus will have EpiPen. Program allows school to get them for free. All office staff, coaches, club sponsors will eventually be trained.

Angela Aceves asked: will staff also be CPR certified?

Mr. Flores answered: For CPR there is a certification. For EpiPen training our nurse could train staff to administer EpiPen. Most campus have CPR certified staff.

Hanani Vasquez commented that most of our health science teacher as well as students in their freshmen, junior and senior years are CPR trained. Also, RSA certifies the 8th grade students.

Armando Salinas asked: What about the librarians? Since Virtual Academy student report to the library at times?

Mr. Flores answered: yes

Meeting Adjourned

Hanani Vasquez motioned to adjourn the meeting. Veronica Pisharodi second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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