

Santa Rosa ISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 3, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Santa Rosa High School Library, 102 South Main/107, Santa Rosa, TX 78593

Call to Order / Welcome

The SHAC meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Evangelina Cervantes, District Nurse and SHAC Coordinator. Ms. Cervantes welcomed parents, staff, and community members and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Ms. Cervantes requested a motion to approve the minutes from the previous SHAC meeting. The first motion was made by Ygnacia De La Fuente, and a second was made by Michael Solis. The motion was carried and the minutes were approved.

2. Nomination and Election of Parent Chairperson

Ms. Cervantes explained that the election of a parent chairperson had been postponed at the previous meeting due to limited parent attendance. She reviewed the general expectations and role of the parent chairperson, noting that the individual must be a community member not employed by the district, attend SHAC meetings, support SHAC goals, bylaws, and mission, participate in trainings as offered, help review existing district policies, bring forward suggestions or concerns related to student health, safety, and well-being, and support elevating parent and community concerns to district leadership and, when appropriate, to the Board of Trustees. Parent Lucinda Villarreal volunteered for this position. Parents and staff present voted in favor, and Ms. Villarreal was elected as Parent Chairperson. Ms. Cervantes thanked Ms. Villarreal for volunteering and serving in this role.

3. Review of District Cell Phone Policy

(Presented by Mr. Michael Solis)

Mr. Michael Solis, High School Principal, provided an overview of the district's student cell phone expectations and enforcement process. He explained that cell phones have become a significant distraction in schools due to social media and classroom disruptions. Under Texas legislation allowing districts flexibility to prohibit student cell phone use, Santa Rosa

Independent School District determined that students may bring phones to campus for safety and emergency purposes, but they must remain put away in a backpack or bag and may not be used during instruction. Students may briefly use their phones during lunch if necessary for cafeteria payment, but they must put them away afterward. The plan will be revisited at the end of the year to evaluate its impact and determine any adjustments for the following year. Mr. Solis outlined progressive consequences for violations: for a first offense, the phone is confiscated, a parent is contacted, and the parent must pick up the phone at the end of the day while expectations are reviewed; for a second offense, the parent is contacted, the student is assigned two days of ISS, the phone is held during ISS, and the parent retrieves it afterward; for a third offense, the parent is contacted, the student is assigned three days of ISS, the phone is held, and the student is informed that they may no longer bring the device to school. Additional discussion highlighted that while students often provide excuses for phone use, enforcement focuses on minimizing instructional disruption. Positive outcomes noted included increased face-to-face interaction among students and improved social engagement in hallways. It was also shared that social media misunderstandings and conflicts can escalate quickly, and reducing phone use may help decrease such issues, as well as address academic gaps caused by distractions. Mr. Solis emphasized the importance of parent and community education and proposed a Santa Rosa Independent School District Town Hall Meeting, with a tentative target date of Tuesday, March 24, to provide additional information. Planned topics include student phone use, texting and sexting concerns that may involve law enforcement, student attendance and truancy and how funding is impacted by attendance, parent rights and access to monitor student phone activity (including hidden apps and privacy settings), and parent-requested engagement topics such as supporting studying at home, grade monitoring, ParentLink and online grade review, conferences, dual enrollment, TSI testing, AP courses, credits, and district student opportunities. Potential presenters mentioned included the City of Santa Rosa Chief Officer Garcia and SRISD Chief Officer Matus, along with district staff.

4. Overview of Stronger Connections Grant Services

(Presented by Ms. Ygnacia De La Fuente)

Ms. De La Fuente, Secondary Social Emotional Counselor, explained the purpose and use of the Stronger Connections Grant, which is guided by TEA and focuses on improving school safety, supporting student mental health, increasing student engagement, providing professional development for staff, and implementing evidence-based practices through community collaboration. She explained that the grant focuses on addressing students' non-academic needs so they can better focus on academic success. The campuses served by the grant include Elma Barrera Elementary, Jo Nelson Middle School, and Santa Rosa High School. Ms. De La Fuente shared that her position is funded through the grant and she supports the High School in the mornings and the Middle School in the afternoons, while Ms. Finch provides support for elementary students throughout the school day. Examples of supports funded through the grant include the CharacterStrong guidance curriculum implemented across all campuses, with classroom lessons and social skills instruction at the elementary level, similar guidance lessons at the middle school, and positive behavior and self-talk messaging during

morning announcements at the high school. Additional supports include purchases that promote physical wellness through PE, calming rooms for students equipped with fidgets, flexible seating, calming music, and diffusers where students can take a brief 10–15 minute reset, and wellness rooms for staff with couches, diffusers, and sound machines. The grant has also supported professional development presenters for staff as well as student presentations. Ms. De La Fuente noted that the grant is scheduled to end on September 30, 2026, and campuses are working to strategically use remaining funds to ensure sustainability after the grant ends, particularly through durable items such as calming and wellness room resources. During discussion, parent Ms. Villarreal asked about confidential support options for staff who may not feel comfortable speaking with someone within the district. Ms. De La Fuente explained that the district has partnered with an additional program called Alongside, which was purchased through another grant connected with Region One and referenced as Project LEAD. The Alongside platform provides support tools for both students and staff. She explained that student accounts are monitored for safety, meaning if a student indicates self-harm or danger, the system alerts appropriate administrators or support staff for intervention, while staff accounts remain confidential for adult users and can provide crisis resources and guidance when needed. The website **alongside.care** was shared, and it was explained that students can access the platform from any device with internet access, including their Chromebooks while at school.

5. Warriors Closet

(Presented by Ms. Vicky Quintanilla)

Ms. Vicky Quintanilla, High School ACE Coordinator, presented information about the Warriors Closet, which was established this year through a collaboration between Communities In Schools (CIS) and the ACE department. The mission of the Warriors Closet is to provide students with essential resources that support their success in school, including clothing, food and snacks through a pantry, hygiene products, and school supplies. The program follows a “no questions asked” model in which students simply sign in using their student ID without needing to provide their names. The closet is located at Santa Rosa High School in the 300 Hall. It is also accessible to families within the district; parents may visit as long as they have a student enrolled and can sign in through the front office. After school hours, the front office can radio Ms. Quintanilla or ACE staff to assist families. Donations of clothing and supplies have been received through student contributions such as a student council clothing drive, as well as donations from staff, parents, and community members following social media outreach. Hygiene products such as deodorant, shampoo, toothbrushes, and toothpaste were noted as the items most frequently used. Ms. Quintanilla also shared that a grant application has been submitted to help expand available resources and the program is currently awaiting a response. Students have also been actively involved by helping sort donations and organizing clothing racks and storage areas. It was noted that the Warriors Closet supports students from all campuses, including the high school, middle school, and elementary school. During discussion, Ms. Cervantes mentioned a need for spare clothing for younger elementary students for situations such as accidents or emergency clothing changes. Ms. Wiley suggested ideas to help

increase donations, including organizing specific donation days such as “pants day” or “hygiene day,” offering small student incentives like homework passes, and considering donation drop-off opportunities outside regular school hours or hosting collection events to accommodate community members who may work during the day. Ms. Cervantes stated she would share these ideas with the ACE Director.

6. Meet Your Wesley Nurse

(Presented by Ms. Candy Wiley, RN)

Ms. Candy Wiley, RN, Wesley Nurse with Methodist Healthcare Ministries, introduced her role and the services she provides through a faith-based community nursing program that uses a holistic approach focusing on the mind, body, and spirit. She explained that the services are free and are not considered home health care, but instead focus on providing health education, screenings, and referrals to community resources. Her work primarily supports individuals who may not have insurance or who have limited access to healthcare, including undocumented members of the community. Ms. Wiley shared that she provides basic health screenings and health navigation, including education on conditions such as diabetes or borderline diabetes, nutrition guidance, and goal-setting for healthier lifestyles. She also assists families in connecting with resources for medical care, vaccinations, supplies, and transportation barriers that may prevent them from receiving care. Additionally, she offers support related to mental health resources and collaborates with a community-based counselor who provides free counseling services for individuals who may not otherwise have access to care, including telehealth options. Ms. Wiley also offers periodic programs such as small group exercise or education sessions, monthly produce distribution, and a community garden initiative. Interpretation services are available, and while she understands Spanish well, interpreters can also be accessed when needed. She noted that common needs within the community include access to vision and dental care, and while some resources are available, they are often limited, especially for adults. Ms. Wiley provided informational flyers and business cards and encouraged staff to refer families who may need support with glasses, dental services, health navigation, or connections to community resources.

7. Open Discussion / Questions

Parent Ms. Villarreal and Ms. Wiley asked questions and shared suggestions related to several key areas, including confidential mental health support available for staff, increasing awareness of the resources provided through the district and community partners, and expanding donation and collection efforts for the Warriors Closet. Discussion included ideas such as offering additional opportunities for community members to donate outside regular school hours and organizing targeted donation drives to collect specific items needed for students. These suggestions focused on strengthening support systems and improving access to resources for both students and staff.

8. Adjournment/Closing

Ms. Cervantes thanked all presenters and attendees for their time, support, and participation in the meeting. She encouraged parents and community members to continue sharing ideas and suggestions for topics they would like to see addressed in future meetings and town halls. Before concluding, attendees were reminded to sign in prior to leaving. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m..