HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Charles H. Milby High School
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Ruth Peña, Principal
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SDMC Meeting Minutes **August 19, 2026**

Attendance

- Teacher attendance ran 98% last year. Student attendance opened at 98%, dipped to 96%, currently around 95-96%, described as unusually strong.

Students Needing Support

- Two students flagged: Juanito Solinas (11th) and Pablo Flores (9th), both capable but disengaged and skipping.
- Group agreed JROTC upperclassman peer mentoring will likely work for the 9th grader but not the 11th grader.
- Idea floated: an escort/probation system where flagged students are walked to class and report in until they earn their way off.

Phones and Teams

- Yonder pouches set the expectation and engagement is visibly better, but burner phones still get through (detectors not sensitive enough, long entry lines mean some students skip checks).
- **Teams** is valuable for class and club communication. Student-to-student direct messaging is blocked after group-chat abuse, and keyword monitoring flagged a message using the word "fight."

Nurse and Health Supplies

- Nurse selection process is ongoing. Several candidates interviewed, one offer declined, an offer is out to another candidate pending acceptance.
- No basic supplies on hand.
- **Actions**: departments stock their own bandages and make ice packs using pod refrigerators/freezers.

Facilities

- No running water in the 2nd floor restrooms, so students cannot wash hands. Soap and sanitizer supply is inconsistent.
- A shower near the coaches' office has run nonstop for about two years despite multiple work orders and is now causing mold. The space is unusable.

- JROTCs ongoing classroom leak has been repaired
- Group asked for a walkthrough/tour so the conditions are seen firsthand.

Hall Passes

- Color-coded cones by area work to keep students from wandering.
- A separate laminated hall pass should be used for non-restroom trips; enforcement needs to be consistent.

Achievement Data and Special Education

- Focus has shifted from "Approaches" to "Meets." Deeper look at the data showed special education students are the group not clearing the bar.
- Teachers have accommodation spreadsheets and folders; accommodations must be documented per assignment.
- Coffee with the Principal typically starts in September and runs through January; parents are asking whether it will continue.

Tardies (largest unresolved issue)

- No clear consequence exists. The ISS threshold has crept from 5 to 8 to 10 to 15 because of capacity limits, and staff report students know nothing happens.
- Raptor can print tardy passes and run reports, but no one clearly owns monitoring, so APs have no visibility into repeat offenders.
- Ideas raised: use the auditorium, escalate through detention (started this week) to ISS, campus cleanup duty, and parent-university attendance credit, which worked previously because it got parents on campus. Socialize clear accountability measures to parents and staff.
- Case-by-case option for working upperclassmen to take first period off. This may drop tardies.
- Morning traffic is a factor: nearby schools moved to our start time, Galveston backs up, bridge construction begins around September, and only one of two gates is opened.

Communication (major frustration)

- Events are announced at the last minute. The parade came down from the district at 4:00 PM the day before; staff asked that admin simply say when notice came late from the district.

- Students knew about parade early release before teachers did.
- Late notice is blamed for weak turnout at Coffee with the Principal, PTO, and parent events.
- Social media ownership is unclear (senior class Instagram, school Facebook). One cohesive source is request for better teams coordination.

Calendar and Coordination

- Ms. Bensch now owns the master calendar and room reservations, visible as a shared Outlook calendar. A Teams group for department/organization heads was suggested.
- Student council wants a monthly meeting of club presidents, team captains, and the JROTC commander to deconflict dates and collaborate.
- Homecoming: tailgate and stadium reserved for alumni, with a suggestion to add vending booths so organizations can fundraise.

Program Ideas

- Revive the mentorship programs previously run here (Project Miles Ahead for boys, Roses for girls) for at-risk students, pulled during the day for mentoring and community service. Need the contact and eligibility criteria.
- Donuts for Dads / Muffins for Moms style events, since dad attendance drives the most participation. Healthier food options suggested.

Other

- Dress code and ISS enforcement is inconsistent, and ISS is not a deterrent since students like being there together.
- A donated clothing closet in the JROTC area can be used for dress code violations instead of calling parents.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Minutes by

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