

Sharpstown High School

Shared Decision-Making Committee (SDMC) Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026 Meeting: #1 | Facilitator: Dr. D'Andre Edwards, Principal

Participants identified in the meeting notes: Dr. Edwards, Dr. Tracy Gatewood, Ms. Ferlencia Staten, Mr. Paul Dacosta, Mr. Matt Rogers, and Mr. Rudis Mendez-Reyes.

Meeting Theme: One School. One Vision. Shared Ownership. Student Success.

1. Welcome, Purpose, and Shared Vision

Dr. Edwards welcomed committee members to the first SDMC meeting of the school year and emphasized the importance of shared decision-making, collaboration, and stakeholder involvement in improving Sharpstown High School.

The committee discussed strengthening campus culture through communication, accountability, academic excellence, school pride, and shared ownership.

Stakeholder Feedback:

- Dr. Gatewood emphasized maintaining strong communication to support accountability, awareness, and collaboration.
- Mr. Dacosta recommended more whole-school gatherings and opportunities for students to hear encouraging messages directly from campus leadership.
- Ms. Staten recognized improvements in school culture, celebrations of academic achievement, and opportunities to embrace the campus's diversity.
- Mr. Rogers encouraged greater alumni involvement to strengthen student pride and help establish Sharpstown as a destination school.

Leadership Response: Dr. Edwards reaffirmed his commitment to strong communication, high expectations, student-centered celebrations, and increased opportunities for schoolwide engagement.

2. Celebrating Campus Progress

The committee reviewed several accomplishments:

- Homecoming 2026: Successful pep rally, football game, and dance, with strong student, family, and alumni participation.
- Instructional Performance: Positive feedback from district leadership and recognition of instructional growth. Sharpstown's IRT 1 score was 13.6, exceeding the reported district average of 13.4.

- Graduation Progress: Sharpstown was recognized for having the district's lowest percentage of Individual Graduation Committee (IGC) cases. Dr. Gatewood was recognized for her leadership in this work.
- Student Leadership: Recognition of student organizations and initiatives, including yearbook, logistics, and recycling.
- School Culture: Increased opportunities to celebrate academic achievements, cultural diversity, and student accomplishments.

3. Student Achievement and Instructional Priorities

Dr. Edwards reviewed campus instructional performance and identified English I and English II as priority areas for improvement.

Key Data and Priorities:

- English I and English II DOL proficiency ranked among the lowest five NES secondary campuses.
- Writing was identified as a significant instructional growth area.
- IRT #2 is scheduled for November 2–19, 2026.
- Instructional coaching will continue emphasizing lesson internalization, writing, academic discourse, and data-driven instructional adjustments.

Committee Recommendations:

- Mr. Dacosta: Analyze specific student deficiencies in reading, writing, and comprehension to design targeted interventions. He also discussed scaffolding writing by helping students organize ideas before developing complete responses.
- Ms. Staten: Visit English I and II classrooms during reteach instruction to identify student misconceptions and support improved DOL performance.
- Dr. Gatewood: Implement targeted interventions based on TEKS performance and strengthen student use of brain-dumping strategies to organize and demonstrate learning.

Next Steps: Campus instructional leadership will continue analyzing English I and II DOL performance, identifying priority standards, and providing targeted instructional support.

4. Student Attendance, Culture, and Safety

Dr. Edwards shared concerns regarding student attendance, which had recently fallen below 90%, compared with the campus goal of 95%.

Attendance Interventions Discussed:

- Increased parent communication and conferences.
- Home visits for students with chronic attendance concerns.
- Attendance monitoring and appropriate truancy notifications.
- October's Golden Ticket incentive and Food Truck Friday.

School Culture and Safety:

The committee discussed strengthening student supervision, restroom monitoring, preventing students from leaving campus without authorization, and improving campus cleanliness.

Dr. Edwards emphasized that all staff share responsibility for reinforcing expectations and maintaining a safe, orderly campus.

Stakeholder Recommendation: Mr. Rogers proposed developing a student ambassador initiative in which student leaders encourage peers experiencing attendance difficulties to return to school.

Leadership Response: Dr. Edwards expressed support for exploring the initiative with Ms. Staten and Dr. Napoleon and committed to reinforcing peer encouragement through morning announcements.

5. Student Access and Inclusion

Mr. Mendez-Reyes raised concerns regarding opportunities for students receiving special education services to participate in campus activities and assessments.

Dr. Edwards explained that PSAT participation lists are coordinated through district processes but encouraged staff to identify students who may benefit from additional testing opportunities.

The discussion also addressed student supervision during lunch and restroom usage. Dr. Edwards acknowledged staffing limitations and reinforced the need for consistent supervision, redirection, and shared responsibility.

6. Upcoming Campus Events and Initiatives

Date	Event or Initiative
October 14	PSAT Testing Completed
October 15	Hispanic Heritage Celebration
October 17	HISD Saturday Academy at Madison High School
October 29	Sugar Grove Academy Fall Festival
October 30	Food Truck Friday Attendance Incentive

November 2–19 IRT #2

November 5 Staff Professional Development

Additional initiatives discussed included NG recovery, accelerated course completion for juniors and seniors, college readiness, special education staffing, and strengthening the student recruitment pipeline between Sugar Grove Academy and Sharpstown.

7. Committee Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

The following items reflect recommendations and next steps discussed during the meeting. Where no deadline was established, the item remains pending.

Action Item	Responsible Party	Status
Explore additional whole-school events and principal-led student messaging	Dr. Edwards / Campus Leadership	Ongoing
Strengthen alumni involvement and school pride initiatives	Campus Leadership / Alumni Partners	For consideration
Analyze English I and II DOL performance and identify instructional interventions	Dr. Edwards / Ms. Solomon / Instructional Leaders	Ongoing
Provide targeted support during English I and II reteach	Ms. Staten	Planned
Explore student ambassador opportunities to support attendance	Dr. Edwards / Ms. Staten / Dr. Napoleon	For consideration
Continue parent outreach, home visits, and attendance interventions	Grade-Level Administrators / Counselors / Attendance Staff	Ongoing
Reinforce restroom supervision and campus cleanliness expectations	Campus Leadership / Staff	Ongoing
Continue monitoring graduation recovery and course completion	Campus Leadership / Graduation Team	Ongoing

8. Closing Remarks

Dr. Edwards thanked committee members for their feedback, involvement, and commitment to Sharpstown High School.

He emphasized that the campus's success depends on collective responsibility, meaningful collaboration, honest communication, and a shared commitment to student success.

Closing Message: One School. One Vision. One Apollo Nation. Together, We Will Be SHARP!

