Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions
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Shared Decision-Making Committee (SDMC)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 20, 2026, 3:30- 4:30 p.m.
Location: DeBakey High School for Health Professions
Meeting Facilitator: J. Herrera

1. Attendance

Members Present:
J. Herrera, B. Shargey, M. Bernardo, C. Pinera, D. Adam, C. O'campo, L. Weinert, M. Tran, R. Hosein, A. Jafferali, A. Ramirez

Parent Representatives:
I. Arango, K. Jonke

Community Member:

Dr. B. Shargey

Absent:
Dr. N. Moreno

2. Introduction of New Leadership Staff

The committee was introduced to the new members of the campus administrative leadership team for the 2026–2027 school year.

- **Dr. R. Khalil** – Assistant Principal
- **Mr. R. Saldivar** – Assistant Principal
- **Ms. Sandra Rodriguez** – Assistant Principal

The new administrators will support campus operations, instructional leadership, and student achievement initiatives.

3. Current Student Enrollment

The committee reviewed current student enrollment figures for the 2026–2027 school year.

Grade Level	Enrollment
9th Grade	274
10th Grade	196
11th Grade	228
12th Grade	199
Total Enrollment	**897**

The campus currently serves 897 students across grades 9–12.

4. Budget Reductions for the 2026–2027 School Year

The committee received an update regarding campus budget reductions and their impact on staffing and school operations.

Budget Category	Amount
Current Budget Reductions	$174,000
Additional Anticipated Reductions	$15,000
Total Reported Reductions	**$189,000**

The administration discussed the financial challenges associated with these reductions and the need to prioritize available resources to maintain instructional programs and student services.

5. Staffing Adjustments for the 2026–2027 School Year

As part of the campus budget reduction measures, the following positions were eliminated:

- Librarian position
- Clerk position

The elimination of these positions is expected to generate approximately **$90,000 in savings** for the campus.

The committee was informed of these staffing adjustments and their connection to the overall campus budget.

6. Hospital Rotations and Career Exploration Opportunities

The committee received updates regarding student hospital rotations and partnerships with medical institutions.

A teacher-driven approach has expanded opportunities for students to participate in educational visits and career exploration experiences at the following institutions:

- MD Anderson Cancer Center
- San Jacinto College
- Baylor College of Medicine

Upcoming Hospital Rotations:

Student rotations at Ben Taub Hospital and the Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital are scheduled to begin in mid-October.

Future Partnership Opportunities:

A meeting between the Career and Technology Department and campus leadership is scheduled for later in the week. The purpose of this meeting is to explore additional partnerships and opportunities that will enhance students' exposure to healthcare professions and clinical environments.

The campus will continue seeking meaningful experiences that support students' academic preparation and future healthcare career pathways.

7. Committee Concerns and Recommendations

A. Expansion of Pre-AP Course Offerings

A teacher representative raised concerns regarding the availability of pre-AP courses for incoming ninth-grade students.

The committee discussed the possibility of expanding pre-AP course offerings as a strategy to strengthen student recruitment and provide additional academic pathways for incoming freshmen.

A recommendation was presented to consider allowing students who experience academic difficulties in advanced courses to transition to an alternative course level following the first semester.

This approach could provide greater flexibility while maintaining opportunities for students to pursue rigorous academic coursework.

B. Strengthening Medical Center Partnerships

PTO President **Ms. K. Jonke** shared opportunities for increased collaboration with former DeBakey High School staff members currently working within the Texas Medical Center.

She discussed the possibility of leveraging these professional relationships to develop additional educational partnerships and expand student learning opportunities.

These collaborations could provide students with greater access to medical professionals, career exploration experiences, and healthcare-related educational activities.

8. Follow-Up Items

The following items were identified for further consideration:

1. **Academic Programming:** Explore the feasibility of expanding Pre-AP course offerings for incoming ninth-grade students and review possible course transition procedures after the first semester.
2. **Student Recruitment:** Consider how additional academic course options could support recruitment and enrollment efforts.
3. **Hospital Partnerships:** Continue discussions with the Career and Technology Department to identify additional clinical rotations and healthcare career exploration opportunities.
4. **Community Collaboration:** Explore potential partnerships with former DeBakey staff members working within the Texas Medical Center.
5. **Budget Monitoring:** Continue reviewing the impact of budget reductions on campus staffing, instructional programs, and student services.

9. Meeting Adjourn at 4:28 p.m.