

SHAC Austin ISD

November 4, 2020

Notetaker: Lisa Flores

Meeting called to order by Cynthia Soliz at 6:42 pm.

Technical difficulties for community members via a google form to sign up for comment.

In attendance SHAC members: Susanne Kerns, Dolly Lambdin, Kimberly Avila Edwards MD, Kelly Tarun, Lisa Flores, Cynthia Soliz, Nick Wagner MD, Swati Avashia, A quorum.

Introduction & Recognition of guests Hannah Gehl is new SHAC facilitator.

Community Communications: if more than 5 people registered, the speakers were chosen by Cynthia Soliz via old school paper in a bowl method at random after registration. Each speaker has 2 minutes

First speaker is Lisa Williams parent of 2 kids. Wants AISD to stop the migration of parents from district. Asks for restraint in sex ed. Claims we can teach tolerance and kindness without specifics. Not a time for expansion of sex ed program.

Second speaker is Matthew Shead. Worried about sex ed being altered than what was already approved. Alteration to lesson around gender identity and gender expression. Worries about mental health of students and parents. Important to understand difference between gender expression and gender identity. Slippery slope to not include information. Ex: colored tshirts for classes but no pink and 2 shades of blue.

Third speaker is Lisa Hoyt. Parent to kids at Lee. Expresses students are more vocal about expressing non- binary identities. Students are experiencing more anxiety at schools about being "outed". Sad that

no context to be provided for students to understand the experience of peers. Can be presented in a simple and fair way.

Items from Members

Review and Approval of SHAC annual report:

- Emailed to all members. No written comments.
- Lisa Flores asked for draft to be changed to reflect “seclusion and restraint policies”.
- Gena asks if opportunity for SHAC to build outdoor learning into how instruction is provided.
- Kimberly Avila Edwards proposes future item to be consideration of TCHAT and improving coordination of Covid 19 testing with surrounding physicians.
- Dolly Need for Ed SPECS for gender neutral bathrooms and gender- neutral bathroom and locker policy. No policy for retrofitting/locker rooms.
- Kelly wants to add a reiteration of support from SHAC for need for funding for licensed medical professionals on campuses.
- Cynthia: K-2 sex ed curriculum tabled. Revisiting it long process. Should be include as future consideration. We still have survey results to create scope and sequence.
- Lisa: sex ed curriculum modified for students with disabilities status? Review necessary to ensure meaningful modification happen.

Cynthia will edit and submit before end of meeting. No vote necessary as it is not an action item.

Presentation – AISD Human Sexuality and

Approved at 3/3/21
SHAC meeting (HG)

Responsibility Updates: Michele Rusnak introduces Dr. Suzanne Newell. Has worked on curriculum development for 20 years. New to AISD as of July 1st. Mary Renfro new PE teacher rep for SHAC.

- 5th grade lesson. Formal grievance filed. Went to board as level 3 grievance in August. Trustees upheld the recommendation to exclude the activity for 5th grade lesson only due to non-alignment of 5th grade indicators (go to trusted adults with questions about gender identity and how to treat others with kindness and respect). Indicators will remain the same.
- Cynthia: All SHAC members can be members. Proposes a meeting on Nov 18th at 6:30-8:00 pm for subcommittee to review lesson. SHAC can do up and down vote quickly. Cynthia, Lisa, Swati, Susanne K, Mary Renfro, Gena.
- Due to Covid, thought about students' safety and confidentiality. It was decided as a district to postpone human sexuality in fall semester for students enrolled in high school health fall semester only. Alternative is to provide letter to parents to provide curriculum to review with their students with support from health teacher. Letter going out in late Nov.
- Questions: For future grievances, how can we make sure there is more transparency? Especially when it involves a lesson change for a curriculum that has been unanimously approved...seems odd for it to disappear with no notification. A: Level 3 grievance is private.
- Question: So, is there a way to get more backstory on the genderbread person complaint? Gender identity forms early, and I think it's important to address this prior to middle school.
- Question: Possible to get complaint with names redacted? A: Cynthia answers yes. And when can we expect this? Dr. Newell isn't sure we can have redacted copy or open records request. Not sure of most efficient way to get it. Acknowledges SHAC had a role.
- Swati and Susanne to combine questions to start process.
- Cynthia thinks knowing content of grievance will help future decisions about curriculum.

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- Swati Avashia MD expresses the need for earlier time to teach gender identity before middle school so students can go into middle school with the identity that resonates with them.
- Kimberly Avila Edwards MD affirms Swati's comments and adds the timing of SBOE new guidelines. New SBOE vote coming soon in Nov.
- Cynthia: TEKS are minimum standard. We are choosing to teach more. Waiting for TEKS is not something AISD has to do as their curriculum is already inclusive.
- Q: will letter be in languages other than English? A: Yes Spanish and Arabic.
- Accommodations/Modifications for sped. Were working on them and haven't touched them.
- Coordinated school health kickoff week is postponed. PE teachers are usually chairs and teachers are stretched thin at the moment. Updated activities for remote learners. Level 1 announcements. Level 2 announcements plus student and staff pledge. Level 3 is families pledge too.
- Friday is marathon kick off. 25th year as partner. 18-19 school year almost at 2 million miles. If student does x amount of cardio/miles they get credit for it with marathon kids. Tshirts and lanyards are going away due to financial constraints. Mary excited for marathon kids as an outlet for kids who like to run for mental health/enjoyability.
- Blueprint health and PE courses written with equal rigor as other areas. Piloting middle school health course. Feedback is kids like it. PE teachers are also teaching concurrently. Story will be on KXAN on 11/9.
- Elementary PE teacher Rebecca Lambdin named PE teacher of the year.
- Dolly Lambdin also to receive award for 30 years!!

Approval of minutes (July, August, September, October)

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Cynthia asks if opportunity to review, says that possible we've already approved July minutes.

Gena Mckinley moves to approve. 2nd Kimberly Avila Edwards.

Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourns at 7:55 pm

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