

October 16, 2019 SHAC Meeting Minutes

AISD New HQ, Room 221

In attendance:

Members – Physically Present

Swati Avashia
Lisa Flores
Elizabeth Jacobs (on phone initially)
Susanne Kerns
Gena McKinley
Jackie Platt
Courtney Perry
Cynthia Soliz (Co-Chair)
Alisa Miller

Members – Virtually Present

Michelle Mejia (video)
Sruthi Ilangovan (phone)
Kelly Tarun (phone)

AISD Staff

Kathy Ryan – Director, Academics
Joey Crumley - Planning Supervisor, Innovation & Development
Michele Rusnak – Supervisor, Health & PE
Jason Schafer – Curriculum Specialist, Health & PE
Shechem Sauls (virtual) – School Mental Health Coordinator
Ryan Cengel (virtual) – Nutritionist, Food Service

5:35 meeting called to order, Cynthia Soliz (Co-Chair)

Quorum present – will vote this evening (10 members required for quorum)

Introduction - Joey Crumley, Planning Supervisor in Innovation & Development, over all district advisory bodies. Here in place of Tracy Spinner, Director of Comprehensive Health & Mental Health, SHAC liaison.

Speaker cards will be drawn randomly this evening to provide an opportunity for visitors to speak, without having to arrive very early since only 5 visitors speak each meeting.

Community Communications Guidelines – read by Cynthia

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Visitors chosen at random to speak:

Vivian Ballard – gratitude for hard work and thanks to SHAC for giving consideration to all students with a diverse population. Past SHAC member. Grateful for efforts of SHAC and hopes curriculum will be passed and recommended to the board. Students deserve accurate info.

Karole Fedrick – thanks SHAC for the hard work, doesn't believe material is medically accurate and age appropriate. Lesson 6.2 – reads the lesson stating consent is the foundation of sexual relationships. 6th graders don't have cognitive abilities to understand materials at this level. This curriculum makes the district complacent with promoting sexual assault. Any SHAC member who votes for it does so, also.

Caryl Ayala – feels nothing she says will change members' minds; taught dual language in AISD, heard teachers complain that parents don't care, parents won't teach kids, etc. Would encourage parents to teach their children at home, created materials for parents to use, spent her own money, was naive to think the district wanted dual language kids to learn and overcome the barriers. When Welcoming Schools came to her school, she knew it was against the beliefs of the families she taught. She now understands she brought people here to SHAC that were Hispanic

Doug Harrington – thank you for letting him speak to SHAC, new at addressing school councils, school board, feels the curriculum is harmful to kids at these ages. Feels curriculum introduces pornographic material to kids who are too young. Having students make a choice on their gender at this age is absurd. Wait a year to think through passing this curriculum to allow more community/parent feedback. This feels too fast. Please wait for a year.

Allison Gephardt – harmful effects on children in this curriculum, normalizes child sex, gives examples of sex, implies peers are sexually active, normalizes anal and oral sex, high risk, doesn't cover risks and health implications, teaches children sexual pleasure, encourages masturbation making them more vulnerable to pornography and child abuse, provides medically inaccurate effective rates of condoms, fails to make abstinence the goal. Barely mentions it in passing.

Cynthia Soliz - Does anyone feel strongly that they want to make announcements or request future topics, or forgot anything from the last meeting.

Cynthia Soliz – School closures; wonders if FABPAC has done environmental studies? Doesn't think any schools have done any asbestos testing? Two years ago the district did a lead study at her child's campus and found lead.

Public comment cards are collected to be added to the meeting minutes once they are approved and posted.

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Cynthia Soliz – Asks if everyone was able to view and review the lessons? Some couldn't submit their surveys. Three SHAC members submitted official comments in the survey.

Cynthia Soliz – Gives personal opinion that lessons should be approved by board. Feels the district got a lot of educator feedback and other useful feedback.

Resolution -

After thorough review of the lessons proposed, the feedback provided and the amendments made to the lessons proposed for the HSR curriculum grades 6-8, it is the recommendation of the SHAC that the school board approve this curriculum in its entirety

Motion –

Second-

All in favor raise hands – 12 members raise hands

Any against?

Joey Crumley – states the Co-Chair must ask if there is any discussion prior to taking the vote

Cynthia Soliz - Is there any discussion?

Some members state yes, they do have some discussion points –

- some of the visuals presume verbal communication is possible from students;
- ask that the district keeps in mind that not all people communicate verbally;
- also, some lessons presume everyone can throw a ball.
- Please keep special education students, and students with limitations in mind as lessons are put to use.

Cynthia – states these are for the general population and that modifications would happen for students who need them. Agrees care should be taken in how lessons are presented to be sure that we are keeping in mind those who can't verbally communicate

Members request that consent be more fully defined

Cynthia – consent is already, unfortunately, defined in the scope and sequence so we are bound by it.

Members mention lesson listing skittles

- Please keep in mind that red dye is an issue for some students
- District focuses on health and wellness, is skittles lesson really what we want to use?

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Michele Rusnak – skittles lesson is being cut

Members mention that videos are only in English – these should be in Spanish and must be captioned and they aren't; also, YouTube plays next video when video is over and it may not be appropriate.

Michele Rusnak – tech department has a way to stop the next video; they do this on current curriculum and will do the same on these lessons

Michele Rusnak – state she will meet with special education to develop adapted lessons that are appropriate for all students

Member mentions anatomical images are presented in front and side view for males, but not for females; female view should have cross section so it is the same as male

Michele Rusnak – will look into it to see if we can purchase it a cross section image of female anatomy if one is available

Cynthia Soliz – states we need to spend money on that and will address that higher up to be sure it happens

Member asks how long this curriculum process has been going on (new member to SHAC)

Michele Rusnak – process first began in June of 2016

Cynthia Soliz – after 3 years of doing this and reading 5800 pages of curriculum and meeting with people, she now knows so much about teaching sex ed curriculum. States hundreds of people have been involved in this process

Cynthia Soliz - Any additional questions? Any amendments? -No

Cynthia Soliz - Now that we have had discussion, we will vote again.

Cynthia Soliz - All in favor of passing the resolutions (Cynthia reads it again) –

All in favor? 12

Opposed? 0

Abstain? 0

Cynthia Soliz - In that case the resolution passes

Cynthia Soliz – anything else? No? Thanks SHAC for their time and commitment.

Adjourn at 7:12 pm