

Minutes from December 11, 2007 School Health and Safe School Advisory Council Meeting

On December 11, 2007 the School Health and Safe Schools Advisory Council met. There were 17 members in attendance.

Coordinated School Health Program for Middle Schools

Ms. Foster, Curriculum Coordinator for MISD, opened the meeting with an explanation of the Coordinated School Health Program for middle schools and the need to select the best program. We are in year three of our coordinated school health program for elementary, which encompasses health, physical education, nutrition, and family health. We are required to have a program in place for middle schools by next school year. The same four programs that were reviewed for use in the elementary program are available for review for the middle school program. The committee selected CATCH (Comprehensive Approach To Child Health) for the elementary grades and this program has been successful.

Meeting participants received a TEA Approved Coordinated School Health Matrix and Review of Texas Education Agency Approved Coordinated School Health Programs, completed on behalf of the American Cancer Society, and were asked to review it and give their input on which program would best suit MISD. If we select CATCH for the middle school level program we will have continuity across the grade levels from Kindergarten through eighth grade. There is a CATCH training already scheduled at J.R. Irvin this week for elementary. It was agreed that we need to encourage more parental involvement in the program.

A decision on which program the district will go with will be made at a later time.

House Bill 2176 Parenting and Paternity Awareness Curriculum for 2008-09

HB 2176 (80th Texas Legislature-2007) relates to the development of a “parenting and paternity awareness curriculum for use in the high school health curriculum to:

- 1) address parenting skills and responsibilities, including child support and other legal rights and responsibilities that come with parenthood;
- 2) address relationship skills, including money management, communication skills, and marriage preparation; and
- 3) in district high schools that do not have a family violence prevention program, address skills relating to the prevention of family violence.”

Under HB 2176, public schools must use the parenting and paternity awareness curriculum (p.a.p.a.) developed by the State Board of Education in conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) beginning in the 2008-09 school year.

In 2004, Texas had the highest teen birthrate in the nation. Not only do we need to continue stressing our abstinence program, which this council has worked on, but also the p.a.p.a. program, which will also help train those students who are already parents.

House Bill 121

Mrs. Knight gave an update of House Bill 121, Teen Dating Violence Awareness. On May 18, 2007, Governor Perry signed House Bill 121 into law. HB 121, effective immediately, mandates that all school districts in Texas adopt and implement a dating violence policy to be included in its district improvement plan. The requirements of the law include (1) a definition of dating violence, (2) dating violence safety planning, (3) enforcement of protective orders, (4) school-based alternatives to protective orders, (5) training for teachers and administrators, (6) counseling for affected students, and (7) awareness education for students and parents/guardians.

MISD has adopted a policy, FFH (Local), which can be viewed from the MISD website by clicking on school board and then policy online. The district has put into place procedures to be followed in the event a student reports being a victim of dating violence. The Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week will be held February 4-8, 2008. The high school is busy making plans for this. The Teen Dating Violence Awareness curriculum will be integrated into the health curriculum for grades 7-12.

Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools

MISD was awarded a discretionary grant of \$205,619 to help ensure and fortify readiness and emergency response plans. The grant was approved to purchase software and provide necessary training.

The software is designed to assist emergency response personnel from the police and fire departments by allowing them to view a floor plan of each MISD facility while they are in route to that building, therefore eliminating wasted time which might be spent trying to locate alternate entrances or areas of concern.

Training will be conducted in emergency management; to communicate emergency management policies and reunification procedures to parents and guardians; to coordinate with emergency responders, including fire and police.

Blood Drive

Jane Crawford, nurse at Longbranch Elementary indicated that she has been contacted by Carter Bloodcare to possibly host a blood drive at that campus. They are considering this.

There will be a Parent/Community Drug Awareness meeting in February at L. A. Mills Administration building. The speaker will be Carlos Cruz, a law enforcement officer, who spoke last year to parents and received a great response.

The Council will meet again in February 2008. An exact date has not been set.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ms. Foster and Mrs. Knight