

Minutes for SHAC Meeting April 24, 2008

Ms. Diane Foster, MISD Curriculum Coordinator, gave an update on the CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) Program. This program is being expanded through the eighth grade. Both middle schools sent a team of staff members including a nurse, classroom teacher, P.E. teacher, administrator, and food service employee to a CATCH middle school training in March. Ms. Foster also reminded the committee that starting next school year, 2008-2009, all middle school students would be required to have four semesters of P.E. during their middle school years. This new requirement will begin with the incoming sixth grade students.

Ms. Lisa Knight, MISD Special Programs Coordinator reviewed the purpose of the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, including goals and the district's comprehensive program. The current year's budget was reviewed and input for the Federal Application for the 2008-09 school year was sought. The committee was in agreement with continuing the programs as reviewed and suggested no changes in the budget for next year. This of course might need to be adjusted, pending entitlements for federal programs.

The Safe Schools Survey was conducted in February at the secondary campuses. Participants included 6 administrators, 56 teachers, 26 parents and 478 students in 7th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. The online survey was anonymous and voluntary. Only students who returned a signed parent permission form were able to participate. Results from the survey are used to ascertain areas of concern and to guide programming. Overwhelmingly, students and teachers reported feeling safe or very safe. Students identified two areas in which they perceive there to be a moderate problem. Those areas were tobacco and alcohol use. This is not unlike last year's results and steps are being taken to educate students on the hazards of using these products and to seek help for cessation if they have a problem.

Principals have been given survey results for the district and those specific to their campuses in order to address any areas of concern.

There will be a student drug prevention assembly for MHS students on May 1. The speaker will be Carlos Cruz, law enforcement officer with over 20 years experience which includes the areas of drug and gang violence identification. Mr. Cruz spoke to parents and community members on February 19 at L. A. Mills Administration building.

Tobacco Prevention assemblies are being conducted again this year at both middle school campuses. All sixth graders will receive this valuable information that is geared toward educating students on the hazards of using tobacco products, both smoking and smokeless. This training has been a result of a need and based on the increased use of tobacco products by today's youth. Midlothian ISD responds to needs as seen in the Safe Schools Survey or other sources of data. The Midlothian High School PALs conducted the Tobacco Prevention program again this year. They attended training prior to the 2006-07 school year in order to be qualified to train others. They are under the

sponsorship of Mrs. Laura Truett, MHS teacher and Pantherette Director. We appreciate the PALs taking on this very important project.

This was the last meeting of this Council for the 2007-08 school year. We appreciate those who have served.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Foster

Lisa Knight