

TEACHER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Schools Represented – Members:

Harlingen High School – Amy Sharpe	Bowie Elementary – Judith Haedtke Absent
Harlingen High School – Debbie Finch Absent	Crockett Elementary – Eva Martinez
Harlingen High School – Richard Cartwright Absent	Dishman Elementary – Janie Stone Absent
Harlingen High School South – Sue Adams	Houston Elementary – Bertha Garcia
Harlingen High School South – Claudia Rogers Absent	Jefferson Elementary – Melissa Cavazos
Harlingen High School South – Maria Garza Absent	Lamar Elementary – Grace Duran
Keys Academy – Tony Fraga	Long Elementary - Leslie Farris
Coakley Middle School – Donna McDonald	Milam Elementary – Tivi Garcia
Coakley Middle School – Mike Travis	Rodríguez Elementary – Renee Vasquez
Memorial Middle School – Mary Sesler Absent	Stuart Place Elem. – Margo DelosSantos Absent
Memorial Middle School – Sara Carney	Travis Elementary – Brynn Myers
Vernon Middle School – open Absent	Treasure Hills Elemen. – Janie Sanchez Absent
Vernon Middle School - open Absent	Wilson Elementary - Alma Mendoza
SAC – Jocelyn Rayer Absent	Zavala Elementary – Rosalinda Atkinson
Austin Elementary – Isabel Castillo	Gutierrez Middle School – open Absent
Bonham Elementary - Rosie Perez	Vela Middle School - open Absent
New Pathways – Marta Robles Absent	

Schools Unrepresented - # of meetings missed 2007 - 2008

VERNON – 8	BOWIE – 5	MILAM – 1
GUTIERREZ – 8	VELA – 8	DISHMAN – 5
KEYS – 4	NEW PATHWAYS – 5	RODRIGUEZ – 2
SAC – 5	CROCKETT – 1	TREASURE HILLS – 3
LAMAR – 1	HOUSTON – 1	STUART PLACE – 1

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 by the President, Susan Adams.

OLD BUSINESS: Answers from Dr. Wade were presented by Mr. Cavazos

Beginning next school year, all transcripts will be sent electronically to colleges, universities, and other schools. All pertinent information will be included such as TAKS, nurse info, grades, etc. Mr. Cavazos was not sure about LEP and SPED information.

1. How does working off the ETP days or GT Institutes effect the retire/rehire staff members?

Response: An employee on the six month exception report can work six months in a TRS school year (Sept. 1 – Aug 31) without forfeiting an annuity. Any time worked after the six months, the retiree may forfeit his/her monthly annuity. Retirees under the six month exception rule whose work calendar ends on May 31 should not work in June or July since they risk forfeiting their monthly annuity.

As per the October 2007 update, see attachments, retirees on the six month exception report will not forfeit an annuity for attending a professional development class or activity. A professional development class/activity does not include professional or staff development classes that are included in the employee's total number of required days of work under their contract.

Retirees reported on the six month exception report may work in August 2008 for an ETP day for the 2008-2009 school year if they will be reported as working on 8/18/08 and are scheduled to forfeit their August annuity.

Retirees should not work in June or July for an ETP for the 2008-2009 school year as they may risk forfeiting their annuity for these months. As always, we encourage retirees to contact TRS prior to doing any work outside of their contract period so they can make an informed decision.

2. The security camera in the west parking lot at one of the High Schools has been broken for 7 months (according to security). Several faculty cars were keyed and security states that this has been a reoccurring problem. The alarm/security system in the CATE building is not working. What can the district do to make sure timely repairs are made to security equipment?

Response: That camera has been replaced. Thirteen additional cameras have been ordered for HHS and additional cameras have also been ordered for South. An extra seven cameras have been ordered to have as a backup in case a camera goes down so areas of the campus will be covered at all times.

The CATE building did have its own security system. It is now being tied into the school system. It is working, but it has not been implemented yet because the codes have not yet been distributed. Mrs. Tyra is working with staff to determine who needs a security code. Once she has finalized that list of teachers, each one will be given a code and training will be set up. The areas that will have security are the

computer labs, the administrative area, CATE, the field house, and the band hall.

Some of the new security cameras have been placed inside and outside of the CATE building. They are installed and activated.

3. Why is Pearson Inform not being kept up to date? The current data does not include summer or fall 2007 results. The TAKS benchmarks are suppose to be listed also.

Response: The summer data has been entered and the fall data is being entered this week. The implementation of the new system has taken so much time that the updates have been slow to be entered.

The department of Research and Evaluation cannot enter all of the benchmark data. There are 134 benchmark tests districtwide so benchmarks not on the district schedule are not loaded. Inform contains the historical data. Benchmarking is done on AEIS. The district is looking into new products.

4. Why does Harlingen CISD have a policy of not rehiring the retired teachers?

Response: Harlingen CISD does have a procedure for rehiring retirees. The procedure is attached. When someone retires, there is no guarantee that they will be rehired. They are considered with all other qualified applicants.

NEW BUSINESS:

QUESTIONS FOR DR. WADE:

1. Can the waiver policy for grades be changed? As it stands, students are allowed to have up to 8 waivers in a school year (one per each Pre-AP/AP class) depending on the number of these classes the students are taking. These students are hurting their GPA because of their attitude of waiting until the next quarter to bring a failing grade up. A better waiver policy (one used by other school districts) would be one waiver per term for students taking Pre-AP/AP courses. This is one TOTAL waiver not one per course. To receive a waiver, a student must have a 60 or higher for their failing grade.

2. Why are the adult lunch portions the same size as student portions? The adults pay more money yet receive the same amount of food as a small child. Another suggestion is to offer free lunches for those teachers who are on lunch duty.

3. We would like to know what the results were for the dress code survey. Dr. Wade had said that there would be room for comments and we were expecting to be able to make a comment for each question. If someone circled no for the statement about jeans, did that mean they wanted jeans all of the time or never? The yes/no responses were ambiguous and there was no space for clarification. Could we have another questionnaire that does leave room for comments and clarification of the responses?
4. We would greatly appreciate it if you would allow us to have some type of training for paraprofessionals, clerks, and secretaries during the summer to make up the ETP hours for inservice just like the teachers do. (This was a question from last month. It was suggested that it did need to go through Dr. Wade's office since Human Resources would need to approve the ETP time for people on hourly pay.)

REDIRECTED BACK TO THE CAMPUS:

1. What happened to having Good Friday and Easter Monday off?

Committee Response: We must have the correct number of school days for the calendar and consider having the yearly calendars end the school year before June (calendars going into June have never been chosen). The calendar with the most vacation time was not chosen by the vote of the majority of teachers. You still can and probably will have both of the days mentioned as holidays. One day is our yearly Technology day and the other day can be replaced with ETP hours.

2. A large percentage of my classes are Special Education students in the inclusion program. Would it be possible to receive a stipend so that teachers in this situation could better meet the needs of these students?

Committee Response: We were a little confused and need some clarification on your question. A stipend is extra pay. How does that better meet the needs of your students; or did you mean more budget to purchase items or go to training to meet the needs of the students? Please clarify your question and resubmit it next month.

3. During TAKS testing at the high schools, teachers do not see their morning classes for 3 days. Those classes will miss out on almost one week of instructional time. Teachers who have morning conference also miss their conference period for those three days. Would it be possible to set up a revolving schedule during TAKS testing so that on at least one of the testing

days, first and second periods meet in the afternoon? This would allow those classes to keep up with the curriculum.

Committee Response: This would require the cooperation of both High School principals since many students take a bus between the two campuses in the morning. We felt that this needed to be addressed at the secondary campus level. Please see your principals about the possibilities. We also believe that a schedule of relief teachers could be created so that each teacher could get some of their conference period. This, once again, would need to go through the principal.

Be sure to submit your questions to the member for your school by the first Thursday of each month. The last meeting is in May 1, 2008.

Please remember, the committee's job is to determine which questions are to be submitted to Dr. Wade and which ones need to be dealt with on the campus level.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.