

TEACHER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Schools Represented – Members:

Harlingen High School – Amy Sharpe	Bowie Elementary – Judith Haedtke Absent
Harlingen High School – Debbie Finch	Crockett Elementary – Eva Martinez
Harlingen High School – Richard Cartwright	Dishman Elementary – Janie Stone Absent
Harlingen High School South – Sue Adams	Houston Elementary – Bertha Garcia
Harlingen High School South – Claudia Rogers	Jefferson Elementary – Melissa Cavazos
Harlingen High School South – Maria Garza Absent	Lamar Elementary – Grace Duran
Keys Academy – Tony Fraga Absent	Long Elementary - Leslie Farris
Coakley Middle School – Donna McDonald Absent	Milam Elementary – Tivi Garcia
Coakley Middle School – Mike Travis	Rodríguez Elementary – Renee Vasquez
Memorial Middle School – Mary Sesler	Stuart Place Elem. – Margo DelosSantos
Memorial Middle School – Sara Carney	Travis Elementary – Brynn Myers
Vernon Middle School – open Absent	Treasure Hills Elemen. – Janie Sanchez
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 – 7	BOWIE – 4	MILAM – 1
GUTIERREZ – 7	VELA – 7	DISHMAN – 4
KEYS – 4	NEW PATHWAYS – 4	RODRIGUEZ – 2
SAC – 4	CROCKETT – 1	TREASURE HILLS – 3
LAMAR – 1	HOUSTON – 1	

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

OLD BUSINESS: Answers from Dr. Wade

A survey about the proposed dress and grooming standards for HCISD staff will be emailed to all staff on Friday, March 7th.

A question was asked about next year's Spring Break. Dr. Wade checked to be sure, the Livestock Show and Spring Break definitely coincide next year.

QUESTIONS FOR DOCTOR WADE:

1. There has been talk in the district of a TASB salary study.
 - a) What is its purpose?
 - b) What is the timeline for the study?
 - c) Will the board make salary adjustments based on the study?

Response: A consultant from TASB has been hired to do an evaluation of all Harlingen CISD salaries. They are reviewing job descriptions to ensure that our pay classifications are accurate and personnel are placed in the appropriate pay grade and pay family. The areas that are being evaluated include teachers, administration, other professionals, clerical/paraprofessional, and auxiliary personnel.

They are comparing our salaries to other districts of comparable size statewide. The results of the study are being finalized, and the consultant will be making recommendations in the next few weeks. The information that he provides will guide salary decisions for the next budget cycle and in the next few years.

2. Why is the HCISD secondary menu for lunch always the same? Can there be more flexibility as to what is served? Why do we serve so many starchy foods? (Some menus from other districts are attached as examples.)

Response: Judy Baker, Child Nutrition Director, is working on a new cycle of menus where we will have three seasonal 12-week menu cycles. There will be a fall, winter, and spring cycle. Now we are offering three to six different entrees. She is going to start varying those entrees as well.

She is going to start a student and staff advisory committee to provide her staff with input on what they would like to see offered. She is going to implement that group prior to the end of the year. She is offering quiche in the near future. Mrs. Baker agrees that more variety is needed and she had started the process.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. How does working off the ETP days or GT Institutes effect the retire/rehire staff members?
2. The security camera in the west parking lot at Harlingen HS 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?

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

REDIRECTED BACK TO THE CAMPUS:

1. All teachers tutor students, but if teachers are mandated to have 90 minutes of tutoring per week, they should be paid for this time.

Committee Response: There was some discussion as to whether this mandated tutoring is a district policy or a campus directive. It was decided to have the people from that campus look into the district policies and to resubmit the question as appropriate. If this is a campus directive, then they need to speak with their campus principal first.

2. 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.

Committee Response: There are many summer workshops offered by Harlingen CISD, (see the summer training page on the Harlingen CISD website), that are appropriate for these people. Whether you can use these for ETP hours would be a campus principal decision so see your principal.

Be sure to submit your questions to the member for your school by the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting is in March 6, 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.