

TEACHER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Thursday, September 7, 2007

Schools Represented – Members:

Harlingen High School – Amy Sharpe	Bowie Elementary – open Absent
Harlingen High School – Debbie Finch Absent	Crockett Elementary – Eva Martinez
Harlingen High School – Richard Cartwright	Dishman Elementary – Janie Stone
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	Long Elementary - Leslie Farris
Coakley Middle School – Donna McDonald	Milam Elementary – open Absent
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 – Gloria Elliott? Absent	Treasure Hills Elemen. – Janie Sanchez
Vernon Middle School - open Absent	Wilson Elementary - Alma Mendoza
SAC – Marie Sesler	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	

Schools Unrepresented - # of meetings missed 2007 - 2008

VERNON – 1

BOWIE – 1

MILAM – 1

GUTIERREZ – 1

VELA – 1

NEW PATHWAYS - 1

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

OLD BUSINESS:

MAY RESPONSES –

1. Can final exam exemptions be considered for High School seniors?

RESPONSE: In light of the new legislation on the end-of-course exams, final exams are going to be studied in detail this year so as to align out district policy with the new regulations. The new law calls for the end-of-course exam to count as 15% of the total grade in the identified courses. This item will be taken into consideration during the study.

2. Can the old silver laptops be kept at the school to be used for class sets? Teachers could use these when they want all the students to work on a project at the same time and the new laptops on the cart are already in use. The computers would be used more often since they would be more easily available.

I realize they are out of warranty but they could be used until they no longer work and then they could be sent in for auction at a later date.

RESPONSE: This option already exists on the campuses. Principals are given the choice to keep the laptops or to turn them into the district for sale.

Because of the confusion on the part of the teachers that are using these old systems, we have ordered stickers to put on systems that are out of warranty so teachers do not expect the out-of-warranty systems to be replaced when they stop working.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM DR. WADE:

- **In two years, the freshman class will be the first group that will have to take the end-of-course (EOC) tests to graduate. There is field testing this year for geometry and biology. (There will be more information on this at a later date.)**
- **It is time to develop our district Incentive Plans. The letters of intent are due to the state by October 15th. The TAC will be involved in the development of our districts plan.**
- **The TAC is being asked to develop a standard for dress code for employees to be part of the Employees Standards of Conduct.**
- **Every teacher in the district this year will be receiving a pay raise between \$1700 and \$2200. This includes the states raise. The steps have been adjusted as per the request through the TAC last year. (A written pay scale was requested.)**

NEW BUSINESS:

Almost all of the new business was about the upgrade to Pentamation. The committee would like to request that an expert come to a meeting to answer the growing list of questions about the attendance/grade book problems. The campuses are being polled and the current list of questions is attached.

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

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 5:05pm.

PENTAMATION QUESTIONS:

1. We had requested and finally received the capability to print our 9 weeks attendance. Where did it go?
2. When will we have access at home?
3. Why are the attendance roster and the grade book roster different lists?
4. The delete choice does not work when you have accidentally copied assessments twice.
5. Could it be made possible to print the grade book with columns like we could previously?
6. Could the column for notes and the grading scale be made optional?
7. The seating charts are not user friendly at all. Could a “sort” option be included?
8. Students that are enrolled in our classes are not showing up on the lists. How do we take roll and record grades?
9. We need help since our assessments are disappearing.
10. We need help since entire class lists are suddenly dropped.
11. Could the lists of students please be numbered?
12. Could a “save” button be added?
13. How do we do participation grades?
14. Is it possible to print a blank grade book form?
15. Could we have handouts explaining the features? It is time consuming to be working by trial and error.
16. Is there any way to get a report that will show all of the subject averages in a classroom report for Elementary? They would like to see all of the students in the class and their grades for each subject in one report.

17. Is it possible to create a way to copy an assignment with the grade over to another subject? Some of the assignments/projects cover two subjects and this would make things easier.

18. Is it possible to get a “copy down” button so we can use it to copy the same score for the entire class?

19. Mr. Danny Cortez has a course numbered 510103-1. When he clicks on the ATT button, the response he gets is “unable to find course information”. Help!