

Meridian ISD SHAC

Minutes

The Meridian ISD SHAC met on November 13, 2013 at 3:30 pm in the Elementary Library. Members present were, Michele Garza, Betty Wallace, Debbie Sanchez, Tammy Jones, and Robert Barber.

Members welcomed Robert Barber to the committee. Michele Garza gave a review of the May minutes. MS. Garza gave an update on the Worth the Wait program. The program has been purchased and is in district. Coach Barber will receive training in January on the program and give a report to the committee at that time. MHS administration plans on presenting the program the last six weeks of school to 7-12 grades. The program will be an "opt-in" program with students having parent permission slips signed to attend the classes in high school health and junior high science. Parents will have an opportunity to review the curriculum before it is taught.

The CATCH program was also updated for the committee. Dana Henderson presented training to the elementary during August inservice. The program is being implemented in grades K-8.

Michele Garza discussed the Summer Nutrition program with the committee. Due to the lack of transportation to the school during the summer many students are unable to take advantage of the free program. Ms. Garza had approached Russell Crawford, Transportation Director for MISD, about possible bus transportation during the summer. He has agreed to provide the service for lunch from the central location of the Central Office area to the elementary school each day for the nutrition program. A coordination between the elementary and the SHAC will make sure students and parents are made aware of the availability of the transportation.

Ms. Garza reviewed the latest legislative sessions and the impact on the SHAC. The need for formation of a subcommittee for physical activity and fitness planning is needed to meet the requirements of HB 1018. Betty Wallace agreed to be on the subcommittee. Ms. Garza will be contacting members absent from the meeting to get three other members for the committee.

Senate Bill 460 requires training for teachers in the detection and education of students at risk for suicide or with other mental or others emotional disorders and the inclusion of mental health concerns in coordinated school health efforts. Ms. Garza discussed this requirement with the committee. School counselors have a curriculum in place addressing the needs of students. Ms. Garza and the counselors will attend a meeting at the ESC in January to learn more on the implementation of the requirements of SB 460.

The topics for future meetings was set:

- February – SB 460, HB 1018
- March – Worth the Wait
- May – Review/Goal Setting

Meeting was adjourned

Minutes February 2014

Dear SHAC Members,

We are scheduled to meet to discuss SB 460 and HB 1018. I believe, with your permission, information can be disseminated through electronic correspondence and if any action is needed it can be taken at our next meeting in March. If you reply favorably to this e-mail, I will record that as your affirmation for the electronic meeting.

SB 460

On January 28, 2014 I, along with MISD counselors, Jennifer Mynarcik, Justa Dowler, attended a training entitled "SB 460: Compliance and A Closer Look at Challenged Youth". SB 460 mandates training in the areas of:

- characteristics of the most prevalent mental or emotional disorders among children
- identification of mental or emotional disorders
- effective strategies for teaching and intervening with students with mental health or emotional disturbance concerns utilizing positive behavioral interventions
- communication expectations for referral allowing a parent or guardian to seek out appropriate assistance for a child with these challenges

That is the "legal" speak, but to put it into plain terms, this new law just means that kids who are in crisis need our attention and we are required to give it to them and document everything we do to help them. Let us say for a horrible example, we have a student who is presenting as a depressed child and a teacher does not say anything about it and that child ends up hurting himself or others. Under this new law, the school is held responsible.

We are now required to provide training to our faculty and staff on recognizing the warning signs of "challenged youth". What that training is going to look like, the state has not told us yet. We are also required to document, document, document, everything we do for that student. Our counselors are awesome at counseling and getting help for our students when the need arises. The piece that is added is getting everyone involved.

It is my recommendation that the SHAC make a recommendation to the School Board that when the state provides a training model, Meridian ISD follows that model and trains all personnel as required by statute during the August inservice days and any other times as needed.

Although this bill went into effect September 1, we have been told that we are covered by not having the training yet, because there has been no guidance from the state. I have spoken with the counselors and they keep in contact with campus personnel and feel that if there is a student in crisis it is communicated to them.

HB 1018

HB 1018 requires each SHAC to establish a physical activity and fitness planning subcommittee. This subcommittee is charged with considering issues relating to student physical activity and fitness and making policy recommendations to increase physical activity and improve fitness among students. The local SHAC is also required to include in its annual written report to the local board of trustees any recommendations made by the physical activity and fitness planning subcommittee. If feasible, the local SHAC must recommend joint use agreements or strategies for collaboration between the school district and community organizations or agencies.

The following people make up our subcommittee: Carol Balmos, Colin Errington, Michele, Garza, and Betty Wallace. The subcommittee reviewed the PE requirements at the elementary level and high school and found that students attended PE more than required.

The committee also found that Meridian ISD proudly supports all the youth sports through the use of the athletic facilities. This joint use has been going on for years and has been an agreement between the school and youth associations. The SHAC has no need to make a recommendation.

Those are the updates I have. The only action I can see is the one for SB 460. We can make that recommendation later since it has to do with next school year. Please indicate in your reply to this e-mail if you have any comments, questions, or concerns. If it all sounds good, just comment that it is good!

Thanks for your time,

Michele

Minutes April 2014

For the April meeting, the SHAC reviewed information emailed by Michele Garza on April 4, 2014. The information concerned the Worth the Wait (WtW) program and its content and instruction. The content of that e-mail is found below.

I would like to use this opportunity to give you an update on the Worth the Wait program and set a meeting for April 15, 2014 at 3:30 in the Elementary Library if you have any questions or feel the need to meet. After you review the following information, please email me to let me know if you are okay with my recommendation or if you would like to attend the meeting. I do not want people to have to take off of work unnecessarily.

Per SHAC recommendation, the Worth the Wait (WtW) program was purchased for instruction in grades 6-high school. The program arrived in the fall and was delivered to the responsible teachers. Once the teachers reviewed the content, they all voiced some concerns on content. I met with the teachers and we all agreed that the program would not be taught until someone was trained by Scott and White and trained the teachers at school. We also agreed that any student receiving instruction in this program must have parent permission (opt-in) before attending instruction.

Robert Barber attended training on January 30. Coach Barber returned from training unhappy with the information presented. He was under the impression, as was I, that the training was on how to use the curriculum and that the stress was on abstinence. That is not what he came away with and at this time does not feel comfortable with the curriculum or with training the other teachers.

I contacted the WtW representative and expressed the concern. I can tell you she was very defensive and offended with our concerns. I told her that Coach Barber left the training feeling that he could “teach how to prevent pregnancy” not “how to teach abstinence”. I have emailed her and spoken to her three times and received the same information each time; the program is abstinence based, remove lesson 10, and the training he attended focused on the curriculum and abstinence.

Bringing all this information together, Mr. Mynarcik and I decided that the best course of action would be for the teachers to teach the portion of the curriculum they felt comfortable with this year. There are lessons on health and wellness, and other subjects that are normally taught in the health/science curriculum that can be taught. The actual “sex-ed” curriculum will be left out until further guidance and training can be arranged for teachers and administrators.

The role of the SHAC is to recommend health education curriculum and instruction. Last year, we recommended the Worth the Wait program based upon information we knew from other districts and reviews. It is my recommendation that we follow the administration recommendation of delaying the instruction of the “sex-ed” portion of the curriculum until further guidance and training can be arranged for teacher and administrators. There is new training in the summer and fall for the beginning of the school year. If this is the will of the committee, I will make certain that the administration and teachers know and they are signed up for the training.

The SHAC replied that they agreed with Ms. Garza’s recommendation and did not meet face to face.

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Minutes

The Meridian ISD SHAC met on May 13, 2014 at 3:30 pm in the Elementary Library. Members present were, Michele Garza, Debbie Sanchez, Tammy Jones, Kim Norton, and Carol Balmos.

Ms. Garza reviewed the minutes from the previous meetings. She reminded members that SB 460 would need action in the upcoming school year and recommended that the SHAC make that recommendation to the school Board. all members agreed.

The transportation for the Summer Nutrition Program was revisited and Ms. Garza will remind Mr. Crawford of the need for transportation. She will get with Mrs. Edwards to get a letter out to the students informing them of the time and place for pick up.

Membership was discussed for the next school year. Tammy Jones is a parent representative and has a daughter graduating and will need to be replaced. Michele Garza is leaving the district and will need to be replaced. Wendy Orozco, student representative, will be graduating and will need to be replaced as well.

Meeting was adjourned