

Abilene ISD School Health Advisory Council

April 24, 2023- 6:00 pm

Minutes

Meeting called to order: Misty Harrison, Committee Co-Chair, at 6:02 pm

Members in attendance: Misty Harrison, Linda Langston, Dr. Paige LeMasters, Andrew Dillard. Bruce Crook, Teresa Bentle, Steven Pracht, Kimberly Brumley, and Olga Chavana

Guest Speaker: Kandace Grenwelge, Director of Student Nutrition

Welcome and Introductions were made.

Minutes from the February 27, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Kimberly Brumley proposed an amendment be made to the February minutes. She explained the statement, "The proposal was made to the committee as to whether to consider a newer curriculum that aligns with the new standards" was a summary of a longer discussion, and she felt the summary may be interpreted differently than the actual conversation. Ms. Brumley has reviewed the audio recording of the February meeting. She proposed the minutes read instead that "Ms. Brumley suggested to the members have the opportunity to *look at* a resource alongside the new health TEKS." Kimberly said that she was not stating that we should consider a new curriculum, but rather that she suggested the committee to have the chance to provide input on the resource in case it was later determined there was the need to change the curriculum in the future. Ms. Brumley added that since the February meeting, review copies of the current curriculum have been located and deemed in alignment with the new standards. There is no need to consider any supplemental materials. A motion was made by Teresa Bentle and seconded by Linda Langston to accept the minutes as amended.

Plans that a copy of the sexuality curriculum material that has been aligned with the text would be available at each middle school campus for parents to view when instruction is resumed next school year. In addition to the campus copies, additional copies will also be available at various locations.

Teresa Bentle made the motion to accept the minutes as written with the amendment made to the statement. Linda Langston second the motion and all members approved.

Andy Dillard presented the power point that had been used in the Grade 7 Human Sexuality Program this year. The topics covered in the Scott and White curriculum were:

- Healthy relationships and avoiding risky behavior
- Puberty
- Male and Female Reproductive Systems and Anatomy
- STD's
- Abstinence
- Teen Pregnancy

Kandice Grenwelge did a presentation on student nutrition. She informed the committee that Abilene ISD had met the eligibility for the "Community Eligibility Provision Act" for the next 3 years. The

Community Eligibility Provision is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the AISD students to be able to receive free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. It also will provide snacks for elementary students and afternoon snack for high school students. Student nutrition is excited to provide this opportunity for students again. Last year, when this program was looked at, Abilene ISD was at 92% socioeconomic. Four schools did not qualify for the program at that time, ATEMS, Austin, Ward, and Dyess. But the decision was made to make it a citywide opportunity and the socioeconomic dropped to 89.10% and therefore, 89% of students are considered at a free rate and 9% at a paid rate. With the present economy, we are at a 92.1 rate, so all students can participate. The Nutrition Department is a 13-million-dollar self-funded business. Their expenses run around 11 million with the major portion of funds going for food. A group of student nutrition staff went to Washington D.C. in March to attend the Legislative Action Community to lobby for their representatives. They lobby for:

- Supporting the McGovern HR 1269 that would make a permanently increasing the federal reimbursement level for school menus, increase access to locally grown food, and support expanded services like after school snacks and breakfast in the classroom. H.R. 1269, The Healthy Meals Help Kids Learn Act, permanently increases the federal reimbursement level for all free, reduced-price, and paid-rate school meals by 45 cents for every lunch served and 28 cents for every breakfast served, with a yearly adjustment. That goes a long way in helping the increase of cost with the food cost.
- Lobby to stop the requirements in the Healthy Hunger Free Act which had some stipulations on continuing to decrease the sodium levels allowed in student's meals by an additional 10%. Lobby for this to stop the requirements on this. They can provide a good product that is whole wheat but if they continue to go down the four levels, they will make it very difficult for the families. Some of the best meals children receive are the meals they receive at school.
- Making it very difficult for the vendors. With the restrictions that they are requesting, they are making it impossible for the vendors to comply with the regulations. Studies have shown that when removing chocolate milk from schools, it reduces milk consumption, resulting in children missing out on essential nutrients. They want to do a 10% decrease on milk. They are wanting to not serve chocolate or strawberry milk to any student younger than middle school. Debate on whether chocolate milk should be served at school due to the debate on whether it is a healthy option or not. Vendors are looking at doing different things to promote milk like packaging in Disney packaging.

Letters were written on the recommendations to the representatives. These items will not be voted on until June 2023.

Continuing to see economic struggles in the nutrition programs. Supply chain disruptions and rising prices have hit schools hard over the past year.

Positive feedback from parents on feeding their children at school has helped a lot.

Wellness Policy will be reviewed every year so we can keep the plan current. Want to make sure the policy is in alignment with any changes that the USDA might make. No revisions were warranted at this time. Would like to come and give an update to the SHAC on the nutrition program every year.

Applications to be a SHAC member for the 2023-2024 school year was distributed.

Letter of recommendation to the Board suggestions-

- The five-sexuality lesson format has been successful this school year. Plan to follow this same format for the 2023-2024 school year.
- That all seventh-grade students must return a form to either specify if they are an “opt-in” or “opt-out” of the sexuality program.
- That staff members from the Nutrition Department would be allowed to attend the Legislative Action Committee in Washington D. C. annually.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.