

# Austin I.S.D. School Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

**6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Wed., April 13, 2022**

**Meeting Location:** Austin ISD Central Office, 2nd floor (4000 S. IH-35 Frontage Rd., Austin, TX 78704)

*The SHAC may take action during the meeting as it clearly and directly relates to any agenda item on the table at the time.*

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter or Staff Resource  (if applicable)
6:40p	<b>Call to Order</b>	Mary Renfro, Co-Chair
6:40- 6:42pm	<p><b>Introductions and recognition of guests</b> -AISD presenters, trustee members (if in attendance), AISD staff not part of CSH (i.e. Chief, assistant superintendent)</p> <p>SHAC Members Present:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Belynda Barkley Montgomery</li> <li>2. Claire Selinger, MD – special welcome as new SHAC member</li> <li>3. Dolly Lambdin</li> <li>4. Mary Renfro</li> <li>5. Piper Stege Nelson</li> <li>6. Susanna Kerns</li> <li>7. Addison McKenna</li> </ol> <p>SHAC Members Not Present:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cythina Soliz</li> <li>2. Gena McKinley</li> <li>3. Jeff Davis</li> <li>4. Kelly Tarun</li> <li>5. Kimberly Avila Edwards, MD</li> <li>6. LaTasha Davis</li> <li>7. Lisa Flores</li> <li>8. Michelle Mejia</li> <li>9. Nick Wagner, MD</li> <li>10. Michelle Gallas, DO</li> <li>11. Swati Avashia, MD</li> </ol> <p>Community members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dan Teal</li> <li>2. Sarah McKenna</li> </ol> <p>AISD Staff:</p>	Mary Renfro, Co-Chair

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Michele Rusnak</li> <li>2. Alana Bejarano</li> <li>3. Jose Serrano</li> <li>4. Ginger Voss</li> <li>5. Donna Piket</li> <li>6. Dr. Joseph Allen, Director of Government, Coordinator of District Advisory Bodies</li> </ol>	
6:43pm	<p><b>Community communications*</b>  <i>Comments are limited to 2 minutes per speaker; 5 speakers max</i></p> <p><i>No community members submitted a request to speak.</i></p>	Mary Renfro, Co-Chair
6:44pm	<p><b>Reading and approval of minutes:</b>  A quorum was not met so approval of March minutes will be moved to the next SHAC meeting.</p>	Mary Renfro, Co-Chair
6:45-7:10pm	<p><b>Health Textbook Committee Update</b>  <b>Michele Rusnak</b></p> <p>Discussed the Principal’s presentation, which will be used by principals April 11- April 22. Principals have been tasked to invite their community in to explain why we are doing another Human Sex survey on Human Sexuality and Responsibility lessons.</p> <p><b>Presentation will be sent out with these Meeting Minutes</b></p> <p>The reason additional feedback from families is needed is because the state legislature came up with more laws last session and we have more health TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) – so AISD has to revise the lessons.</p> <p><b>New policies include:</b></p> <p>HB1525, which means that all parents must give permission or opt in vs opt out for students to receive lessons. We also have new SHAC laws, to record, need a resolution from the Board so we can have 2 additional meetings based on Human Sexuality topics or Senate Bill 9 (SB9) topics.</p> <p><b>April 18</b> – any family member that is the primary contact of the student will receive an email to re-take the survey to give their feedback on lessons. Student ID number will be required.</p> <p><b>April 27th and May 4th</b> – SHAC feedback sessions for lesson reviews</p> <p><b>May 5- May 25:</b> take feedback to make any needed major revisions to lessons. All final draft lessons will be posted on the SHAC website</p> <p><b>June 1</b> – SHAC meeting – will meet to hopefully get a recommendation to move forward with the Board</p>	<p>Dr. Kimberly Avila Edwards, Co-Chair  Michele Rusnak, Assistant Director of Health and Physical Education</p>

**Piper Sege Nelson:** *“What is SB9 and HB1325?”*

**Michele:** *HB1525 says that parents must opt in now, also SHAC laws and 2 additional meetings. SB9 was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session, mirrored the same law, but based on topics related to child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and human trafficking. Any of these lessons must be permission-based.*

**New Health TEKS:**

We have more guidance from TEA (Texas Education Agency) than we ever have. TEKS have not been updated since 1998; we must take those new TEKS and make sure our lessons are aligned with them.

Everything is always posted on AISD’s Human Sexuality and Responsibility website. Monthly updates are provided on the Health and Human sexuality website

**Overview of Principals Presentation:**

What are we doing for human sexuality at each level?

SB9 content is more visible for K-2 level, talking about what reproduces and what doesn’t. In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – we are talking about puberty. Kids are not losing any additional instructional time

Michele will send access to SHAC to see the Scope and Sequence of each grade level.

Every lesson has a format – we want to make sure that kids feel comfortable talking about topics.

In Sept. AISD will train any teacher or new administrator who needs it.

In Oct. - we will communicate to the public so parents can see what we teach; it is opting in this year – to receive content. There will be alternative lessons for the students that families that opt out. Kids will not be reprimanded for this. The alternative lessons will focus on SEL (Social and Emotional Learning)TEKS

The focus of Human Sexuality will be on abstinence, which is the best way to prevent pregnancy and STIs.

TEKS will now be the driving force of lesson objectives instead of the national standards EHAA; all teachers will be trained on all of this.

**Piper:** *What is EHAA policy?*

**Michelle:** *Previous TEKS didn’t include any content. Anything that a policy with an “E” - it is always about instruction. EHAA is set by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). They write the policy based on the education code and the administration code. Any changes must come through a local policy that the School board votes on.*

<p><b>Piper:</b> <i>Will you send us new Health TEKS?</i></p> <p><b>Michele:</b> TEA has not posted new TEKS yet. Michele can send drafts to SHAC.</p> <p><b>Piper:</b> <i>Why is SB9 more focused on grades K-2 and not all grades?</i></p> <p><b>Michelle:</b> <i>There were not any TEKS that focused on Human Sexuality so what we picked is helping kids to know their body parts. The good touch – bad touch and consent related to telling school mates about things like tickling that they don't like.</i></p> <p><b>There will be special feedback SHAC sessions on April 27 and May 4.</b> SHAC members will receive their own log in to review all 55 lessons. SHAC members are encouraged to review all lessons.</p> <p><b>Piper:</b> Are there other things that parents “opt-in” to?</p> <p><b>Michele:</b> We want to respect every parent. Whether it's opt-out or opt-in, it is very important to respect everyone's values. Everything is always posted on AISD website for parents.</p> <p><b>Claire Selinger:</b> <i>How do we know if parents are just not responding instead of opting in?</i></p> <p><b>(Claire's question cannot be heard in audio recording.)</b></p> <p><b>Michele:</b> <i>It will be like a field trip permission slip. We need something to be brought back so we know. So, it must be turned in like a permission slip to opt in. If nothing is received from the parents in 2 weeks, if not received then parents will be called. If something is not returned, then the child will not be opted in and will be given alternative SEL lessons.</i></p> <p>Surveys will have every lesson in detail, student handouts, teacher keys and teacher resources. Stehpanie Hebert is our AISD staff who is writing lessons, has over 15 years' experience in human sexuality.</p> <p>This is a sensitive topic, but we want to make sure we as a district, we try to fulfill everyone's wishes if they want to receive the lessons or not, we need to respect everybody.</p> <p><b>Piper:</b> <i>Staffing? Who does the teaching? Who does alternative lessons for students who do not opt in?</i></p> <p><b>Michele:</b> <i>As an educator, I understand the need to make a relationship with my kids. Therefore, classroom teachers will be teaching Human Sexuality lessons.</i></p> <p><i>At the Elementary level, it will be their homeroom teacher.</i></p> <p><i>6th-8th grade - Science teacher</i></p> <p><i>High school - Health teacher</i></p>	
--	--

	<p><i>Principals can make adjustments at any time to select another teacher as needed. Teachers who are not comfortable may teach the alternative lesson. Sometimes a school nurse or a counselor may co-teach.</i></p>	
7:10-7:12pm	<p><b>Health Services Update</b> Jose Serrano</p> <p><b>Covid update:</b> We have been seeing an increase in the number of cases reported this past month and have continued to investigate any possible clusters at our campuses. This is not unexpected given the transmissibility of the BA.2 strain and the relaxation of some risk mitigation efforts nationwide. Given the abundance of home tests available, it is difficult for public health officials to determine the true case counts around our community.</p> <p>As a reminder, we still offer free rapid testing for students and staff at 10 hub sites and free rapid/PCR tests for all community members at 3 community locations. Our vaccination partners are also continuing to provide free vaccinations multiple times per week, at various campuses.</p> <p><b>Mental Health Update</b> – we have been coordinating with our operations and bus terminal colleagues to discuss using a retired school bus and converting it to a mobile dedicated mental health center that will also be used to promote the 4 tiers of our mental health services (from school counseling to Tier 4).</p>	Dr. Kimberly Avila Edwards, Co-Chair AISD Health Services Department
7:12 – 7:40pm	<p><b>Presentation-Darien Clary</b> Physical Environment/Sustainability</p> <p><b>Earth Week – April 18 -22</b> austinisd.org/earthweek Website with Earth Week information is up and running</p> <p>Sustainability – Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. <i>How are we being responsible stewards of our environment?</i></p> <p><b>Please refer to Darien Clary’s presentation and notes regarding Physical Environment/Sustainability</b></p> <p><b>Member Questions:</b> <b>Dolly:</b> <i>Is there a website to hear about student essays/projects? Or a hashtag?</i></p> <p><b>Darien:</b> <i>Yes, these can be found on Twitter and Instagram: @Austinisdgreen #AISDgreen</i></p>	Dr Kimberly Avila Edwards, Co-Chair Darien G. Clary, MPH Sustainability Director

	<p><b>Piper:</b> <i>How is the budget around sustainability projects?</i>  <b>Darien:</b> <i>The budget is different depending on the initiative. It is different than regular funding. Many grants are available like the schoolyard improvement program. Larger projects go through construction mgmt. Equity has been a big shift – Equity by Design. Team uses 8 separate criteria to determine future plans with equity at the forefront.</i></p> <p><b>Dolly:</b> <i>In wealthier schools, there are more parents, resources, etc. how does this work for other schools?</i>  <b>Darien:</b> <i>We are using equity by design for assessing new projects to ensure the proposed program/initiative is needed and serving schools that may need it in a different way. We are being mindful with planning by putting equity at the forefront. One example, we received a \$600,000 urban forest grant to plant trees with irrigation at schools. The schools that were selected were asked if they wanted trees and they were also identified as being in tree deficient areas of Austin.</i></p> <p><b>Addison McKenna:</b> <i>I work with Katie’s crops - a non-profit organization that plants school gardens. We have seeds we can donate.</i>  <b>Darien:</b> <i>We will get your contact information to follow up.</i></p> <p><b>Belynda Barkley Montgomery:</b>  <i>Akins HS has 20-24 portables that are over 20 years old and need to be updated. Is there anyone else we need to present this to other than the Long-Range Planning Committee?</i>  <b>Darien:</b> <i>I think you are presenting it in the right place.</i></p> <p><b>Belynda:</b> <i>The streets near Akins HS are unsafe for walking/biking to school. Who else should we talk to about safe pathways?</i>  <b>Darien:</b> <i>Sarah Bently, Amir Amamyan, Safe Path to school. Walkability in a tough area.</i></p>	
7:40pm	<p><b>Items from members (brief announcements, suggestions for future topics, recognitions, etc.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>SHAC Member Contact Information</b></li> <li>● <b>Update AISD Elementary Proposal Letter</b></li> <li>● <b>SHAC Vacancies</b></li> </ul> <p>Kim and Mary met with Trustee Sing who had questions about the letter. AISD working on response to letter  Lisa Flores presented anti-bullying policy to SHAC’s attention; will be sent to SHAC; feedback due by April 30</p>	Mary Renfro, Co-Chair

7:46pm	<b>Mary:</b> <i>Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm</i>	Mary Renfro, Co-Chair
--------	---	-----------------------

*\* Please note the process for public comments on videoconference meetings: Persons wishing to provide public comments will be asked to state their name and acknowledge that they have read the ‘Note about*

public comments' listed below. If more than 5 people wish to speak, the Co-Chair will draw 5 names in random order.

**Note about public comments:** Speakers and visitors are expected to provide comments in a respectful manner. If the presiding officer deems a speaker or visitor to be disrespectful, that person may be warned or asked to cease any further comment or behavior. Noncompliance may result in ejection from the meeting.