

Minutes for Safe Schools and Healthy Students Advisory Council Meeting April 16, 2009

The Safe Schools and Healthy Students Advisory Council held its final meeting for the 2008-09 school year on Thursday, April 16, 2009.

Items from the agenda included:

Safe School Survey Results

Student Drug Prevention Assembly plans

Tobacco Prevention Assembly plans

Title IV Safe and Drug Free Program overview, consultation and collaboration regarding the design and development of the district's SDFS program

School Health Index-Plans for self-assessment in 2009-10

Safe School Survey Results

The Safe Schools Survey was conducted in February at the secondary campuses. Participants included 5 administrators, 36 teachers, 13 parents and 373 students in 7th, 10th, and 12th grades. The online survey was anonymous and voluntary. Only students who returned a signed parent permission form were able to participate. Results from the survey are used to determine areas of strength and concern and to guide programming.

Mr. Chris Skipper, Region 10 Consultant with Safe and Drug Free Schools review the MISD results with a comparison to other districts and indicated that we fare very well.

Overwhelmingly, students and teachers reported feeling safe or very safe. Students identified two areas in which they perceive there to be a moderate problem. Those areas were tobacco and alcohol use and the process of reporting fighting or bullying although most students say they are not bullied. Most students report they are aware of the process to report these actions. We saw no glaring changes in the results as compared to last year's results and will continue to monitor and respond as needs are made known.

Principals have been given survey results for the district and those specific to their campuses in order to address any areas of concern.

Student Drug Prevention Assembly plans

There will be a student assembly for Drug and Alcohol prevention at MHS on May 1 to help to address the needs noted in the survey results and as requested by the principals.

Tobacco Prevention Assembly

Tobacco Prevention assemblies are being conducted again this year at both middle school campuses. All sixth graders will receive this valuable information that is geared toward educating students on the hazards of using tobacco products, both smoking and

smokeless. This training has been a result of a need based on the increased use of tobacco products by today's youth. Midlothian ISD responds to needs as reported in the Safe Schools Survey or other sources of data. The Midlothian High School PALs (Peer Assistance Leaders) conducted the Tobacco Prevention program in the past but this year the STAND (Students Taking Action Not Drugs) group will be taking on this project. They are under the sponsorship of Mrs. Megan McMinn MHS teacher. We appreciate the service the PALs have provided in the past and also appreciate the STAND students taking on this very important project.

Title IV Safe and Drug Free Program overview, consultation and collaboration regarding the design and development of the district's SDFS program

Ms. Lisa Knight, MISD Director of Special and Federal Programs, reviewed the purpose of the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, including SDFS goals and the district's comprehensive program. The current year's budget was reviewed and input for the Federal Application for the 2009-10 school year was sought. The committee was in agreement with continuing the programs as reviewed and suggested adding more information to students on the dangers of alcohol use and on the process of reporting bullying as were noted in the Safe Schools Survey.

School Health Index-Plans for self-assessment in 2009-10

Ms. Diane Foster expressed the need for a district self-assessment to evaluate our programs and curriculum currently in place. She has requested an assessment from the CDC. Her plans are to have the committee help complete this task during the 2009-10 school year.

Ms. Diane Foster, MISD Director of Curriculum,

Again, this was the last meeting of this Council for the 2008-09 school year. We appreciate those who have served.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Foster
Lisa Knight