

# SHAC MEETING MINUTES



Location: GPISD Education Center, Board Room A

Date: 4/2/25, 12:00–1:00

- 1. Call to Order** Meeting of the School Health Advisory Council was called to order on 4/2/25 at 12:01 pm by Amanda Rachal. Mrs. Rachal thanked all members for attending.
- 2. Minutes Approval:** Motion to approve the minutes from 2/5/25. A motion was presented, properly seconded, and carried.
- 3. Amendment:** Remove Umeka Wright from Agenda due to being absent, motioned to approve agenda amendment. Motion was presented, properly seconded, and carried.

## UPDATES

**1. Child Nutrition & Food Services:** Dustin Seymour, Resident District Manager presented

- **Hydroponic Gardens:** All elementary school cafeterias now feature hydroponic gardens, with the exception of Garner Elementary. Additional hydroponic systems are also in place at the Grand Family Service Center and the Education Center. The hydroponic produce was recently showcased during a Roving Chef event at Reagan Middle School, where students prepared a chickpea curry and side salad using ingredients from the garden.
- **Breakfast Carts:** To encourage breakfast participation, breakfast carts have been added to all secondary campuses. These carts provide students with a convenient way to grab breakfast on the way to class. Since implementation, there has been a 2% increase in breakfast participation.
- **After-School Nutrition Education:** The district continues to partner with Beyond the Bell to offer after-school nutrition education sessions. These sessions allow staff to engage with parents, answer questions, and provide program information.
- **New Vegan Menu Item:** A new vegan chicken patty has been introduced and sampled by students during nutrition education events. Feedback has been highly positive, with many students expressing that the new option tastes even better than the previous version. The patties are now featured daily on all secondary school menus.
- **Cafeteria Renovations:** SHAC members were encouraged to visit Grand Prairie High School, South Grand Prairie High School, and the Morton campus to view the newly refreshed cafeteria lines, which were updated last summer and are noted for their improved aesthetics and functionality. This summer Jackson, Reagan, Arnold, Adams, Garner and Powell will receive a refresh to add more grab and go options and add snack bars at the middle school level.

**2. Family & Community Engagement:** Maria Herrera, LCSW, Director of Community and Family Engagement.

- **Mission and Vision:** The Family and Community Engagement Department's mission is to educate and build authentic, collaborative partnerships with families and communities to support the holistic development and success of every student. A key emphasis was placed on partnership and collaboration between families, departments, and community stakeholders.

- **Department Structure:** The department is overseen by one coordinator who manages 17 team members: 15 family engagement liaisons and 2 specialists. Liaisons are assigned to various campuses, particularly Title I campuses with identified needs. Not all campuses have an assigned liaison; assignments are made based on campus size, student needs, and academic indicators.
- **Annual Family Survey (Fall 2024)** A parent survey was distributed from September to October to gather feedback on family interests, availability, and barriers to participation. Key findings included:
- **Top Areas of Interest:**
  - Academic Support (65%): Parents want to understand how to help their children at home.
  - Student Mental Health: Concerns around anxiety, depression, and emotional wellbeing.
  - Health & Wellness: Interest in keeping students physically healthy.
  - Testing: Clarification needed around district/state assessments.
  - Preferred Event Timing: After-school events were most requested.
  - Top Barriers to Attendance:
  - Time constraints due to work or other commitments.
  - Lack of awareness of events due to communication gaps (e.g., missed emails, reliance on social media, or unfamiliarity with technology).
- **Response to Survey Data:** Based on survey results, a series of virtual sessions titled Parenting on the Go was developed. These sessions were designed to be accessible, recorded, and distributed afterward. Topics for the 2024–2025 school year included:
  - Launching to Success
  - College & Career Readiness
  - Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - Bullying & Drug Awareness
  - District & State Testing Overview
  - Healthy Relationships & Habits
  - Bilingual Student Success
  - Mental Health Guidance for Parents (aligned with Mental Health Awareness Month)
- **Virtual Engagement Stats (2024–2025 School Year):**
  - 424 parents attended live virtual sessions.
  - 781 parents registered (and received follow-up resources if they couldn't attend).
- **Family Resource Fair:** A districtwide Family Resource Fair was hosted on a Saturday in February, providing:
  - In-person parent sessions
  - Community resource booths
  - Student activity stations
  - Due to its success, the event is planned to become an annual fall event to better support families earlier in the school year.
- **Campus-Specific Feedback:** Using Qualtrics survey data, individual campus reports were shared with principals to assist in planning tailored family engagement events. Needs and topics vary by school level:
  - Elementary Schools: Focus on academic support and testing.
  - Secondary Schools: Higher emphasis on college, career readiness, and mental health.
- **Communication Enhancements:** The department is collaborating with the district's Communications team to improve outreach. Communication is now customized based on parent language preference indicated in Skyward (e.g., English or Spanish) to ensure accessibility.

**3. Staying Safe This Summer – Hydration, Heat Safety & Water Safety:** Amanda Rachal, BSN, RN, Health & Wellness Services

- **Sun Safety:**

- Use SPF 30+ sunscreen, reapply every 2 hours
- Protect eyes with sunglasses
- Wear hats and light, long-sleeved clothing
- Avoid sun exposure from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

- **Heat Safety:**

- Never leave children, elderly, or pets in cars
- Hydrate regularly and monitor urine color
- Watch for symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke
- Take frequent breaks in shaded or cool areas

- **Water Safety:**

- Never leave children unattended near water
- Use life jackets for non-swimmers and on boats
- Designate a “Water Watcher” during group activities
- Educate on swim safety and appropriate swimwear colors for visibility
- Be aware of natural water hazards and beach warning flags

- **Additional Tips:**

- Playground supervision
  - Firework safety
  - Food safety in the heat
  - Helmet use
  - Awareness of burn hazards and wildfire risks
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## ACTION ITEMS

**Action Items:** Approval of Senate Bill 9 Opt-In Permission Slip

The committee reviewed and discussed the parent permission slip required for Senate Bill 9 opt-in compliance.

**Motion:** To approve the parent permission slip under Senate Bill 9 for opt-in.  
Motion was presented, properly seconded, and carried.

**Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Blanca McGee addressed questions and provided clarification regarding the document.

## NEXT MEETING DATE:

Next meeting date is October 1, 2025 from 12:00–1:00 p.m.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

## Grand Prairie ISD School Health Advisory Council Meeting

April 2, 2025 at 12:00pm-1:00pm

Location: GPISD Education Center Board RM A

### Call to Order

### Welcome and Introductions

- Board and community members
- Parents
- District and campus administrators and staff

### Sign in Reminder

- **Action Required:** Members are reminded to sign in for attendance

### Approval of minutes

- **Action Item:** Review and approve minutes from the last meeting held on February 5, 2025. meeting
- **Reference Document:** [February 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

### Updates

- **Child Nutrition & Food Services:** Dustin Seymour, Resident District Manager/Abigail Pineda, Director of Operations
- **Family and Community Engagement:** Maria Herrera, LCSW, Director of Community and Family Engagement
- **Staying Safe This Summer - Hydration, Heat Safety & Water Safety:** Amanda Rachal, BSN, RN, Health & Wellness Services
- **Summer Wellness Tips:** Umeka Wright, Director of Student & Employee Wellness

### Action Items:

- **Senate Bill 9:** Jasmine Gaines, M.Ed, LCSW, Student Mental Health & Grant Program Manager
  - Approval of Parent Permission Slip for Opt-In

### Next Meeting Date

- **Information:** The next SHAC meeting October 2025

### Recommendations

- **Committee Announcements:** Members invited to share relevant updates

### Closing Comments

- Adjournment