

Board Report August 2018

Curriculum and Instruction

Summer Learning Festival

This year's Summer Learning Festival was a 4-day face-to-face professional development jamboree which included keynote and featured speakers, HISD teacher leader and administrator presentations, door prizes, a food truck, vendors, and lots of learning. Some of the topics covered were safe schools, dyslexia, teaching English Language Learners, and designing engaging work for students. The sessions also included trainings like T-TESS updates, preventing bullying, and suicide prevention. Online trainings and book studies were also offered as professional development options for staff.

New Teacher Academies

New Teacher Academies for 2018 was held August 1, 2, 6 & 7. New mentors to the program received their training in July. Mentors gained an understanding of the importance of sustaining a high-quality mentoring program in HISD and their responsibilities as a mentor. Mentors and new teachers will utilize the district's teacher induction system which focuses on the success of our new teachers and ultimately the impact on student learning. This year's academies not only took into consideration the new teacher's assigned grade level, it also provided customized training based on teaching experience. Throughout the year, new teachers will be supported through touch base meetings, learning walks, and cluster meetings based on specific need. All teachers reported on Monday, August 8 for campus-based staff development.

Monsanto Grant

Hillsboro ISD was awarded a \$10,000 grant for the "Blueprint to the Future" program, which will give Hillsboro High School students opportunities to design and create products through industry-relevant 2D and 3D CAD (Computer-Aided Design) software. Through this program, students will create drawings and photorealistic renderings that can be used as plans to build products such as trailers, gates, and other equipment as it relates to ag mechanics. Additionally, while learning through authentic classroom experiences, students will have opportunities to gain industry certifications in AutoDesk which will set our students apart as mechanical designers with hands-on professional skills and abilities at industry-accepted standards. Other past projects funded through Monsanto grant awards include the freestanding greenhouse and plasma cutter at Hillsboro High School, and the LEx Lab at Hillsboro Intermediate School.

Principals Academy

On July 31, district and campus administrators as well as instructional coaches participated in the first session of the HISD Principals Academy. The purpose of the academy is to prepare district and campus leadership to support the development of engaging work for students as well as developing leadership capacities and capabilities. The participants are reading Engaging Students by Phil Schlechty as part of their learning for this professional development series. The next meeting will be a ½ day session on Oct. 22.

Good to Go Head to Toe

Hillsboro ISD hosted its fourth annual back to school fair on Saturday, August 11 at Hillsboro Jr. High from 8:00-11:00. This Hillsboro ISD event is to provide families of the district with information regarding health services and school/community resource information with the focus on child education, school registration, free and reduced lunch program, youth programs, health and safety.

District Convocation

District Convocation was held Thursday, August 9. Our theme this year is “Hit One Out of the Park”. HISD staff enjoyed a breakfast catered by R & K Cafe. Mrs. Adams welcomed the morning’s motivational speaker Dr. Kevin Brown, former superintendent of Alamo Heights ISD and current Executive Director of TASA. He spoke on the important contribution that teachers make in the lives of their students while making a connection to Hillsboro through personal anecdotes. The morning also included a powerful presentation on human trafficking by Jessica Sykora of UnBound. UnBound works to educate and empower youth, spread awareness through citywide outreaches and provide human-trafficking presentations to groups and organizations within local communities.

Submitted by Angela Boyd and Sheila Bowman