

# Hispanic Achievement Advisory Committee

## Minutes

February 7, 2007



### Greetings and Introductions

Rod Chaves welcomed everyone and brought the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m.

### Minutes

The minutes from the October 4, 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved.

### Student Recognition

Dr. Don Stockton, Conroe ISD Superintendent, was on hand to help the Committee recognize several student volunteers who provide community service hours for CISD students and parents. The students recognized were from Conroe High and included Yunuen Ugarte, Award for 2,160 volunteer hours; Eduardo Oviedo, Award for 950 volunteer hours; and Carlos Flores, Award for 102 volunteer hours. An award for outstanding academic performance was presented to Alma Mendoza who is a senior from Conroe High.

### What's Happening in the CISD Community

- Dr. Jean Stewart, Deputy Superintendent shared that Conroe ISD has expanded the Bilingual Program in the eastern portion of the school district for the 2007-2008 school year. Austin, Milam, and Creighton Elementary Schools will be able to serve students in the bilingual program who reside in each school's attendance zone at their home campus. Bilingual students at San Jacinto Elementary will attend classes at Milam due to lack of classroom space at that campus.
- Dr. Cathy Gibson, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, reported that two Parent Information Nights were held at Travis Intermediate and Houser Elementary in January to share information about Title I Programs, as well as to receive input and feedback from parents.
- A report was given by Renee O'Neal, Principal of San Jacinto Elementary, and Rod Chaves highlighting the ESL/GED Classes for parents that are being conducted at San Jacinto Elementary and Knox Junior High.
- The Hispanic Outreach Coordinator from United Way of Montgomery County, Maggie Plank, explained that Brown Bag Seminars are being conducted on a regular basis to assist parents in the Hispanic Community understand the educational system.
- Parent Orientation Nights are offered each month to CISD parents in Spanish to provide opportunities for

parents to learn more about critical issues facing their students according to a report given by Mary Byrne from the Newcomers Center.

- The International Student Association (ISA) from Conroe High delighted the committee when they shared that they are learning to be puppeteers for the program, "Kids on the Block." They are learning to present the program in Spanish to serve children in bilingual classrooms.
- Derik Bolanos, East County Youth Program Leader, shared that CISD will reach out to the intermediate and junior high school students by implementing soccer clubs. A tournament is planned for the near future. Rod Chaves also reported that Lone Star Clinic was making a huge contribution by offering free physicals to all students interested in participating.

### English Language Learning Systems (ELLIS) Presentation

Conroe High School Spanish Teacher, Debra Ager, made a presentation to the committee about the successful use of a computer program to assist students and parents with the acquisition of English. The program has many features to address the diverse needs of students. The program is used during the day with students and after school at the Language Acquisition Academies, located at 10 campuses. Knox Junior High also utilizes the program with parents in an after school setting.

### Teacher Appreciation Recognition

Alejandra Tapia recognized several Conroe ISD staff members for their contribution to translate needed District information into Spanish. Each was presented a certificate acknowledging this valuable service. The following educators were recognized: Beatriz Adame, Manuel Perea, Francisco Garcia Salas, Dalia Diaz Vasquez, Alma Menchaca Martin, and Alejandra Tapia Cacheux.

### Upcoming Events

- Career Day, George R. Brown Convention Center, February 10, 2007
- "Adelante," Montgomery College, March 2, 2007

### Adjourn

Mr. Chaves thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.