

The Hispanic Achievement Forum

Minutes October 14, 2009

Greeting

Rod Chaves, Administrative Director of Community Outreach, welcomed everyone and brought the meeting to order at 5 p.m. Dr. Don Stockton, Superintendent, thanked everyone for attending and noted that students, parents, educators, and community members in attendance have worked together for the benefit of ALL students in the Conroe Independent School District. He shared that CISD has earned the Texas Education Agency Rating of Recognized, that all 5 comprehensive CISD high schools are rated Recognized, and that the completion rate for the District is 98.2%.

The CISD Strategic Goal 4.0 was reviewed by Mr. Chaves and twelfth grade student Jorge Garcia Villanueva addressed the group regarding his personal struggles with attending school, the assistance he received from CISD staff, and the new direction his life will take because he will graduate in May.

Community Outreach

A variety of community partnerships have been established and some shared a brief report of current activities.

- Faith Casperson, Head Nurse for CISD, reported that immunizations are given to students through the Shots across Texas Project and thanked students from Conroe High School for providing assistance during the project.
- Mario Rosales represented the Montgomery County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and reported that the organization has provided \$30,000 in scholarships over the past three years.
- Dr. Steven McKernan with Lone Star Family Health Center shared that his organization will continue to provide physicals for intermediate school students who participate in the "Kick the TAKS" motivational program.
- Dean Becky Gustamente from Lone Star College Montgomery and Mike Patrick, CISD Administrative Director of Custodial Services, reported that a partnership between the college and the school district has provided a twelve week pilot program to assist custodial workers for CISD to acquire English language skills.

- Don Carlos Gonzalez Magallon, Consulado General de Mexico, addressed the group and reported that Conroe, Texas has the largest Plazas Comunitarias in the United States. The program was developed by the Mexican Government to offer the opportunity for youth and adults to have literacy courses and to start or continue their elementary, middle and high school education in Spanish.
- Maria Jordan from the Montgomery County United Way and Cindy Lentz, Principal of Austin Elementary shared that the joint partnership provided parenting classes for 44 parents of Austin Elementary.

Dropout Prevention

Dropout Prevention requires the joint collaboration of parents, community members, and staff members from CISD. Numerous programs are in place to reach out to Hispanic students. The Forum heard a report from several individuals briefly describing their efforts to assist students. Barbara Grogan from the CISD Parent Resource Center shared that a full time Spanish speaking staff member has been provided through a partnership with the Newcomer Center. Laura Abbott, CISD Assistant Director for Special Education reported that three social workers have joined with the special education staff to help assist families of special education students. "Kick the TAKS" was highlighted as a program designed to motivate intermediate school students to perform well on the state assessment. Students from Conroe High School's Empowerment Program were introduced to the group. Many of the students are newcomers to the United States and the District from other countries. Through the support of the program, many of them are performing extremely well academically. Sharon Ashton shared the benefits of the CHOOSE (Conroe High Ongoing Opportunities for Successful Education) Program and the night school opportunities available at Conroe High School and Oak Ridge High School.

Adjourn

In closing, Mr. Chaves thanked Los Petates for providing the food for the gathering, Agustin Mayorquin Breceda for the entertainment, and those in attendance for the valuable contribution made to students. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Conroe ISD Goal 1.0

Student Achievement and Post-secondary Success

CISD will maintain rigorous standards of achievement to prepare all students for graduation and post-secondary success.

