

Hispanic Achievement Advisory Committee

Minutes

November 28, 2007



Greetings and Introductions

Rod Chaves welcomed everyone and brought the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

CISD Read for a Better Life

Dr. Stockton welcomed the members and thanked them for their important work with this committee. Superintendent Dr. Don Stockton then discussed the CISD initiative "Read for a Better Life" which addresses the importance of reading to a child everyday. Dr. Stockton encouraged everyone in the room to read to a child in the home everyday or to volunteer to read to a child at any of the CISD schools.

Teacher Recognition

Joe Rodriguez was recognized for implementing the Reading Initiative ELLIS at the Montgomery County Public Library. The program, which targets secondary students who are English Language Learners, meets monthly and provides books and snacks for the participants. In addition, the program encourages a discussion of books that the high school students are reading. Mr. Rodriguez reported that seventeen high school students attended the ELLIS session last month.

Scholarships

Mr. Miguel Lopez, Chairman of the Montgomery County Hispanic Chamber (MCHC) reported that his organization provided eleven \$1,000 scholarships and a donation to the Conroe Education Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 during the 06-07 school year. MCHC has set a goal of \$12,000 to provide scholarships again this school year.

Adelante Day

Adelante Day is an event to welcome and reach out to first generations minority students who are interested in attending college, explained Dr. Roberto Rodriguez, Director of the Montgomery County Conroe Center. The day is designed to simplify and explain the process of applying for college admission and other aspects of the college experience. A definite day has not been chosen, but February 8 and 15 are being considered at this time.

What's Happening in the CISD Community

Pam Zoda, CISD Federal Programs Coordinator explained Title I services that are available for students and shared a flyer with pertinent information to the members.

Hedith S. Upshaw, CISD Director Bilingual/ESL explained the programs available to the English Language Learners in Conroe ISD. She explained English as a Second Language Programs (ESL), the Transitional Model Programs utilized in grades 1-6, and the English Language Acquisition Model currently being implemented in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

Debra Ager, Conroe High School Teacher presented information about the After School Academies for Newcomers (ELLIS). The program targets the personal, interpersonal, and academic development of the students. ELLIS is an interactive computer program that allows each student to progress at his/her own rate. It is conversation-based and integrates vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and listening skills.

Dr. Kathy Sharples shared that representatives from CISD will be attending a job fair in Puerto Rico in January, 2008. Region IV is sponsoring the recruiting effort and Dr. Sharples and Hedith Upshaw will search for quality applicants willing to teach in CISD.

Adjourn

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