

**School Health Advisory Council
Conroe Independent School District**

**Minutes
July 29, 2009**

Present: Karen Baughman, Amish Bhakta, Faith Casperson, Scott Harper, Sheryl Hime, Robyn Hughes, Jack Lesch, Lynda Matthews, Forstine Morris, Susan O'Neil, Ronnie Peacock, Sherry Sunderman, Mary Kerschbaum. **Ex Officio:** Gale Drummond, Cathy Gibson, Chris Hines, Deanna Martin. **Absent:** Ellen Baskin Fiesinger, Victoria Constance, Lata Joshi, Ron Leach, Chris McCord, Donald Strickland. Kelly Wortham.

The Chair, Mary Kerschbaum called the meeting to order at 4:12pm. She introduced herself and talked about her new role as Chair of the committee. The members reintroduced themselves as well.

The discussion turned to the topic of HB 3 for the 2009-2010 school year. Incoming 11th grade students would be affected by this recently passed legislation. The legislation states that under the Recommended High School Plan, ½ credit of Health is no longer a requirement for graduation. The Minimum High School Plan and the Distinguished Achievement Program both continue to require ½ credit of Health for graduation. Dr. Hines led a discussion among the committee members to find out the recommendation the committee would have for continuing ½ credit of Health or dropping it from the graduation requirements as the legislation has suggested. Many aspects of the topic were brought up for discussion, such as, can it be moved to the Junior High Curriculum, the difficulty of pairing a ½ credit class with another ½ credit class and the question of where the required (p.a.p.a) curriculum would be taught if not in a health class. A positive aspect of the health class curriculum (body systems) was also considered as a help to increase scores in science classes.

Scott Harper made a motion to leave the ½ credit Health Class as part of the Recommended High School Plan. Faith Casperson seconded the motion and the committee voted all in favor of keeping ½ credit Health Class.

The discussion then turned to the question of a recommendation for ½ credit of physical education to be dropped from the Recommended High School Plan. HB 3 also states that 1 ½ credits of physical education will be changed to 1 credit for graduation under the Recommended High School Plan. Again a discussion of many of the pros and cons of physical education were brought up by the committee. The committee explored the fact that students develop other interests in high school and there are many electives to choose from and explore. This would open up the opportunity for other areas of study

for students. Many high school students, approximately 75%, receive p.e. credit by enrolling in ROTC, athletics, band or multi hour vocational courses. Reserving 1 full credit of p.e. in the recommended high school plan would make it difficult to switch to the minimum plan or the distinguished achievement plan which require 1 ½ credits of p.e. Some of the p.e. courses offered for ½ credit do not require as much of an activity component as needed by students enrolling in p.e. courses. The committee decided that 1 credit of p.e. was a positive continuance of course recommendation for graduation under the recommended high school plan.

In conclusion, the members of the committee were asked to notify the chair if they would be unable to continue their service on the committee next year. The recommended SHAC Committee Members will be approved by the School Board next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12pm.

Submitted July 30, 2009, by:

Mary Kerschbaum
SHAC Chair