

The Rice School K-8
SDMC Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2021

Meeting start time was 4:15 p.m.

Meeting was called to Order. The members present are reflected on the sign-in sheet.

New Business

- Campus Safety
- COVID Precautions
- Budget
- Academics – STAAR
- Texas Honor Roll School
- HISD Teacher of the Month, Ms. Kemp
- STAAR Writing – April 6, 2021

Meeting Minutes:

Our SDMC meeting began at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

Campus Safety – Monthly Fire Drills, Intruder and Shelter-in-Place Drills are up to date and will continue each month in accordance with HISD guidelines. Morning and Afternoon supervision by teachers/staff continue to demonstrate excellent teamwork. The new app for our afternoon dismissal is very effective and efficient as can be observed daily in carpool.

COVID Precautions – The SDMC was reminded that our students, teachers, and staff continue to follow the CDC and HISD guidelines by wearing masks, washing hands frequently, and socially distancing in the hallways and classrooms. We have a small number of students (30%) who attend in person classes which help with classroom size and social distancing.

Budget – Projections for student enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year are on point with approximately 1,150 students. Our elementary classes will have a 22:1 ratio for Grades K-4. Our Grade 5 will reflect a 25:1 ratio. For the Middle School Grades 6-8, we will reflect a 26:1 ratio. Our projected enrollment directly impacts our annual budget.

Academics – STAAR (Face to Face Students) – TEA has determined that schools will only test their students in Grades 3-8 who are on campus for face-to-face instruction. Virtual students will not be required or penalized for not taking STAAR during this time of the COVID pandemic.

Texas Honor Roll School – Our Rice School is one of 49 schools recognized in Houston ISD (283 total schools) for being a Texas Honor Roll School. Educational Results Partnership (ERP) identified our school for high achievement in student success. We are

one of 3,490 public schools in the nation to receive this recognition. Schools that receive the ERP Texas Honor Roll distinction have demonstrated consistent high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time, and a reduction in achievement gaps among student populations. This recognition is a testament to the sustained focus on academic results and commitment to student success that our school community has shown over the years.

HISD Teacher of the Month, Ms. Kemp – Our Second Grade Teacher, Ms. Kemp, was recognized as the March Teacher of the Month by Houston ISD. Dr. Grenita Lathan, Interim Superintendent, led a car parade in front of the school waving pompoms and holding a sign congratulating Ms. Kemp. Ms. Kemp was surprised to find the parade was not for the school being named a Texas Honor Roll School, but rather, it was for her. Ms. Kemp was recognized for her dedication to teaching her students after hours and going beyond the classroom. She teaches her face-to-face students during the instructional day and holds virtual tutorials late into the evening for those online. During the recent winter storm, Ms. Kemp took families into her home to support them, so they would have water, food, and power. As Dr. Lathan stated, “She’s a leader among her peers, and she’s done a phenomenal job here at The Rice School.” Principal Hobbs recognized Ms. Kemp for “her positive, can-do attitude. She is flexible and resilient. She is skillful and committed to providing the best education for her students.”

STAAR Writing – April 6, 2021 – Grades 4 and 7 face-to-face students will take the STAAR Writing test.

Other business – Rice University will offer summer opportunities for virtual classes with a focus on Algebra and Geometry as shared by Dr. Anne Papakonstantinou, Rice University Math Professor and SDMC member of The Rice School.

Our next SDMC meeting will be held Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.