

# SDMC | MINUTES

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January 26, 2021 | 4:30 – 5:30 PM | Wheatley High School – Zoom Meeting

Meeting called by	Joseph Williams	Sandra Sanchez
Type of meeting	SDMC	Melodee Thomas
Note taker	Carmen Jimenez	John Aleman
Adjournment		Bianca Dugas Ted Kemp Falasha Spruiell Carla Brown Donnie Walker Pauline Johnson Janice Thomas Dr. Youlette McCullough Dr. Paul Joseph

## AGENDA TOPICS

### **Introduction by Joseph Williams, Principal**

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant
- New Courses for Upcoming School Year 2021-2022
- Senior Information
- Data Collection
- Athletics

PowerPoint Presentation by Joseph Williams

#### School Calendar of upcoming events:

- FAFSA Deadline
- Herff Jones Cap & Gown
- PSAT Testing
- Teacher Prep Day – January 29, 2020
- Report Card – February 5, 2020
- Senior Pictures – February 6<sup>th</sup> & February 13<sup>th</sup>

- Mr. Joseph Williams mentioned some challenges with the technology occurring during final exam week. Amazon had problems with on-track and possibly crash the system so final exams had to be suspended temporarily. Dr. Lemons is retiring and will be having a drive by parade at 2:00pm., on Friday, January 29, 2020. Fall Semester ends this week. Scholars had the choice to continue to take class online or face to face, this is to keep scholars engaged and master their skills. Scholars will have opportunity for credit recovery after school and online, as well as tutoring is available for core classes. Burbank Clinic is serving exclusively to Wheatley High School scholars as well as our feeder pattern schools. We are pushing our year to date attendance percentage rate to reach 90%. We have been communicating with parents and scholars about synchronous learning and reminding them to submit any work before 12am. to be counted as present and for grades. We have updates in athletics that JV & Freshman games will resume. Tickets are being sold online for games only at stadiums and the games on campus are not for spectators. We will be honoring our board member Ms. Kathy Blueford Daniels. At this time, he paused and asked if anyone had questions.

(None)

- Mr. Joseph Williams continued to talk about the partnership Wheatley has with University of Houston-Downtown. They are writing a grant only for 6 schools which included feeder patterns for high schools Wheatley and Kashmere. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant will help supplement what we have in place and to get jobs with local businesses soon to come.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough questioned if these local businesses partnering with Buffalo Bayou? And were they held accountable to work the 3 different projects in place so that scholars can get advantage of these opportunities?
- Mr. Joseph Williams confirmed that Wheatley scholars will be participating. He then opens the floor for any more questions before continuing.
- Mr. Donnie Walker asked if students will be returning on campus for face to face learning if they have a grade average below 70%?
- Mr. Joseph Williams confirmed that we have an option of requesting scholars to return in person if scholars have 3 or more absences. A school mail out will be done to make aware of this request. A survey was also shared with teachers to pull data and talk to those scholars on a 1 to 1 basis and ask for feedback. The feedback will consist of all exhausted possibilities or due diligence of what's being done in order to take a different approach if no effort from scholars.
- Mr. Ted Kemp mentioned his concern about the existence of Ascending to Men. He has been trying to reach and left messages but no response yet. He spoke with custodial staff Mr. Henry about a good report on scholars following PPE protocol.
- Mr. Joseph Williams responded that these groups are indeed occurring on campus and having their meetings with scholars. Mr. Handfill and Ms. Lawson had been on campus last week recruiting scholars and passing out flyers. He offered to pass on their contact information if needed.
- Mr. Ted Kemp says he has their contact information.
- Mr. Joseph Williams mentions he will work with these programs in order to keep pushing for recruitment.
- Ms. Carla Brown added that these programs have contacted her classes to recruit some of her scholars.

- Mr. Donnie Walker added that some of his scholars in his AP classes were not meeting expectations. These programs reached out to help scholars who already in the program.
- Ms. Melodee Thomas will give more information to scholars that are taking AP classes and that are taking credit recovery but agreed that these programs are reaching out to the scholars and helping.
- Mr. Ted Kemp expressed his concerns and wanted to be proactive and mentioned that he didn't want Wheatley scholars missing opportunities available. Basically, that communication failed and was wondering if programs were still active at Wheatley.
- Mr. Joseph Williams reassured that these programs are in fact active and meetings are being held. He then asked Ms. Spruiell about future meetings.
- Ms. Falasha Spruiell confirmed that next week a meeting will be held in the Library.
- Mr. Joseph Williams invited Mr. Ted Kemp to join in the meeting. He then proceeded to ask if anyone had any more questions.

(None)

- Mr. Joseph Williams continued to his next topic of new courses which are TEA approved: Afro American and Mexican Studies. Changes to the master schedule will be made for next school year.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough questioned about the courses being semester courses?
- Mr. Joseph Williams then called Ms. Elena Silvaleal for more detailed information in reference to these courses.
- Ms. Elena Silvaleal on the phone and on speaker mode, explained that these courses are in fact semester courses. The African American and Mexican American course will be more of introductory course, scholars will learn the history and cultural contributions of African Americans and Mexican Americans to the social, economic, and political interactions throughout history. Multiple perspectives will support scholars in their journey understanding and analyzing ideas and events that contribute towards achievement, success, and progress. In the African American course, scholars will study the beginning in Africa, the birthplace of civilization and humanity and will extend to current African American studies. In the Mexican American course, study will emphasize events in the 20th and 21st centuries, but also some prior to the 20th century. Each course is designed to teach the essential knowledge and skills and uses varied sources of evidence such as speeches, landmark cases, film, novels, letters, poetry, music and art. Scholars will apply the process of historical inquiry to research and interpret those primary and secondary sources. Scholars will communicate content in written, oral, and visual presentations.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough questioned if these courses are in the district curriculum or if the school is classifying as an educational experience?
- Ms. Silvaleal replied that the curriculum was approved by TEA for implementation for the 2019-2020 school year. The HISD Social Studies department is in the current process of vetting and finalizing the scope and sequence for a year long course. Wheatley is not going to work in isolation, and we are collaborating with the curriculum department to compress the curriculum's year-long scope and sequence into a semester course. TEA has suggested resources but most exciting is the collaboration between HISD and Dr. Byrd from Rice University.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough question if they are pilot courses?

- Ms. Silvaleal responded these are not pilot courses because the intention is to grow and develop the program and other campuses have Afro and Mexi American course on their campuses. Ultimately, we want the students to have the experience to look at a topic and content in a more in-depth manner and write with a deeper understanding. We want the collaborations between HISD and the universities to continue so that students can have experiences with professors and resource material that they may not have had the opportunity to use in their other courses.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough if each of these courses are per semester or will they blend?
- Ms. Silvaleal responded that they are not a blend but rather a compressed version, highlighting eras, events, and experiences that the scholar may not have learned about in depth in previous courses. Students learn 2000 years in World history and over 150 years in U.S. History, these courses emphasize ideas and events that changed, delayed, or moved progress.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough asked if we hope for this to be a dual credit course.
- Ms. Silvaleal responded that long term that would be great, but we must start at this level and grow the program.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough questioned Mr. Joseph Williams that if the grant allows these courses to be taught?
- Mr. Joseph Williams mentioned it was separate that the grant is for after school programs and looking into implementing.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough if the courses have a PEIMS number?
- Ms. Elena Silvaleal replied yes, it is a credit course. And yes, it has a PEIMS number.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough asked if these courses will appear on the scholar's transcript with the PEIMS number and making sure that there are no gaps.
- Ms. Elena Silvaleal answered that there are no issues and it is a credit course.
- Ms. Bianca Dugas will send via email these PEIMS numbers for these courses to Dr. Youlette McCullough. These courses just became effective.
- Mr. Joseph Williams confirmed that these courses will be offered for next school year 2021-2022.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough asked if the courses eligibility by grade level or if it requires a teacher certification?
- Ms. Silvaleal responded that certification appropriate for teaching high school social studies courses, such as History, grades 7-12; grades 8-12; Social Studies, grades 7-12; or Social Studies, grades 8-12
- Dr. Youlette McCullough decided to yield at this time until more information is available.
- Mr. Joseph Williams assured that it was no problem, he wants to make sure everything is in line as it relates to the cause and will send more information. He mentioned Ms. Silvaleal is working with the curriculum department and being former TDS person helps to review and retrieve any information to be ready for next school year.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough appreciates the courtesy taken.
- Ms. Sandra Sanchez asked if more information is made available for the Mexican studies?
- Ms. Bianca Dugas replied not now.
- Mr. Joseph Williams reads the letter on the TSI tests along with community notes. Talks about the PGP for high school experience. Talks about improving the Fine Arts program by offering incentives. Pauses for more questions and answers before concluding.
- Dr. Youlette McCullough asked about the timeline in giving feedback to U of H Downtown? She will meet with others as soon as possible.

- Mr. Joseph Williams replied that he will continue to solicit input as it is planned and if feedback can be provided by February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Janice Thomas says will meet on February 5, 2020 at noon and will have another meeting on February 20, 2020 to get updates.
- Ms. Sandra Sanchez suggested to get help from U of H Downtown to teach reading. Maybe interns can come out and work with scholars who are reading not only lower level but in AP classes. Also maybe having the possibility of recruiting potential teachers.
- Mr. Joseph Williams will look into it.
- Mr. Ted Kemp expressed it was a good meeting.
- Ms. Pauline Johnson mentioned she likes the programs she sees at Wheatley. Our scholars need motivation and help in academics.
- Mr. Joseph Williams agreed and asked if any more questions? Meeting adjourned at 5:41PM.