



SHAC MEETING MINUTES

Below are the meeting minutes from the SHAC (Student Health Advisory Council) committee meeting.

Meeting Information:

The SHAC meeting took place on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 in-person and virtually at the GISD PDC (Shugart Professional Development Center).

Meeting Attendees:

Dr. Danielle Chukwumah	Board Appointed Member	In Person
Kim Thiehoff	Board Appointed Member	In Person
Teena Johnson	Community Member - Because Cullen	Virtual
Connie Pown	District Member - Bullock Elem SNS	In Person
Craig Hempel	District Member - Student Nutrition Services	In Person
Dr. Lisa Olsen	District Member - Student Services	In Person
Jonathan Armstrong	District Member - Family & Community Engagement	In Person
LeeAnn Stephenson	District Member - Health & PE / SHAC Co-Chair	In Person
Nwakaego Orij	District Member - Counseling	In Person
Renee Kotsopoulos	District Member - Health Services	Virtual
Shelley Garrett	District Member - Safety & Operations	In Person
Veronica Davis	Parent Member	In Person
Tiffany Setty	Parent Member	In Person
Sophia Green	Parent Member	In Person
Sheri Thompson	Parent Member	In Person
Samantha Bohrt	Parent Member	Virtual
Karen Shaw	Parent Member	Virtual
Jessica "JR" Chester	Parent Member - Past SHAC Co-Chair	In Person
Dr. April Givens	Parent Member	In Person



Carissa Richardson	Parent Member	In Person
Beth Harshman-Martinez	Parent Member	In Person
Leslie Blaylock	Parent Member	In Person
Laura Vayda	SHAC Co-Secretary - Health Services (non-member)	In Person
John Beltz	Guest - District	Virtual
Sabrina Jeter	Guest - District	In Person
Bob Duckworth	Guest - Community	In Person

Committee Purpose:

The TEA requires all school districts to establish a district School Health Advisory Council, TEC Chapter 28, Section 28.004. SHAC is a group of members representing segments of individuals of the Garland ISD community, district employees, and parents appointed by the Board of Trustees. The SHAC assists in addressing the physical and health needs of students in Garland ISD. The SHAC plays an important role in communicating the connection between health and learning to school administrators, parents, and community stakeholders. The SHAC assists the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's coordinated school health program. Coordinated school health focuses attention on the priority areas that include student nutrition services, health services, a healthy and safe school environment, counseling and mental health services, employee wellness, family and community engagement, physical education, and health education for the most effective way to meet the health needs of district's students.

Responsibilities:

The SHAC must hold 4 meetings each school year. A school district MUST consider the recommendations of the SHAC before changing the district's health education curriculum or instruction. The SHAC will provide a written annual report to the Board of Trustees each school year. A majority of the members must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the district and who are not employed by the district.

Agenda:

[Agenda SHAC Meeting | 4.9.2025](#)

Meeting Presentation:

[SHAC Meeting Presentation | 4.9.2025](#)

**Meeting Dates:**

Meetings for the 2024-2025 school year were scheduled as follows. Meetings will be conducted in person.

- September 11, 2024
- November 6, 2024
- February 12, 2025
- April 9, 2025

Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was **called to order** by LeeAnn Stephenson **at 12:08 p.m.**

Accessibility and HB 18 (SCOPE Act)

Presenter: Ashley Jackson, Digital Learning Coordinator

Accessibility Updates:

- Updates were shared regarding ADA Title II compliance, focusing on ensuring digital content is accessible to all users, including web-based services and tools used in classrooms.
- The Digital Learning, Web Services, and Technology departments are collaborating on the development of an **Accessibility Guidebook** for teachers, campuses, and departments to support compliance and inclusive access.

SCOPE Act – HB 18 Sec. 3 (Securing Children Online Through Parental Empowerment):

- GISD is standardizing digital tools used across all classrooms to ensure consistency and transparency.
- The initiative will allow parents to clearly see which platforms their child's data is being shared with and what digital tools are approved for use.
- Initial rollout will focus on instructional tools.

Questions & Responses:



- **PTA-purchased programs:** Currently under review; plans are being developed to ensure they also meet accessibility, safety, and data compliance standards.
- **Student internet access:** Classroom tool usage falls under the purview of Digital Learning. Broader internet access and device control are managed by the Technology Department. The question will be forwarded to them.

Note:

Mr. Bruman expressed appreciation to Ashley Jackson for her leadership in this important area.

For additional inquiries, email: digitallearning@garlandisd.net

Subcommittee Reports

Recess Guidelines Subcommittee:

- Recommends a **30-minute daily recess** as a consistent standard.
- Emphasizes the importance of protecting recess time from being revoked as a disciplinary action.
- Notes current limitations in outdoor play space and equipment.
- Plans to distribute a **district-wide survey** to gather feedback on current recess practices.
- A follow-up meeting may be scheduled to finalize recommendations.

Screen Time Subcommittee:

- Currently, GISD has **no formal policies** on screen time.
- Peer districts like Plano and Richardson are beginning to hold discussions and form guidelines.
- Recognizes the shift to digital textbooks and tools, with limited use of paper-based materials.



- Reports show high school students average **7 hours of entertainment screen time daily**.
- Suggests the need for parent and teacher education on screen time.
- Plans to review local and national data before developing formal recommendations.

Discussion Points:

- **Paper vs. digital materials:** Curriculum teams are open to hybrid approaches, though some publishers only provide digital options or offer them at lower cost.
- **Current GISD screen time data:** Not available yet. It varies based on student age, course load, and digital tools used. Digital Learning will be consulted for potential data sources.

Mr. Bruman encouraged the subcommittee to determine appropriate screen time percentages for instructional use.

Membership Update

- SHAC currently has **31 members**.
- Of the six Board-appointed positions, four accepted, and two declined due to scheduling conflicts.
- A request has been submitted to the Board to appoint one additional member to maintain compliance with **TEA membership requirements**.

LeeAnn presented updated membership data via a slide presentation.

Department Updates

Counseling Services – Nwakaego Orij



- **Aspiring Counselors Event:** Scheduled for April 10, 2025, from 4–6 p.m. at the Harris Hill Administration Building.
- **EverFi Platform:** Used in PE and Health classes as an alternative to human sexuality curriculum; plans to expand into financial literacy education.
- **Mental Health Convening:** Successful collaborative event between GISD, law enforcement, and community organizations.
- **SEL School of Excellence Awards:** Schools can apply for Bronze, Silver, or Gold levels by showcasing SEL practices. Community volunteers are needed to help **score applications** (due April 25; scoring through mid-May).
- **April – Child Abuse Prevention Month:** Resources were shared with campuses.
- **College Registration Rallies:** In partnership with UTA and Dallas Colleges to help students avoid “summer melt.” Transportation and counselor support provided.
- **Panorama Survey:** Launching soon to assess student self-awareness and campus connectedness.
- **Recognition:** South Garland High School had the highest percentage of submitted college applications!

Employee Wellness

- No updates.

Student Nutrition – Craig Hempel

- **Menu Advisory Committee:** Will meet April 28 at 5 p.m. (Padgett Building); families are invited to attend and sample meals.
- **School Lunch Hero Day:** Postcards were sent to schools so students can express appreciation to nutrition staff.
- **Nutrition Goals:** Ongoing efforts to reduce added sugars and sodium; 90% of food will soon be sourced domestically.



- **Legislative Updates:** Proposed bills may impact future school meal offerings, but current GISSD foods do not include proposed banned dyes.

Student Services – Dr. Lisa Olsen

- **Events:**
 - Pre-K Explore
 - McKinney-Vento Community Event (April 15)
- Tier 1 Behavior Training continues.
- **Safe and Supportive Schools Program:** Final meeting held.
- **BTA Audits:** Ongoing.
- **Mentoring & Vaping Education:** Support programs continue for students.

Family & Community Engagement

- **Grandparent Focus Groups:** Scheduled for April 28–29 at Schrade and one additional location.
- **PEAK (Parent Engagement Academic Knowledge):** Focuses on 4th–5th grade literacy, currently at MD Williams, expanding to 5 more campuses next year.
 - **Volunteer Opportunities Available**
 - Clarification needed regarding outreach to existing district volunteer applicants.

Health & Physical Education – LeeAnn Stephenson

- **FitnessGram District Submission Deadline:** June 13, 2025.
- **Parent Access:** Families can request their student's fitness results from their PE teacher.



Health Services – Renee Kotsopoulos

- **Vision Clinics:** Lions Club provided glasses.
- **Enrollment:** Preparation underway for 2025–2026.
- **Measles:** GISD has high vaccine coverage and is closely monitoring any updates in collaboration with the local health department.

Healthy & Safe Schools – Dr. Shelley Garrett

- **Safety Updates:**
 - TEA agents conducted a **vulnerability assessment** and GISD received strong results.
 - The Safety Committee will review and present findings to the Board before making them public.

Community Partner Updates

Because Cullen – Teena Johnson

- Collaboration with DCHHS and criminal justice system to support continuity of care for individuals post-incarceration.

Hope's Door – Amy Sausamed

- No updates.

Healthy Futures of Texas – Jessica Chester

- **Annual Symposium:** April 28–29 in Dallas; 20% discount available by email; scholarships also offered. Topics include adolescent and women's health.



Additional Information

- **SHAC Membership Applications for 2025–2026:** Open April–June. New members will begin in July.
- **Annual SHAC Report:** Will be emailed to members for review and a **virtual vote**. Report to be presented to the Board in July or August.
- **School Health Survey:** Required by TEA and due May 30, 2025. SHAC Co-Chairs and key departments will collaborate on completion.

Meeting Adjourned:

Time: 1:23 p.m.

Note: This was the final SHAC meeting for the 2024–2025 school year.

Meeting Recording: [SHAC Meeting Recording #4 - 4.9.2025](#)



SHAC Members:

1.	Brenda Monk	Board Appointed Member
2.	Dr. Danielle Chukwumah	Board Appointed Member
3.	Kim Thiehoff	Board Appointed Member
4.	Virginia Pollard	Board Appointed Member
5.	Amy Sausamede	Community Member - Hope's Door
6.	Teena Johnson	Community Member - Because Cullen
7.	Connie Pown	District Member - Bullock Elementary SNS
8.	Craig Hempel	District Member - Student Nutrition Services
9.	Dr. Lisa Olsen	District Member - Student Services / SHAC Secretary
10.	Jonathan Armstrong	District Member - Family & Community Engagement
11.	LeeAnn Stephenson	District Member - Health & PE / SHAC Co-Chair
12.	Nwakaego Oriji	District Member - Counseling
13.	Renee Kotsopoulos	District Member - Health Services
14.	Shelley Garrett	District Member - Safety & Operations
15.	Beth Harshman-Martinez	Parent Member
16.	Brittney Gillyard	Parent Member
17.	Carissa Richardson	Parent Member
18.	Dr. April Givens	Parent Member
19.	Esther Galvan	Parent Member
20.	Gwen Way	Parent Member
21.	Jessica "JR" Chester	Parent Member - Past SHAC Co-Chair
22.	Karen Gonzalez	Parent Member
23.	Karyn Shaw	Parent Member
24.	Liz Kiertscher	Parent Member
25.	Samantha Bohrt	Parent Member



26.	Sheri Thompson	Parent Member
27.	Sophia Green	Parent Member
28.	Tiffany Setty	Parent Member
29.	Veronica Davis	SHAC Co-Chair / Parent Member
30.	Leslie Blaylock	Parent Member
31.	Ashley McDonnell	Parent Member