

Edgar Allan Poe Elementary
SDMC Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2023

Members present were: Jeff Amerson, Jenny Meadows, Madeeha Sheikh, Alyssa Lopez, Marilena Marroquin, Lydia Vargas, Elizabeth Finch, Shannan Taggart, Wendy Ulrich, Bianca Alvarez

Non-members present: Donald Sheehy

1. New business
 - a. Safety
 - b. Review of Code of Conduct and the Poe Faculty Handbook for discipline

The Shared Decision committee discussed recent discipline issues at campus. Mr. Amerson provided the committee with copies of the HISD Code of Student Conduct and the Discipline Plan found in the Poe Faculty Handbook. He explained that too often, incidents involving students do not always align with what is listed in the HISD Code of Conduct; he said he feels it is geared more toward secondary schools. Amerson explained that years ago, Poe teachers and administration made a list of the most frequent infractions that occur at Poe and then decide if each was a Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 offense.

After recent events, Amerson is questioning if current consequences are enough to change the behavior of students and asked the committee to review the current plan and its alignment with the HISD Code of Conduct. The intention of all consequences is to change behaviors in a positive manner.

In the current version, there are qualifying factors to name calling because the HISD Code of Conduct asks we always look at the intention behind actions. Some instances of name calling were listed as Level I behaviors reserving the more egregious name calling (ie. slurs based on race, body size, sexual identity) for Level III. After discussion, all name calling intended to cause emotional harm will now be treated as Level III.

Members attending the meeting said the meeting was very informative and they have a better understanding of the HISD Code of Conduct and consequences. Mr. Amerson stated he will be a school level representative at the district's Code of Conduct review later in the school year.