

## Phillis Wheatley High School

### SDMC Meeting- October 14, 2021

#### Minutes

Meeting commenced at 5:15 P.M.

Mr. Williams provided updates on important calendar dates, including FAFSA financial aid deadline for seniors, celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, Homecoming Activities, Bully Prevention Week, HISD's Parent University, and Red Ribbon Week. He also shared celebrations including the G-Unity Business Lab Kickoff with Mr. Curtis Jackson aka 50 cent. He also shared that 70% of our seniors have applied for college thus far and the following organizations have been started: Student Government, Gaming Club, New Environmental Club. He also spoke to PSAT Testing and free 6-week SAT Test Prep course starting October 23, 2021. *(photos were shared of some of these activities)* He then proceeded to discuss the attendance rates of our grade levels and our goal for the year: YTD rates- 9<sup>th</sup> grade- 87.3%, 10<sup>th</sup> grade- 86.5%, 11<sup>th</sup> grade-88.5%, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade- 89.2%. School average: 87.7% Goal 90%. He shared with SDMC Members of important attendance reminders of school starting at 8:25 a.m., scholars receive a progress or report card every 3 weeks reporting attendance, and they have ability to recover credits for NG's starting October 25, 2021. At this point he solicited ideas of how we can improve our attendance rate. SDMC Members shared the following ideas:

- Providing some type of incentive to motivate scholars to come to school. Fun activity each month of you meet attendance goal. (or other incentives, lunch, tangible items, etc.)
- Conducting home visits to our scholars with chronic absences. It was asked about a truancy officer which Mr. Williams shared that we do have one and will utilize her services to support us with home visits.
- Comment was made about paid internships or co-op programs since some of our scholars may be missing school due to work. May motivate scholars to be present daily with an alternative schedule.
- It was also suggested to make calls home to parents as some parents may think that their child is at school, but they may not be. Mr. Williams did share clerks all calling home daily, but will solicit help of teachers in this effort also.

After the discussion of attendance. He opened up the floor to other comments, suggestions, questions from the SDMC Committee. Question was asked about the update of Covid-19 protocols. Mr. Williams shared that masks are still being worn and we are limiting the number of assemblies still, however the district continues to look at the threat level in the county and will continue to assess/reassess if masks will still need to be worn and we can lift some of the other restrictions regarding assemblies. There were no other comments made and thus he reminded SDMC Committee Members to stay informed and abreast of all that is going on at Phillis Wheatley via social media platforms of Twitter and Instagram.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 P.M.