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FROM THE OFFICE OF JAMES COLBERT, JR.—SUPERINTENDENT

Of Note...

It's been a great week at HCDE. I began the week with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team, followed by IMPACT training—a meeting of Harris County ISD board members and leaders. The meeting was productive and is always a resourceful outlet for leaders in public education.

The budget workshop for the board was held Tuesday. It was informative and served as a great resource as you move forward in preparation to approve the budget for FY2018-2019. Thanks to those of you who were able to attend.

Yesterday, the Center for Safe and Secure Schools hosted a very well-attended workshop centered around Restorative Justice and alternative disciplinary practices. Over 200 educators and law enforcement officials were in attendance. Considering the recent, horrific events on school campuses, the overall focus was on student safety planning and the sharing of ideas to that end. There were keynote speakers and breakout sessions on topics ranging from active shooter training, suicide prevention, student mental health, drug prevention and violence, social media monitoring, and cybersecurity. The event garnered significant media attention from various news entities including a story featured on Channel 39. I am pleased with the great strides HCDE is making as a leader in helping to keep Harris County schools safe and secure.

Today, I conducted agenda review in preparation for this month's regularly-scheduled Board Meeting. The next meeting of the board is Wednesday, June 20, 2018.

Please be reminded that the Department began the summer flex schedule this week; thus, we will be closed tomorrow. Our summer hours are 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

This week in teaching and learning, HCDE hosted the following trainings and workshops, in addition to the aforementioned: TExES ESL Supplemental Exam (#154) 2-Day Test Prep; Alternative Certification Program for Teachers-Information Session; and Texas History Beyond the Textbook. HCDE remains vigilant in its mission to train Harris County leaders in education.

Looking ahead into next week, I will begin the week with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team, as well as a meeting with Trustee Lee Carter regarding an overview of next year's budget.

On Tuesday, HCDE is hosting Capturing Kids' Hearts, and I will provide the welcome to the workshop attendees for this popular session for K-12 educators. I will also attend the Spring ISD Groundbreaking Ceremony for Roberson Middle School.

I will convene a meeting of the Leadership Team Wednesday morning, as part of our regularly meeting schedule, and I will also meet with Board Candidate Richard Cantu.

Thursday, I will close out the week with my regularly standing meetings with HCDE staff.

I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector** and I hope you have a relaxing weekend. Thanks for your service to HCDE.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

- Board Meeting

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Principal Academy Candidates Present Research Projects to HCDE Leaders



Fourteen Principal Academy candidates enrolled in Educator Certification and Professional Advancement's year-long principal training program presented their research projects June 1 to a host of education leaders.

The exhibit-style projects featured table-top presentations as candidates

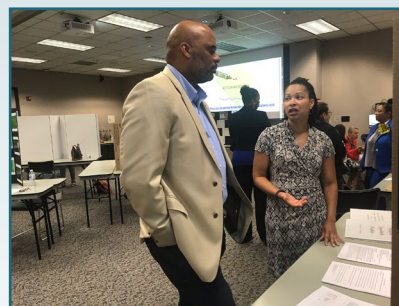
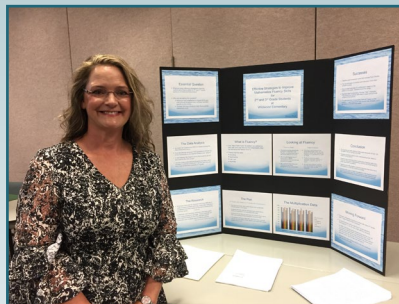
explained their projects and how those projects will further their careers as principals.

"This was a culminating event for each of the candidates who have spent the past 10 months in the principal program," said Chaney Ledet, officer for the division.

Topics presented by the principal candidates included the following: how to decrease tardies, effective tools and strategies to shape positive behavior in the classroom, implementing English language learner strategies to increase reading STAAR scores, effective strategies to improve math fluency skills for second- and third-grade students, and increasing college readiness for students in English, language arts and reading.

"Superintendent James Colbert came by to congratulate and interface with students and asked about how their projects would be used to help their schools," said Chaney. "Assistant Superintendent Jonathan Parker provided follow up questions about what each candidate learned from his or her research project."

Principal academy classes prepare candidates to become principals, with test-prep boot camps held on Saturdays in person, supported by a virtual component. Each cohort is small, with veteran educator leaders who assist student candidates prepare to become principals. For more information about the cohort beginning in September, call 713-696-2155, email hcdeacp@hcde-texas.org. Follow the program on Twitter: @HCDEleadnow .



ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

JUNE 4, 2018

TEXES ESL Supplemental Exam (#154) 2-Day Test Prep

JUNE 5, 2018

Alternative Certification Program for Teachers - Information Session

Texas History Beyond the Textbook

JUNE 6, 2018

School Safety Institute



Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Student Bryan McKinney Finds Confidence Through Head Start Program



Humble ISD junior Bryan McKinney is a confident, dedicated student who skillfully balances academics, extracurricular activities and his love for music. Mother Desiree Gautier attributes her son's motivation in part to the skills and confidence he gained while in the Head Start program.

Gautier noticed her son thrive after he was enrolled at the JD Walker Head Start Center in 2003. In addition to McKinney's new-found independence at a young age, Gautier remembers he entered kindergarten more advanced than his peers and immediately started in the Gifted and Talented program.

"The Head Start program is not a daycare," said Gautier. "It's an educational program that prepares young children for their future and helps build their self-confidence and self-motivation."

In addition to providing children with academic and socialization skills they need before entering elementary school, Head Start also works with families to provide additional financial, health, nutritional and parenting resources, which was valuable to Gautier.

While McKinney attended Head Start, Gautier was encouraged to get involved in the Policy Council. While her son was gaining confidence in the classroom,

Gautier found her confidence as a parent volunteer and leader. She led the group as president, honed her public speaking skills and received three job promotions after her experience on the council.

"The support I received from Head Start when I was having a difficult time helped form the foundation for the hard-working, dedicated student that Bryan is today," said Gautier.



McKinney currently fulfills his passion for music through the Humble High School Band, Symphony, and Jazz Band, and is part of the Category 5 and Caliente ensembles outside of school. The well-rounded 16-year-old also excels academically and is involved in AVID club, Key Club and is a Top Teen of America member.

While Gautier is proud of her son's academic and musical accomplishments, she is most proud of the hard-working role model he has become for others.

"He is passionate, kind and is a good friend to his peers," said Gautier. "He also sets an example for his younger brother and encourages everyone in the house to do their part as a family."

McKinney hopes to attend college in the future to study business and minor in music. Although he knows there will be challenges ahead, the dedicated student enjoys working hard to secure his future.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Humanities Texas Grant Awarded to HCDE Teaching and Learning Center



HCDE's Teaching and Learning Center recently received a \$2,500 grant to implement a Teachers, WRITE workshop through Humanities Texas.

English/Language Arts Curriculum Director Kelly Tummy and Center for Grants Development Specialist Vida L. Avery

worked together to submit and revise the grant proposal.

In partnership with Writers in the Schools-Houston, this two-day workshop will immerse English/Language Arts teachers of all grade levels in the craft of writing. Teachers will leave with a portfolio of work ready to share with others and the skills to support students in all genres of writing.

In the News: Teaching and Learning Center and Center for Safe and Secure Schools

Several HCDE employees are featured in school security articles this week.

Teaching and Learning Center's David McGearly provided an interview with Houston Public Media which aired June 4. View the online segment:

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2018/06/04/289043/how-texas-could-monitor-students-social-media-posts-more-closely/>



Campus Safety Magazine and the Stephenville Empire-Tribune mentioned the Center for Safe and Secure Schools and Ecomet Burley's Restorative Practices training at Spring ISD in these news features:

<https://www.campussafetymagazine.com/safety/texas-schools-restorative-justice/>

<http://www.yourstephenvilletx.com/news/20180529/school-safety-twice-week-these-texas-students-circle-up-and-talk-about-their-feelings>



HCDE Adult Education Partners with Houston Food Bank to Support Students in Pasadena



HCDE's Adult Education division recently renewed their partnership with Houston Food Bank for the upcoming program year. In its third year, this partnership provides food vouchers to students at three Pasadena Adult Education sites as an incentive for being dedicated students. Students obtain food vouchers based on class attendance and redeem them at one of Houston Food Bank's nearby food pantry locations in Pasadena.

Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Student Safety and Discipline Institute June 6 Provides Venue for Educators, School Officers to Plan, Share Ideas for School Safety



School safety planning attracted more than 200 educators and law enforcement officials as the Center for

Safe and Secure Schools hosted the Student Safety and Discipline Institute on June 6 at Harris County Department of Education, 6300 Irvington, Houston, Texas.

and security, Galena Park ISD; and Ecomet Burley, director of the Center for Safe and Secure Schools. “Harris County Department of Education’s Center for Safe and Secure Schools continues to evolve and seek innovative ways to support school districts’ efforts to maintain safe and secure learning environments,” said Ecomet Burley, director for the Center for Safe and Secure Schools.

Currently the Center for Safe and Secure Schools focuses on four areas of services: school culture and climate, emergency management planning, safe schools plans and facility audits, and member benefits.

The center’s newest service area called Restorative Discipline Practices provides alternative discipline methods versus the traditional, exclusionary or punitive systems. Restorative practices works to promote positive school climates and is part of the social-emotional learning movement. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, and feel and show empathy for others.

For more information about the Center for Safe and Secure Schools and its upcoming events, following the center’s Facebook page: @HCDECSSS .

Safe and Secure Schools hosted the Student Safety and Discipline Institute on June 6 at Harris County Department of Education, 6300 Irvington, Houston, Texas.

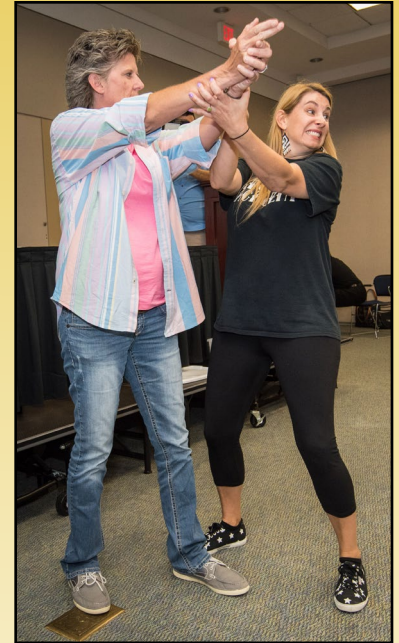
Keynote and breakout sessions tackled topics such as active shooter training, suicide prevention, student mental health, drug prevention and violence, cybersecurity and social media monitoring and school safety. The free event featured Gaye Lange, director for Restorative Practices for the Texas Education Agency; Sasha McLean, executive director of Archway Academy, a recovery school; and Eloise Sepeda, a Restorative Justice trainer.

A panel discussion provided opportunity for information sharing as Yates High School student Zachary Stewart moderated a discussion between superintendents and school law enforcement leaders, including retired police chief Alan Bragg; LaTonya Goffney, Aldine ISD superintendent; H.D. Chambers, Alief ISD superintendent; Victor Mitchell, police chief at Spring ISD; Brian Allen, director of safety

Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Student Safety and Discipline Institute June 6 Provides Venue for Educators, School Officers to Plan, Share Ideas for School Safety



Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Harris County Department of Education Head Start Hosts Job Interview Fair June 14



Harris County Department of Education is hosting a job interview fair to recruit teachers, teaching assistants, family service providers and other staff members to join any of its 15 locations throughout northeast Harris County. The recruitment event will be held Thursday, June 14, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 6300 Irvington Blvd.

Qualifications for Head Start Teaching Assistant, Early Head Start Teacher and Head Start Teacher include experience working with young children and an interest in early childhood education. Those who hold child development associate (CDA) degrees are strongly encouraged to apply. Interested candidates may call 713-696-2177 or email HSeducation@hcde-texas.org.

HCDE Head Start provides services to facilities in Barrett Station, Baytown, Channelview, Compton, Coolwood, Dogan, Fifth Ward, Fonwood, Humble, J.D. Walker, La Porte, Pugh, San Jacinto, Sheffield and Tidwell. Head Start ensures future success for students both academically and socially and provides comprehensive health, education, nutrition and financials services to the families.

Find more information on positions available and qualifications. Visit www.hcde-texas.org/HeadStart for general information about HCDE Head Start and locations.

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Community Relations

In keeping with the Board's expectations of me to

- Ensure that appropriate staff development is available and monitor staff development for effectiveness;
- Stay abreast of developments in educational leadership and administration; and
- Work with other community and governmental entities and educational organizations to meet the needs of students and the community in a coordinated way



Yesterday, HCDE's Center for Safe and Secure Schools hosted the Student Safety and Discipline Institute, providing the venue for educators and school officers to plan and share ideas for school safety. More than 200 educators and law enforcement officials attended this powerful and informative workshop.

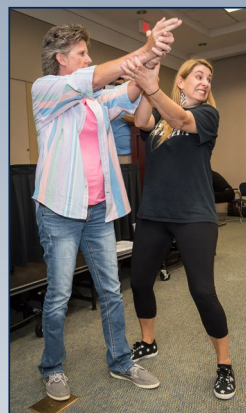
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Currently, the Center for Safe and Secure Schools focuses on four areas of services:



school culture and climate, emergency management planning, safe schools plans and facility audits, and member benefits.

The current focus on restorative justice is essential in today's climate and I am excited about the benefits that educators and students alike will reap as a result of this education and discipline model in public education.



By ensuring that HCDE continues to offer these kinds of opportunities to the community for the safety betterment of education environments, I am working to meet the expectations of the board to identify the needs of students and develop a process that helps to ensure that campuses are safe and secure—in an effort to meet or exceed student performance, and to investigate best practices for student achievement. It further allows us to ensure that we utilize effective practices that maximize achievement of student potential. Further, it affords HCDE positive visibility and involvement in the community through leadership representation at such events.

HCDE BOARD

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

- Board Meeting

