



## Of Note...

It's been a productive week at HCDE. This past Monday, however, the Department was closed in observance of the Labor Day holiday. We resumed normal operations on all of our campuses and locations on Tuesday.

As we enter the second week of our academic year, I am pleased to report that our operations are running smoothly and that our school and center settings are conducive for teaching and learning.

I conducted our regularly-scheduled Leadership Team on Tuesday. It was very well-attended, and all of our most recently-hired members of the management team were in attendance. As always, the meeting served as an ideal brain share platform with the end goal of all discussions being to advance the Department. We will continue to achieve our mission in advancing education for learners of all ages throughout Harris County. All of our systems are in full calibration, and running like a well-oiled machine.

This past Wednesday, we held the Board Budget Workshop as well as a Special Call Board Meeting. Thank you to all who attended. I am hopeful that you found the budget workshop informative as you move towards voting on the effective tax rate. As always, I appreciate your service to HCDE.

Yesterday, I conducted Agenda Review in preparation for the regularly-scheduled September Board Meeting to be held Wednesday, September 19.

Also, yesterday, I made site visits to the following three campuses and one Head Start center: Academic and Behavior West, Academic and Behavior East, Highpoint East, and the Tidwell Head Start location. I found all of the academic settings to be ideal for our students to flourish and succeed as we help them set goals to reach their full potential. I am always excited to visit our campuses and experience the energy of our students, faculty, and staff. Our campuses and Head Start centers are, indeed, safe places for students to learn, grow, and succeed.

Looking ahead into next week, I will begin the week with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team, followed by an IMPACT session. As you know, IMPACT is comprised of education executives and board members across Harris County who collaborate as a think tank to improve public education in the greater Harris County area. I look forward to us resuming these sessions now that summer is over.

I will attend the annual State of the County luncheon next Thursday at NRG. This event provides an excellent platform to network with, not only education leaders, but also with public officials and public servants, to further HCDE's presence and visibility in the community. I will end the week with a trip to Fortis Academy, as well as with my regularly-scheduled meetings with staff.

In closing, I hope you enjoy this second issue of Volume 4, of **The Connector**. Have a relaxing weekend.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**September Board Meeting—Wednesday, September 19, 2018**



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2018

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# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### Danielle Clark Appointed Chief Communications Officer at Harris County Department of Education



Strategic communicator Danielle Clark has been appointed chief communications officer for Harris County Department of Education. In her new position, Clark will lead communications, client engagement and technology planning and implementation.

Clark most recently served as executive director of communications for the Poudre School District in Fort Collins, Co. She is an accredited public relations (APR) professional with 19 years in urban, suburban and rural county educational settings. In her current county role as chief communicator, she looks forward to continued success in building community relations with school districts and Harris County residents who look to HCDE for education services.

A recognized and award-winning school public relations leader, Clark held leadership roles in three National School Public Relations Association state chapters and was named one of four top front-runners in the country in 2017.

The Klein resident earned a Bachelor of Arts in broadcast journalism from the University of Southern California and worked in television and newspaper markets in California before pursuing a career in school public relations. She completed master's degree coursework in education at the University of Tennessee.

Clark and her husband have two daughters attending Klein public schools. She volunteers through organizations which include the American Heart Association, the March of Dimes and Go Public Gulf Coast, an education group which promotes area public schools.

### ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

#### SEPTEMBER 3 2018

Get Google Good: Get Google Certified - 10 Part Google Training Series - Online Training

Outer Edges Online - Authoring with Google

Online Instructor's Training - Part III

#### SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

Alternative Certification Program for Teachers - Information Session

Public Funds Investment Training

#### SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

Get Google Good: Get Google Certified - 10 Part Google Training Series - Face to Face Training

Basics and Outer Edges - Authoring with Google

#### SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

Collaborative Leadership: Six Influences that Matter Most

# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### Active Shooter Response Helps Districts Create Action Plan



Safety response plans can help school districts with action-based responses when a crisis hits a campus. Veteran law enforcement officer John Biser joins Harris County Department of Education's Center for Safe and Secure Schools on Sept. 13 from

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at 6300 Irvington Blvd. to introduce easy-to-understand school safety response plans.

Biser, with 18 years of experience, is detective sergeant who supervises investigations, lie detector exams, computer networks, criminal intelligence databases and security video services. He works with the FBI, DEA, Secret Services and the Bureaus of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and has presented for Threat Assessment Consultants for six years.

"By using basic knowledge and consistent communication, campuses can increase success in reducing damage during a critical incident," said Center for Safe and Secure Schools Director Ecomet Burley.

Biser shares "Standard Response Protocol" for terminology along with "Standard Reunification Method," proven methods for planning, practicing and achieving successful reunification with students and their parents.

To register for the training, go to [www.hcde-texas.org/register](http://www.hcde-texas.org/register) and enter workshop number 12200. Cost for the training is \$59, and parking is free.

View the workshop flier:

<http://www.hcde-texas.org/media/5453/active-shooter-response-flyer-2018-3-00c.pdf>

### DeWitt Presents Collaborative Leadership to Area School Administrators



School administrators from around the area recently attended the National Visible Learning Leadership Speaker Series featuring Peter DeWitt at Harris County Department of Education.

DeWitt, a former Upstate New York school principal and Vanguard Magazine freelance writer, unpacked six leadership factors in "Collaborative Leadership," all framed through the lens of renowned education researcher John Hattie. By adding insight, practical experiences and vignettes, DeWitt painted a powerful

scheme: Meet stakeholders where they are, motivate stakeholders to strive for improvement and model how to do it. The meet, motivate, model blueprint inspired participants to: transform leadership practices, identify immediate changes, build and empower leadership teams and incorporate all stake holders into the conversation.



Attendees left the Sept. 7 Collaborative Leadership session motivated to shape collective teacher efficacy and foster teacher voice.

# Opportunity

## CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

Scenes from School Year Kickoff Campus Visits 2018-2019



# Opportunity

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### Whataburger Supports HCDE Head Start Reading Program



Whataburger is providing support for the Harris County Department of Education Head Start SuperMENTors by donating 1,000 coupons, pencil packs and a Whataburger raffle basket to the program.

The program recruits male role models to read once a month in one of 15 Head Start centers in northeast Houston. The program is built on four principles: Reading is fun. Joint reading positively impacts a child learning to read. Literacy knowledge and skills lay the foundation for reading and writing. Community engagement matters.

“No experience is necessary with our SuperMENTors reading program,” said Venetia Peacock, HCDE Head Start senior director. “Our children benefit greatly when male role models read, and it helps our students develop a love of reading and literacy,” she said.

Volunteers may come from all professions—from fathers to businessmen to educators to tradesmen. To become a SuperMENTor volunteer, call (713) 696-2179 or email [arodriguez@hcde-texas.org](mailto:arodriguez@hcde-texas.org).



### Fortis Featured in Campus Safety Magazine

Campus Safety featured Fortis Academy in an online news article this week. View the news brief through the following link:

<https://www.campussafetymagazine.com/safety/harris-countys-recovery-school/>

# Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

## Instructional Management

To meet the Board's expectations of me as it relates to this element of performance to

- Establish effective mechanisms for communication to and from staff in instructional evaluation, planning, and decision making;
- Oversee annual training for increased student learning and conduct periodic assessments of the effectiveness of the planning process;
- Ensure that goals and objectives form the basis of curricular decision making and instruction, and communicate expectations for student achievement;
- Ensure that appropriate data are used in developing recommendations and making decisions regarding the instructional program and resources; and
- Establish a system for regular evaluation of instructional programs to meet student instructional needs and to attain desired student achievement.



I always find it rewarding to make site visits to our various locations. It is important to me to maintain a pulse of the faculty, administration, and staff at all of our locations. I am always curious to observe our students' responses to classroom stimulation as well as their desire to learn.

I am pleased to report that all operations were running by procedure and all locations exemplified the makings for successful environments that facilitate effective teaching and learning.

**By remaining engaged in the instructional management process, I am working to meet your goal of me to: in coordination with the home ISD, identify the learning needs of the students and develop a process that ensures that each student's learning goals are met or exceeded; ensure feedback processes are implemented to communicate effectively with the home ISD and parents; and finally, investigate best practices for student achievement of student potential within HCDE schools.**



Yesterday, I visited the following HCDE schools and one Head Start location:

- Academic and Behavior Center East
- Academic and Behavior Center West
- Highpoint East
- Tidwell Head Start

## HCDE BOARD

### Board President

Louis Evans, III

*Position 4, Precinct 3*

### Vice President

Eric Dick

*Position 2, Precinct 4*

Erica Lee Carter

*Position 6, Precinct 1*

George Moore

*Position 1, Precinct 2*

Don Summers

*Position 7, At Large*

Diane Trautman

*Position 3, At Large*

Michael Wolfe

*Position 5, At Large*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**September Board Meeting**

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

