Aledo ISD SHAC meeting – November 5, 2018

I. Introduction of members ~ Meeting started at 5:33pm, 33 members were present. Introductions of members were made.

II. Public Comment ~ No one was present for public comment.

III. Future meeting dates / times ~ Future meeting dates of January 28, March 18, April 29 were confirmed

IV. Minutes from October 1 meeting ~ Minutes from previous meeting were distributed and reviewed; members were asked if there were any changes, questions or comments about the minutes. Nothing was amended and minutes from October 1 meeting will posted to website.

V. Bylaws ~ Changes to bylaws were reviewed based on recommendations from last meeting; changes were reflected in green at the bottom of the minutes. No questions or corrections were made and updated bylaws are posted to website.

VI. Sandy Hook Promise ~ Review of new program: This program was first sent to Scott Kessel by Dr. Bohn to visit with representatives of the programs and learn more about what they offer for schools. The position of this program and their stance on gun control was covered initially; there is no agenda with this group related to gun control. The mission of Sandy Hook Promise is about preventing gun violence and not about gun control. Two short videos were shared about the Sandy Hook Promise
program. Primary elements of the program are related to prevention and recognizing the signs a potential active shooter may give.

There are 4 components to the Sandy Hook Promise program and schools can adopt any or all of the options to implement. Those components are called their Know The Signs programs, and they are:

- Start With Hello
- Say Something
- SOS: Signs of Suicide
- Safety Assessment & Intervention

Most of the cost for each is covered by the Sandy Hook Promise organization; Each Know the Signs program was reviewed and discussed, including a summary of the program, the intended audience of the program and the cost to the district; It was mentioned that Aledo ISD currently has systems in place for 3 of the 4 Know the Signs programs, including 1.) a TIP line and bullying reporting form online, similar to the Say Something option, 2.) a program called LifeLines Suicide Prevention, similar to SOS: Signs of Suicide, and 3.) a Threat Assessment Team, similar to the Safety Assessment & Intervention.

Scott Kessel asked for SHAC to consider looking at all options of the Know the Signs programs, with special consideration given to the Start With Hello program which is designed to teach kids to be more socially inclusive and connected with each other. Kelly O’Donald asked why we would replace the Cultural Inclusiveness Plan we already have. Scott Kessel replied that we could use both programs and that we can’t share these messages of inclusiveness with students enough. Kelly O’Donald added that it seems like a lot of man hours to teach the same thing over and over, taking up more and more teachers time. Callie Caldwell stated new students to Aledo ISD sometimes struggle to fit in and things like Start with Hello can’t be done enough. It’s a one-time 50 minute lesson and this could be covered in the counseling sessions. This will align with the counselor lessons, inclusiveness is always an issue. Debbie Henrietta stated that this would be a break in the academics. Jenni Meador said it is hard to fit all this in the lesson plans. But it seems redundant and we are cramming it in and it needs to be meaningful. Scott Kessel stated the Start With Hello lesson wouldn’t be additional to Health courses, but introduced separately. If we adopt this program we won’t have to implement all parts at this time since we have some programs that are similar. The role teachers have in the Cultural Inclusiveness Plan is to cover those concepts in the normal teaching of the TEKS in the Health and Social Studies content. Same for counselors and the guidance lessons they deliver. The introduction of Start With Hello would not take time away from what teachers are doing now nor add to
their current load. This would be just 50 minutes for the Start with Hello portion of the program. Laura Satterfield stated that we should start programs like Start With Hello with younger-aged students and the sooner the better. Jennifer Cheak stated if it helps one student it is worth the time. Janelle Mosiello added her family has moved a lot, and her kids are always the new ones and she wants a school where this the idea of inclusiveness is not a one time thing but part of the culture of the school. She added she liked this program but would want it to be the culture of AISD. Scott Kessel talked about inclusiveness and common thought processes.

Caitlin Zimmerman, student at AHS, talked about involving the high school students and not just watching a video. Scott Kessel shared there is a club associated with Sandy Hook Promise that is called SAVE the Promise (where SAVE stands for Students Against Violence Everywhere). The student-based group is not part of the what the SHAC would be approving but another concept we could implement. Jo Tilley talked about their family being new at high school and how her children struggled. Jenni Meador said we need something to do with 10-12 graders. Their come to her room to eat lunch because they don’t have friends. Caitlin Zimmerman said there is a club for new kids at high school but it only lasts 3 weeks but has no follow through.

Father Jay asked if we would do the digital download or face to face format with Start With Hello. Scott Kessel stated this is a 50 minute lesson that would be a digital download delivered by AISD employees, and that the concept would carry on throughout the year. Scott stated again that this message is about preventing school violence. We make our schools safer by being inclusive and treating each other kindly.

Scott Kessel talked about the development of the district Cultural Inclusiveness Plan and that the implementation of it started this fall. The intent of that plan is to understand myself and treating others as I would want to be treated. The difference when compared to the inclusiveness in the Sandy Hook Promise programs, is that Start With Hello is more about being inclusive of others that do not feel connected or included with anyone at the school.

Aledo ISD currently has 3 systems for student to report things: Crime Stoppers (for criminal activity), Bullying Report (for reporting bullying), and the newly created Tip Line to report anything else. Scott Kessel asked the group if this was something we want to consider and vote on tonight or wait and talk again in January.
Barbara Russell said this is extremely important. Jenni Meader said we should take a vote. Scott asked everyone to use their voting guide and vote. Vote was taken and Sandy Hook Promise *Know the Signs* programs were approved 21-1. Scott will follow-up with Dr. Bohn and see what she thinks implementation should look like in AISD.

VII. **Positive Action** ~Review of new program – looking to approve specifically for 8th grade. Too Good For Drugs (TGFD) is a 10-lesson drug awareness and prevention program currently offered to 6th, 7th and 9th grades. TGFD is already SHAC-approved and is really about making positive life choices. Facilitators teach the lessons from the Weatherford satellite office of the Serenity House Treatment Center. The 7th grade and 8th grade TGFD curriculum is very similar, so the program Positive Action is being proposed as a substitute for the TGFD in 8th grade. Scott Kessel reviewed letter from U.S. Department of Education supporting the effectiveness of the Positive Action program. This will be taught in PE for 8th graders (TGFD will be taught in PE for 7th graders). In high school we will offer it in the Health curriculum. Callie Caldwell asked if 7th/8th graders in athletics missed the program. Scott Kessel said yes, they will miss the presentation of this specific information. Mandy Musselswhite mentioned how athletes receive similar information in athletics. The need for a trained facilitator limits the implementation to others outside PE classes. The class is offered in 9 sessions and includes a total of 22 lessons. Caitlin Zimmerman, AHS student, stated that the program needs to be implemented with all students in middle school. She stated it would be more effective on how to avoid peer pressure and say no to drugs. Scott Kessel asked everyone to use their voting guide and vote. Vote was taken and Positive Action was approved 22-0.

VIII. **Adjournment** ~Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm