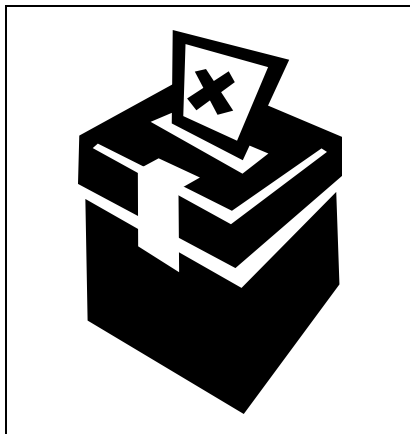


The Dispatch

A special report for the SAISD Police Department by the San Antonio Alliance of Teachers and Support Personnel

April 30, 2010



Representative Elections in May

It's that time of the year again to elect next years Alliance Representatives (AR's). While it seems that this year has just zoomed by us at lightning speed your two elected AR's have been trying to juggle their work schedules and meet the demands of trying to get more training to be the best AR's the San Antonio ISD Police Department has known. Officers Chris Ortiz and Michael Gilbert have literally decided to make sure that as Alliance members you have the representation you need. It may seem as though you might not have had as many opportunities to share all of your thoughts with them, but, what you may not know is they have been busy attending Alliance meetings and trainings to learn their role and responsibility not just as your representatives but to voice the need to include your department as part of the Alliance.

According to the official Alliance bylaws:

- *Representatives will be elected in the spring semester by members at a site to a one- year term and shall serve without limitation as to the number of terms to which they may be re-elected. Vacancies shall be filled through a building or site election.*
- *Representatives to the Representative Assembly shall be elected to serve at a ratio of one representative for every twenty members or major fraction thereof. Each building or site shall be guaranteed at least one representative. It shall be the goals of the Alliance to have the representatives reflect its membership.*
- *The duties of the Representative Assembly shall include:*
 1. *Approval of the annual budget*
 2. *Recommending policies and procedures to the Executive Council*
 3. *Communicating issues, concerns and needs from their respective buildings or sites.*

AR elections will be sometime in May and should be announced for sites district wide through the Alliance Newsletter. If you have any interest in running as an AR for your department, notify Joseph Salazar the departments' field representative at josephs@sanantonioalliance.org so you can have a copy of the Alliance bylaws and role/duties of the AR.

DID YOU KNOW...?

The [Texas Education Code \(TEC\), Chapter 37](#) establishes the statutes related to student discipline, law and order in public schools such as Trespass on School Grounds, Possession of Intoxicants on School Grounds, Disruption of Classes, Hazing, and Fraternities, Sororities, Secret Societies and Gangs. Individual school districts write and enforce student disciplinary policies that comply with the statutes.

The TEA Chapter 37 - Discipline; Law and Order Unit:

- Provides leadership to school districts with information needed to create local disciplinary policies in line with Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code (TEC).
- Acts as a resource for school districts in implementing [positive, proactive discipline](#) management strategies.
- Provides a central point of contact within TEA for agency staff, parents, students, public and private agencies, and others seeking clarification concerning discipline, law and order under the Texas Education Code.
- Provides assistance in recording PEIMS 425 Records Data from all school districts relating to disciplinary actions required by TEC Chapter 37 and Federal Law.
- Works with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and other agencies on issues affecting school safety.

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Waiting for Mediators

The Alliance leadership has made it possible to bring in a mediator to assist the SAISD Police Department work through some pretty tough discussion, in doing so; the department will be better prepared to meet the needs and interests of all employees on their concerns. While the department has an excellent record of working and performing as a team, it is very important to make sure that everyone is on the same page and can stay focused on the safety needs of the district and its students.

The meeting date has yet to be determined due to the busy schedule of the Bexar County Mediation Association. If this upcoming meeting is important to you, please be watchful for the announcement of the meeting date and make sure to make arrangements on your schedule. The last meeting held there was consensus from everyone to have the next meeting on a Monday at or around 5:p.m.

Safety Programs Big on CFO's Mind

In a budget meeting to discuss the 2010-11 school-year this week involving Steve Bassett, SAISD Chief Financial Officer, Toni Thompson, Associate Superintendent and the Alliance Officers, Shelley Potter, Gracie Oviedo and Rachel Martinez several new initiatives were presented by the district administration. Among those, initiatives implementing safety programs especially for support personnel to help cut insurance costs and more importantly workman's comp injuries. The injuries discussed have a huge effect on the districts budget. Taking that into consideration, Ms. Potter and Ms. Martinez presented a brief overview of the "Work Shouldn't Hurt Program," funded through a grant from OSHA, the Department of Labor and AFT. As well, Ms. Martinez just having returned from the OSHA Summit for Latino Workers, mentioned she was able to network with several governmental entities there, she spoke on how the Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis was so aggressive in pushing for legislation to improve the "Workers Act" language and spoke about the Virginia Miners that just recently lost their lives and how important it is for employers to start providing better safety training programs that the employees can understand, especially if there are language barriers or cognitive barriers.

"I was amazed that because of our new president and his initiatives we can sit down and have a one on one conversation with people from the government like Hilda or David Michaels the Assistant Director of OSHA" said Rachel Martinez.

The Alliance is now planning to make a full presentation to the administration and Board members on training needs for all support personnel.

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