



Victoria Independent School District

Administration Report
May 2019

Purpose Statement:

- Keep the Board and stakeholders apprised and connected to the work of administration
- Radical Transparency
- From the Boardroom to the Classroom
- Keep us open and learning together
- Continuous Improvement

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- Communications
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Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability:

- **School Action Fund Grants:** VISD is applying for two grants in the [School Action Fund application process](#). (SGS planning grants) The first grant is to support O'Connor Elementary School with the ACE Model grant and the second grant application is to support the re-opening of FW Gross with a Pre-K Early Childhood Center using the Exploratory (SB 1882 Partnership) Model. Each of these grants is for planning purposes and will apply to the 2019-2020 school year.
 - O'Connor School Action Fund Smart Goal – By Summer 2020, VISD will have identified their re-start district-managed strategic actions related to the Accelerating Campus Excellence (ACE) model for all students on O'Connor Elementary campus and secure implementation continuation funding for meeting all five of the elements that include: effective principals and teachers, instructional excellence, extended learning, social and emotional supports, and parent and community partnerships. While the SMART goals meet the specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timely acronym criteria, it is a process SMART goal. The ultimate SMART goal after selection of the bold school action will be focused on replicating a successfully designed ACE Model school.
 - Pre-K Exploratory Model School Action Fund Smart Goal - By Summer of 2020, VISD will have identified their "best fit" bold School Action to pursue for all students on an Early Childhood campus and secured Implementation Continuation funding for this specific bold School Action by meeting all the Exploratory Planning Implementation Milestones on the Fidelity Implementation Tool. The Exploratory Planning will focus on an Early Childhood campus at the FW Gross Elementary school site using the Partnership (SB 1882)/ACE Models [https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Schools/District_Initiatives/Texas_Partnerships_\(SB_1882\)/](https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Schools/District_Initiatives/Texas_Partnerships_(SB_1882)/). While the SMART goal meets the specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely acronym criteria, it is a process SMART goal. The ultimate SMART goal after selection of the bold school action will be focused on student achievement.
- **Bilingual/English as a Second Language (ESL) - Summer School:** In accordance with [19 TAC §89.1250\(3\)\(B\)](#), LEAs operating a two-semester system are required to offer the program for one-half day for eight weeks while school is recessed for the summer for a total of 120 hours of instruction on a schedule established by the board of trustees or governing board. LEAs operating year-round schools are required to offer a program during intercessions for a total of 120 hours of instruction.

In accordance with [19 TAC §89.1250\(3\)\(F\)](#), reporting of student progress shall be determined by the board of trustees. A summary of student progress shall be provided to parents at the conclusion of the program. This summary shall be provided to the student's teacher at the beginning of the next regular school term.

Victoria ISD will offer a Summer School Program to students identified as English Learners entering Kinder and First grade in 2019-2020. Summer School will be offered at Smith Elementary from May 29 to June 24, 2019 from Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. for a total of 120 hours of instruction.

Summer School curriculum includes *Imagine Learning* for literacy and *Moving with Math* for math. In order to determine progress, students are administered a pre-test and a post-test in these two areas. A summary of student progress will be provided to parents at the conclusion of the program as well as to the student's teachers at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.

- **Dyslexia and Gifted/Talented Services:** On November 16, 2018, the State Board of Education gave final approval to [The Dyslexia Handbook – 2018 Update](#). Updates to the handbook address recent legislative changes and clarify processes regarding the new requirements to screen all kindergarten and first grade students as well as the identification and services for identified students. As a result of the new screening requirements, we are anticipating the number of identified students will more than double for the upcoming school year. The early identification of students with dyslexia paired with early intervention programs will have significant implications for students’ future academic success. As referenced in the updated Dyslexia Handbook, Hall and Moats (1999) state the following:
 - Early identification is critical because the earlier the intervention, the easier it is to remediate.
 - Inexpensive screening measures identify at-risk children in mid-kindergarten with 85 percent accuracy.
 - If intervention is not provided before the age of eight, the probability of reading difficulties continuing into high school is 75 percent (pp. 279–280).

In addition, the State Board of Education will approve the updated [Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students](#) at their meeting this June. The updated plan provides requirements for and guidance to districts as they meet the unique needs of the gifted/talented student population. New requirements impact the areas of screening, identification and services and include requirements for screening kindergarten students, ensuring identification matches campus and district demographics and providing specific services.

Victoria ISD is excited to embrace the new requirements for early screening, identification and services and will be implementing expanded Dyslexia and GT services during the 2019-2020 school year. Rather than utilizing our existing itinerate model, the district’s expanded services will include a Dyslexia/GT teacher assigned to each elementary campus. This teacher will receive extensive training to provide services to both groups of students. Having a teacher on-site at each campus will allow for greater collaboration and coordination of services, and early identification and services will encourage optimal outcomes for all students.

- **Technology Software RFP:** Elementary campuses throughout VISD currently use a multitude of instructional software programs to meet the individual needs of students. Separate programs and vendors have been utilized to provide: supplemental instruction in tier 1 math, supplemental instruction in tier 1 reading, intervention software for tiers 2 & 3 in both math and reading, math facts practice, assessment creation, universal screening, progress monitoring and content practice. Using an assortment of programs requires teachers and campus leaders to learn and understand multiple systems. The elementary curriculum team recently posted a RFP in search of instructional technology programs offering customizable pathways for tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 instruction as well as universal screening and progress monitoring. Streamlining resources will allow staff members to become experts in one or two programs rather than having to learn and maneuver 5 or 6 separate programs. The team is currently reviewing bids and will be recommending selected vendors at the June board meeting.
- **Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 (Neglected and Delinquent) Program Validation:** As part of a TEA federal audit, Victoria ISD was randomly selected to be validated on program compliance since we receive Title I, Part D funding for the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center. The documentation

requested has been provided to TEA and VISD will receive notification of the validation results in July. The 2018-2019 program review focused on the following requirements:

1. Program Description
 2. Formal Education Agreement
 3. Facilitation of Transition Services
 4. Parent and Family Involvement
 5. Process for Retrieving Student Academic Records
- **Mid-Coast Family Services Summer Camp 2019:** Utilizing the new 2018-2020 Texas Hurricane Homeless Children and Youth (THHCY) grant, VISD will be expanding the Mid-Coast Summer Camp for our McKinney-Vento students. Last year we were able to provide this exceptional experience for 3rd-7th graders but with the extra funding this year, 1st – 11th graders will now be offered this fantastic opportunity. The Camp will be held at Smith Elementary and VISD Transportation will provide round-trip routes for these students.

The purpose of this program is to provide lessons on leadership, substance/violence prevention, bullying prevention, life skills, family communication and support, service projects, arts & crafts, dancing, recreation time and more! Many of our McKinney-Vento families do not have the ability to send their students to structured summer activities. The Mid-Coast Summer Camp offers many valuable life experiences these students would not receive otherwise. Breakfast, snack and lunch are provided through the VISD Child Nutrition Department during this six-week experience.

- **Elementary ELAR Curriculum Adoption Updates:** The elementary curriculum team, campus leadership teams and teachers are preparing for implementation of the newly adopted Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) curriculum for elementary English Language Arts and Reading. Training on the new [ELAR Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills \(TEKS\)](#) is underway, as is training on the Balanced Literacy Framework and specific HMH materials. To date, curriculum team members, instructional coaches and campus administrators have participated in training sessions and have collaborated to plan the rollout for the new ELAR adoption. The curriculum team, along with instructional coaches, will be working to create updated curriculum documents aligned to the HMH resources. Additionally, the team is working to integrate Kindergarten – 2nd grade Social Studies with the ELAR curriculum. Sessions for teachers are scheduled throughout the summer will include HMH *Getting Started*, Balanced Literacy Overviews, Integrated Reading and Writing, Updated TEKS and Small Group Reading Instruction.
- **Secondary ELAR Curriculum Adoption Updates:** In secondary English Language Arts and Reading, preparations for the 2019-2020 academic year are underway. All teachers received training regarding the revised [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills \(TEKS\)](#) in February 2019*. In March, the middle school textbook committee met and disseminated information with their campuses, with a resulting vote for Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt to be adopted and purchased for the district. Training sessions for teachers to understand and use the newly adopted resources will be offered in May and June. To align the new and valid existing resources with new curriculum organization set forth by the TEKS Resource System, a team of highly-qualified teachers has been assembled to produce, Unit Resource Folders available to all teachers via the Webnet platform. This will provide a unified approach to instruction across the district for ELAR. Additional training in understanding the new TEKS as they will be utilized and organized in the TEKS Resource System will be offered in June for teachers and instructional coaches. The HMH resources incorporate researched-based strategies referred to as Notice and Note. Supplemental training on the use of these strategies will be offered

in June as well. On August 12, HMH will present to all middle school teachers on the components and resources of the adoption. Additionally, professional development on authentic integration of the new reading and writing areas of the new TEKS will be provided to all secondary ELAR teachers on August 12. Of note TEA has not yet provided an Assessed Curriculum Document outlining which standards will be measured on STAAR assessments, nor has a 'crosswalk' document been provided listing the new standards that overlap the previous standards.

- **Dropout, DAEP and Credit Recovery Redesign:** VISD Campus and District Administrative staffs have reviewed the current dropout, Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) and Credit Recovery model in place to serve VISD students. A site visit to the Calhoun Hope/Flex program was also conducted with campus and district administrators to look at alternative systems that support students. Other districts have been contacted by telephone and their models discussed in the search to provide a model that is best suited to the students in Victoria. On Wednesday May 8, 2019 High School Campus Principals, Counselors, Assistant Principals and Central Office staff assembled to review the information and outlined a program for the 2019-2020 school year to meet the redesign of Liberty Academy into a Credit Recovery and DAEP program campus.
- **SREB Career Pathway Review Supports P-TECH Implementation:** The [Southern Region Education Board](#) (SREB) have a team of local and state representatives that will be visiting the four middle school campuses and the two high school campuses as well as the CTI program to conduct a Career Pathway Review (CPR). This review is part of the contracted work with SREB to support the P-TECH planning year application. Just a reminder that SREB is providing 75% of the funding from a Gates Foundation grant to support this work.
- **Special Education Maintenance of Effort (MOE):** The basic definition states, “Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to maintain the level of state and local funds they spend to support federal programs from one fiscal year to the next. If your organization receives a federal grant awarded under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B (IDEA-B), the MOE requirement specifies that you must spend at least the same amount of state and local funds to provide services to students with disabilities that you spent in the previous fiscal year. You must comply with the MOE requirement to receive IDEA-B funding each fiscal year.”

There are 4 possible areas of compliance that are reviewed each year, VISD met 1 of the 4. The current status is based upon '17-18 special education funding and expenditures; VISD is COMPLIANT.

MOE is an involved process and additional information can be found here:

https://tea.texas.gov/Finance_and_Grants/Grants/Federal_Fiscal_Compliance_and_Reporting/IDEA_Fiscal_Compliance/IDEA-B_LEA_Maintenance_of_Effort/

In the simplest of terms:

- Special Education receives and expends **Federal Funding** and **State/Local Funding**.
- We cannot reduce our State/Local spending for the education of students with disabilities below what we spent the previous year.
- If we reduce our state/local funding, our future federal funds would be reduced, and we would have to submit a refund to TEA/USDE from non-federal funds.

Office of Administration:

- **Graduation Preparations:** The Office of Administration has been working collaboratively with the high school principals, counseling coordinator and high school counselors for the 2019 graduation ceremonies. The Maintenance and Operations and Technology Departments have begun preparations to ensure facilities are prepared for both East High School and West High School graduation ceremonies at the Memorial Stadium and for the Liberty Academy graduation scheduled for the Victoria Fine Arts Center. In the event it rains, East and West High School graduations will be moved into the Victoria Fines Arts Center for the same date and time. Each graduating senior for East High School and West High School will receive two rain contingency tickets at graduation practice.
- **Central Supply & Purchasing:** The staff in Central Supply and Purchasing have been working diligently in preparation for receipt and inventory of the new ELA Adoption for K-8.
MAY focus tasks for Central Supply & Purchasing:
 - Continue working to hire summer students
 - Prepare and order new Instructional Materials, Braille, and Large Print
 - Continue work on the Insurance Spreadsheet for Hurricane Harvey - Contents by Campus
- **Child Nutrition:** The Victoria Independent School District announces the sponsorships of the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided at 13 sites this summer. The program is designed to assist children 18 years and younger. The program will offer **FREE** breakfast and lunch. The summer food service program ensures that during school vacations, children are able to receive the same high-quality meals provided during the school year by the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. The summer food service program recognizes the importance of proper nutrition for children. Meals are to meet or exceed 2/3 of a child's daily nutritional requirements.

Here are some of our highlights:

- The new point of sales for computers for all campuses have arrived. Installation and training on the new POS are scheduled for June.
- The Econtrol Monitoring Systems for the walk-in cooler/freezers have arrived. Installation begins in May.
- Patti Welder Walk-in Cooler/Freezer installation is complete
- Howell Walk-in Cooler/Freezer demolition begins May 24th
- Aloe Walk-in Cooler/Freezer demolition begins May 28th
- Howell Walk-in Cooler/Freezer installation begins May 28th
- Aloe Walk-in Cooler/Freezer installation begins May 31st
- Arranging for moving company to move equipment from merging schools to other kitchens
- Arranging for electrical/plumbing contractors to disconnect equipment
- Designing new serving lines for DeLeon, Shields, Patti Welder, Howell and Stroman
- Revamping high school menus
- Researching the possibility of vending machines for high school breakfast/lunch options (power packs, lunchables, etc.)
- Ms. Bigham; Child Nutrition Director, is presenting at TASN (Texas Association of School Nutrition) on disaster recovery in June.

- **Health Services:** School attendance can be drastically impacted when students get the flu. In a proactive effort to prevent students from missing school due to the flu and provide an additional opportunity to our parents, flu shots will be available to school aged students enrolled in VISD during the fall 2019. Parents can register their school aged child(ren) during on-line registration and the shots will be administered in October. Information regarding the flu shots:
 - Healthy Schools LLC, is a CareDox company that promotes the health of children by administering vaccines at schools at no cost to the district or parents.
 - Bringing flu shots directly to schools has proven to be an effective way to increase vaccination rates for children, protect families from illness, and save lost time away from school and work.
 - CareDox adheres to all FERPA, State Privacy Regulations, and HIPAA requirements.
 - During the back to school online registration process, parents will be prompted if they would like their child to have a flu shot at school. Those parents choosing to have their child immunized will be directed by a link to Healthy schools and CareDox which will provide all the collateral for parent outreach, education on the program and the needed consent for services. Parent questions will be answered by the company and not the school district. All students will be offered free flu shots regardless of ability to pay. Any third-party insurance information will be obtained and filled by the company.
 - Healthy schools will obtain approval of the district prior to distributing any documents, consent forms, announcements, emails or advertising.
 - On the clinic day, a qualified nursing team will arrive. These nurses are managed by the company's Pediatric Medical Director. They are licensed by the state of Texas, completed a level 2 background check, passed an FBI background check and a comprehensive drug screening.
 - The campus will decide the location of the clinic. Students will be monitored for several minutes after their shot. On average, a student will miss 20-30 minutes of class time. (This is significantly less than missing a week of class instruction due to the flu).
 - Students will enter the clinic with their consent form in hand if they are not pre-registered digitally. The child will be asked to say their name to ensure the consent information and the child is accurate. The nurse will verify the form is complete and signed. If information is incomplete, they will be given a letter stating they were not vaccinated and the reason. Once vaccinated, the child will be given a letter or email that states they were vaccinated with the name and lot number of the vaccine. After the clinic there will be representatives available by phone for any post vaccination questions.

The Dangers of Juuling and Vaping: There has been a dramatic increase of teens in the US using high nicotine delivery devices. Presentations for East and West High schools regarding the dangers of juuling and vaping were scheduled the first week of May. The presentation on the dangers of juuling and vaping was provided by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

- **Maintenance and Operations:** The Maintenance and Operations Department has been working diligently and collaboratively on graduation preparations and summer campus needs. Processes are in place to provide support for all campuses in preparation for the 2019-2020 school year.

- **Student Services:**
VISD's cumulative student attendance rate for 2018-19 through May 1 = 94.5%

Student Enrollment (May 1, 2019) = 13,901 students

Same time last year (May 1, 2018) = 14,077 students

First day of school (August 21, 2018) = 13,772 students

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

May 8th—online student registration for 2019-2020 begins

May 15th -- student transfer application window closes

- **Transportation:** The Transportation Department is finalizing routes for the 2019-2020 school year. [Bus routes will be available on May 8, 2019 through Transfinder](#). Routes are subject to change pending staffing availability.
 - High School bus routing and schedules are in place for high school students for May 21-23 due to final exams. High school students will be released at 12:40 pm on the days of their finals. (Grab and go lunch will be available for students that would like lunch).
 - Field trips have been scheduled for the end of the year with various campuses.
 - The Transportation Department is seeking to post a position (in house) for a Driver Trainer to train potential bus drivers to obtain their CDL with a Passenger and School Bus endorsement.
 - The Transportation Department is preparing information for the State Report, which is due June 28, 2019.

Finance:

- Consideration and take action on offers to purchase tax sale properties: Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP Attorney, Nicole J. Borchard have included four resolutions authorizing tax resale of properties owned in trust by the Victoria County taxing authorities. At a “courthouse steps” sale, these properties did not garner offers equal to the amount of delinquent taxes owed. In order for the property to be sold for less than the entire amount of taxes and costs owed, the formal approval of Victoria ISD, the Victoria County College District, City of Victoria and Victoria County is required under Property Tax Code Section §34.05.
- Budget decision points:
 - The State Legislature continues to discuss pay increases and changes to the school funding formula. As of the writing of this report, final decisions on both items have not been made. Regardless, we need to start preparing our budget for next year. We need direction from the Trustees.
 - Should we prepare for salary increases across the board given our revenue estimates *or* not prepare for increases to give us the opportunity to wait for the state to make the first move?

We recognize that should the Legislature make a commitment on either pay increases or funding formula, the decision above may change. This is (and should be) an evolving conversation for us.

Our discussion at the Board Meeting will not focus on legislative analysis of the proposals as this will not help us prepare our budget. I am urging us to stay grounded to the facts: 1) there are no agreed-upon changes to the formula but this seems likely, and 2) there are no final agreements to salary increases but both the house and senate have given indication increases will be coming (although they don't agree on how or the amount). The question, again, is should we wait for the State or prepare with the funds we have available?

- Debt: For the past several years, the Victoria ISD has undertaken a comprehensive strategy in managing its debt service and debt service tax rate to position VISD for the future. This strategy has included refinancing two bond issues, the first in 2014 and the second in 2016, for an aggregate present value debt service savings of \$23,541,450.65. Based on current projections, VISD will have excess ad valorem tax collections after the fiscal year ended 2019 debt service payments. Excess tax collections can be utilized to pay off existing debt resulting in interest savings (this is called defeasance). To be fiscally focused, we propose utilizing the excess tax collections to pay-off callable existing debt. We will work with our financial advisor to determine the amount of excess tax collections to utilize and which outstanding debt maturities to pay-off to best optimize this undertaking.

We recommend defeasance because it gives us better bond options in the future (more bond capacity when we go out for bonds because those payments will not exist in the out years of the current bond schedule). If we did not go forward with the bond defeasance, we would have the option to lower our tax rate and not pre-pay the future bond payments. From a fiscal integrity position, a short-term tax decrease does not help our long-term goals.

- Update of ADA (Average Daily Attendance): As of the 4th 6th weeks, our ADA is 12,907. We budgeted for 13,100 ADA. The difference is 193 which equates to a decrease of approximately \$1,185,792 in state funds.
- Gifts and Donations: The total gifts and donations for April 2019 is \$42,186.84. The total gifts and donations for fiscal year 2019 is \$269,454.88.

Human Resources:

- 2019-2020 TRS ActiveCare health insurance rates and benefits were recently released by TRS. We will experience an increase in medical plan rates. Premium costs for the TRS ActiveCare 1-HD and TRS ActiveCare Select plans increased by 3%. The premium costs of the grandfathered TRS Active Care 2 plan will increase by almost 9%. Knowing the increasingly high cost of prescription drugs, it is important to note TRS ActiveCare 1-HD participants will continue to receive certain generic preventative drugs at no additional cost. Our Benefits Office shared information regarding the 2019-2020 plans with all employees, including:
 - Links to TRS ActiveCare 2019-2020 Plan Highlights,
 - A deduction summary identifying actual amounts VISD employees would pay, and
 - A list of 10 ways for employees to get the most out of their benefits
- We are in the process of scheduling our annual Employee Benefits' Open Enrollment presentations and enrollment sessions will be finalized in the next few days. We will soon be sharing information regarding these informational meetings and benefit sessions with all employees. We will also have online benefit informational videos available on our VISD website for all staff to view at their convenience.
- We are currently preparing all employee contracts approved by the Board of Trustees during the Special Called Board Meeting on May 2nd. Contracts will be delivered to staff members at their campuses and departments by Monday, May 13th.
- Our Auxiliary Office is preparing letters of assurance for all non-contract staff who will be returning to work for the District in the 2019-2020 school year. These letters will also be delivered to staff members at their campuses and departments by Monday, May 13th.
- The District will be operating on a 4-day work week beginning the week of June 3rd through the week of June 24th. Business hours at the Administration Office and at our campuses will be from 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday – Wednesday and 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Thursdays.
- Our HR Team has been meeting with campus Principals, campus Counselors, and our District-level Directors to anticipate staffing needs for the upcoming school year. We have been reviewing current staffing levels and student course registration numbers in order to ensure an efficient and effective staffing plan that meets the needs of our students.
- Update on staff from F.W. Gross, Guadalupe and William Wood impacted by campus mergers: As of Friday, May 10th, 87% (39 of 45) of our professional staff (Teachers and Administrators) have secured a position with a new campus for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, 71% (17 of 24) of our paraprofessional and office staff have secured a position with a new campus for next school year. Our HR Office will continue to assist the staff from our merger campuses to connect them with new opportunities for the coming school year.

Office of the Superintendent:

- Task Force Updates: [Elementary](#) and [Secondary](#) Innovation and Student Learning and Efficiency and Resource Management Task Forces met on Wednesday, May 1. At that meeting we shared updates from each of the groups. We also heard a presentation related to [The Third Teacher: 79 Ways You can Use Design to Transform Teaching & Learning](#). We finished the meeting by hearing how the task force work will come to a pause during the summer and allow for some people to step down and others to step on for task force work to start the 2019-2020 school year.
- **P-TECH** Updates:
 - Dr. Carroll, Mrs. Correll, Mr. Sanchez and I met with local health cluster advisors in order to begin discussing the possibility of a health cluster P-TECH table to be established for the 2020-2021 school year. The 2019-2020 school year would be spent planning and recruiting eligible and interested students.
 - We had a separate meeting with a P-TECH representative from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) this month as well to ensure we are planning forward and to provide feedback to our efforts.
 - We are still evaluating the possibility of an Education P-TECH cluster and an Industry and Manufacturing P-TECH cluster.
- [System of Great Schools](#) (SGS) Updates: We are working on our planning grant applications now. These grants allow for dedicating funding for our planning efforts throughout 2019-2020. I want to be clear with our stakeholders that planning does not mean we will move forward with any of the grants we intend to submit. We are balancing our excitement to bring funds, resources, opportunities to our campuses, communities and students with any loss of control or unintended consequences.

Communications:

- **Shattered Dreams:** Shattered Dreams is a two-day, school-based program that promotes responsible decision-making among high school students regarding underage drinking and impaired driving.

Victoria West High School, in conjunction with local emergency responders, staged a mock car accident with fatalities in front of the school. EMS, Victoria Fire Department, the Department of Public Safety, Victoria County Sheriff's Office and the Victoria Police Department, along with P.H.I. (the local hospital medical helicopter service), were at Victoria West to respond to the "accident."

After the mock accident scene, students who observed the "accident" were taken back to class. Throughout the day, students were pulled out of class by "death" to represent a life that is taken every 15 minutes from a drunk driving accident. That evening, students who "passed" attended a retreat on campus to further discuss the program. The next day, a memorial service was held in the gym for those students who passed away in the mock accident scene. Parents of the students spoke on their behalf and guest speakers, men who are serving time for drinking and driving, ended the program by speaking to the students on how their decisions impacted their lives forever.

School administrators and the students participating in the program hope that Shattered Dreams can prevent a tragic event of this nature from actually happening, by educating students of the serious nature of underage drinking, impaired and distracted driving.

A special thank you to **VVHS Instructional Coach Stephanie Hodde** for putting the program together, to the amazing student actors, and to the wonderful volunteers from throughout the community for participating. See the full **photo album** from Shattered Dreams on the VISD **Facebook page**.

The Facebook photo album has been **shared more than 20,600 times** across the country and **internationally!** It also has more than 5,300 reactions. Several school districts and emergency responders from across the country reached out to VISD to inquire about the Shattered Dreams program and how they could implement it in their communities.

View the **video compilation**, created by **Jennilee Swanner and her students**, **by following this link to OneDrive**:

"Shout out to my video crew who worked on this tirelessly with me in the past 24 hours: Sarah Saenz, Rama Hamoudah, Ellie Pena, Jenna Schaefer, and Frankie Williams. They put together an amazing compilation of yesterday's events. We could not have done it without the ever so helpful Miguel Gonzalez who let us use his room, the guidance of Brooke Woods, and the patience of Stephanie Hodde."

Shattered Dreams is alternately held at Victoria West and Victoria East High Schools each spring ahead of prom and graduation.

- Volunteer Management System: Raptor Technologies is currently being used by 17 facilities in the district to log visitors and scan visitors against registered sex offender databases. Other facilities in the district are using similar systems, such as School Check-In. As you will read in the Technology Department report below, the district will be switching to a district license for Raptor, providing all campuses access to the same visitor information.

Along with the Visitor Management System, Raptor offers a Volunteer Management System at **no additional cost** that will allow the district to streamline the volunteer approval system. Currently, once volunteers submit the necessary background check paperwork to the campus, it is sent to the Communications office, the background check is completed, the volunteer is added to a database to be uploaded to the intranet, and then the approval is sent from Communications back to the campus. The process takes about one week. With the Raptor Volunteer Management System, volunteers will be able to submit the needed information for the background check through a volunteer portal and receive approval within 48-72 hours.

The Volunteer Management System also provides a variety of reports including volunteer hours and top volunteers, which can quickly be accessed and exported. We look forward to being able to utilize this tool to improve volunteer opportunities throughout the district.

- Legislative Update:

Senate Bill 11: The State Senate has overwhelmingly approved—and sent to the Texas House—a school safety bill that legislators hope will prevent another mass tragedy like the one that occurred at Santa Fe High School almost one year ago.

Senate Bill 11 attempts to strengthen mental health initiatives in Texas schools; ensure that school districts' employees—including substitute teachers—are equipped to respond to emergencies by requiring they have classroom access to a telephone and other electronic communication and establish threat assessment teams to help identify potentially dangerous students and determine the best ways to intervene before they become violent. SB 11 also requires school districts to appoint school safety committees that meet once a semester to provide their boards of trustees with recommendations for updating multi-hazard emergency operations plans.

SB 11 now goes to the Texas House, where similar legislation is pending in committee.

SB 11 addresses several proposals that Governor Abbott laid out in his 43-page School Safety Plan that he released within days after the Santa Fe shooting, including strengthening school security and mental health counseling.

House Bill 3 (School Finance): The State Senate passed House Bill 3, with some differences to the version that passed in the House last month. Generally, the bill still:

- increases the basic allotment to \$5,880;
- includes \$5,000 across-the-board pay raises for teachers and librarians;
- creates an early education allotment that can be used to provide full-day prekindergarten;

- increases funding for dual language programs, dyslexic students, special education students, low-income students and career and technology education; and
- establishes outcomes-based funding for third-grade students based on standardized tests and for college-, career-, and military-readiness based on SAT, ACT and ASVAB.

Sen. Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood, who authored the Senate's version of HB 3, told fellow members that the aim of the bill was to increase funding for low-income students and stop putting band-aids on the fractured school finance system.

The version of HB 3 approved by the Senate includes property tax provisions. The bill would decrease the school property tax rate by at least 10 cents per \$100 valuation and would cap the growth of property tax revenue school districts can collect at 2.5% a year, starting in the first year of the bill taking effect. The bill would allow the cap to increase up to 5.5% if inflation rises. The House's version of the bill does not contain a cap, and it reduces tax rates by at least 4 cent per \$100 valuation.

One of the biggest criticisms of the Senate's version of HB 3 are provisions that tie extra school district funding and extra teacher pay to performance on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test and increase the number of standardized tests students would be required to take. The bill would require students in grades three through eight to take a writing STAAR each year; currently, fourth and seventh graders only have to take the writing test.

The bill now moves to the House, where members would have to approve the Senate's changes, but differences will likely be worked out in conference committee. The House will most likely refuse to agree with the Senate amendments and appoint members to serve on the conference committee tasked with resolving the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

Technology:

- Vendor Management System: Starting in the 2019-2020 school year, to streamline processes and enhance security at the campuses, the district will switch from campus managed visitor management systems to a district managed visitor management system. We will be utilizing Raptor Technologies' Visitor Management System, which includes the following optional modules: contractor, student tardy and early dismissal, staff, and volunteer. The Raptor system is currently utilized at 16 campuses and the Administration Building, while other campuses utilize programs such as School Check In. Managing the visitor management system at the district level instead of the campus level will allow campuses and the Administration Building to share a visitor database and will allow for more district level visibility into visitor trends, more streamlined support, and district management of updates and user security. More information about the Raptor Technologies' Visitor Management System can be found here: <https://raptortech.com/protect-your-school/raptor-visitor-management-system/>
- Inventory: Inventory has been completed or is scheduled to be completed at all merger campuses and their receiving campuses during the month of May. Once the merger and receiving campuses' inventory have been completed; we will begin inventory at the rest of the campuses.
- Technology Bid: The Technology Bid responses received last month are being processed and evaluated. The purpose of the Technology Bid is to ensure the district has a variety of purchasing options for technology that will fit the needs of our staff and students at an equitable cost to the district while maintaining standardization for technology across all campuses.
- Fiber at Mission Valley: Construction is beginning on the project to install a fiber optics line from Aloe Elementary to Mission Valley Elementary. The project is expected to take 3-4 weeks. Once the construction is complete, Mission Valley Elementary will receive internet access at speeds up to 1,000 Mbps. Their current internet connection only allows access at speeds up to 10 Mbps.

Feedback: We want your feedback. [Please use this link](#) to share your thoughts, comments, questions or kudos! This is your report and we want to make it relevant for you. Your feedback will help us on our path of *Continuous Improvement!*