

Strategic Planning Community Outreach – ISD Superintendents

As part of the process of creating College of the Mainland’s Strategic Plan for 2018-2023, Dr. Nichols will be meeting with various community constituencies. In these meetings Dr. Nichols will gather their input and feedback regarding six questions:

1. What are your perceptions of College of the Mainland today?
2. What are College of the Mainland’s strengths?
3. Where do we meet your expectations?
4. What areas do we need to improve?
5. How can we partner with you?
6. Thinking of the future, what would a shared vision for College of the Mainland and the community look like?

On September 20 at 7:45 a.m., the local ISD superintendents were invited to speak with Dr. Nichols at College of the Mainland, Appomattox Suite 4. In attendance were five of the ISD superintendents or assistant superintendents representing Clear Creek ISD, Friendswood ISD, Hitchcock ISD, Santa Fe ISD, and Texas City/La Marque ISD. Dickinson’s representative did not join the meeting. Also attending were COM trustee and board chair Kyle Dickson, several COM Cabinet members, Dr. Walker to facilitate the discussion, and supporting staff to document the meeting.

This meeting was originally scheduled prior to Hurricane Harvey to discuss the community Strategic Planning questions, however, given recent events and the impact on local ISDs Dr. Nichols chose to focus this conversation more on how the schools are doing and what COM can do to provide support. Overall, those in attendance were positive about their Post-Harvey situations and their interactions with College of the Mainland. During the discussion some potential points of action became apparent. Three main themes emerged from this discussion: **Recovery, Workforce Courses, and Dual Credit.**

Recovery

Each of the ISD representatives gave a brief overview of the impact Harvey had on their school district and the community.

The representative from Hitchcock ISD reported that they suffered some storm damage but not severe enough to keep them from opening the schools but the homes in their community did suffer. Hitchcock opened a shelter in one of their gym facilities. Several employees were displaced from their homes. Enrollment fell slightly but not significantly.

The representative from Santa Fe ISD reported that their facilities were mostly fine, one gym was damaged to the extent that the floor has to be redone. Again the biggest impact was on students’ families and staff. They pushed back their start date due to time needed for staff to be prepared. Enrollment was not significantly impacted.

The representative from Clear Creek ISD reported on the more severe impact in that area. One of their facilities was severely impacted and requires restoration. Five schools were opened as shelters in



cooperation with various groups. He reported that they were meeting with Galveston County representatives and municipalities to plan for future preparation.

The representative from Friendswood ISD reported that the school buildings fared well, requiring some clean up but no significant damage. One of the schools served as a shelter for those displaced in the area. Over 400 students were displaced as well as many staff and faculty. They are working on finding a balance between focusing on instruction like normal and the impact of the storm.

The representative from Texas City/La Marque ISD reported that every facility in the district took some type of damage ranging from minor to serious. The Texas City schools fared relatively well while the La Marque schools suffered heavier damage, at least one building was completely closed for repairs and remediation. They are going through FEMA processes. Currently many La Marque school students are being bussed to Texas City locations. There was some discussion of creating a course for school administrators on hurricanes.

There was no representative in attendance from Dickinson ISD. There was some discussion of the Adopt a Gator fundraiser to benefit Dickinson High School students.

After reporting out on Harvey's impact on different areas of the districts Dr. Nichols shifted the conversation to ask about other needs of the districts and how COM can help fulfill those needs.

Workforce Courses

Several comments were made regarding the need for workforce course and program offerings to meet the needs of high school students and the community.

One of the programs offered in Santa Fe ISD requires an outside certification college course to be accepted into the program and students struggle to find courses through which to achieve that requirement. There is a particular interest in taking auto mechanic courses and very few places that offer those courses.

There is also a need for more Networking courses and higher level workforce courses. High school programs may offer the lower level courses that can lead to workforce certifications, but they need to follow up with the higher level course work that could be offered by COM. If enough higher level courses were offered there might be the possibility for collaboration and cooperation with the ISDs to bus students from the high schools to take those courses.

Dual Credit

There was extensive discussion regarding the needs and issues of dual credit students and programs.

It was noted that there are capacity issues in some of the ISDs in terms of where and when dual credit classes can be offered/accessed by students. In order to ensure that accessibility there needs to be more collaboration on timing of classes and potential classroom spaces as well as consideration of online offerings. Friendswood expressed appreciation for the collaboration in having embedded faculty for their students allowing for dual credit classes to be taken during the regular school day by their students. They also appreciate that COM facilitates easy registration for their students by coming to the



Friendswood location to register there and for their College Connections Advisor, Doreen Bridges. Multiple ISDs expressed appreciation for their College Connections Advisors and their work in promoting dual credit and educating not only students but also parents through parents' nights.

The ISDs appreciate the dual credit offerings available, but expressed interest in getting science dual credit classes for their students.

There was discussion regarding dual credit vs. AP classes and students. The ISDs expressed that the student populations that take dual credit and AP classes are different and do not anticipate that they could ever move entirely to a dual credit model. AP classes can be controlled and monitored by the districts, allowing them to offer weighted GPA which is desirable for students who are striving to be in the top percentiles of their class and pursuing top tier 4-year university. Some of the districts offer "pre-AP" weighting for dual credit classes, but not on the same level as AP classes. The ISDs suggest that COM focus dual credit offerings towards the rest of the high school population who might be more likely to pursue workforce careers.

Summary and Next Steps

Overall the ISD representatives in attendance were positive about their ability to recover from the impact of Hurricane Harvey and expressed appreciation for COM's investment in the success of the students and community. They offered some valuable insights into areas that COM could improve program and course offerings to better meet the needs of students, community, and local workforce.

Next Steps – Action Items

Community Suggestions:

- Auto mechanic program and course offerings
 - o Santa Fe program requires outside certification college course
- Networking program and course offerings
- Higher level workforce course offerings
- "Creativity" to meet dual credit needs
 - o Online/hybrid offerings, embedded faculty, classroom space, timing of classes
- Dual Credit – focus on the non-AP student population

Action Items:

- Potential Emergency Management course offering focused on Hurricane preparedness and response for local municipal and school district leadership
- Workforce Courses
 - o Examine offering or improving current offerings in:
 - Auto mechanics
 - Networking
 - Higher level continuations of high school workforce programs
 - Potential dual credit workforce options
- Science dual credit offerings



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- Expand dual credit embedded faculty
- Research and build a case for ISDs to offer some GPA weighting for dual credit courses