

Minutes of ECHS Meeting- May 6, 2019

The Early College High School (ECHS) Leadership Team met to discuss several benchmarks. In attendance were: Carole Dickerson-HB Assistant Superintendent, Kelly Walker-HB Curriculum Director, Craig Craver- HB Business Manager, Dr. Bobby Rice- HB Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Rose- NTCC Vice President of Instruction, Anna Ingram -NTCC Dean of Distance Education/Dual Credit, and Melissa Rice- HB School Counselor.

Benchmark 3

The Leadership Team members were introduced along with their roles and responsibilities. Dr. Rice asked each member to submit a vita to him for the district webpage. Dr. Rose shared that he is being asked questions by the public about Harts Bluff school, our demographics, and specific questions about the actual building of our new high school. Dr. Rice gave a brief overview of our school. Currently, we have an enrollment of 644 students (Pre-K through 8th grade) with an increase of 5% each year over the past 5 years. Our average class size is 65 students. Our current 7th grade class, which is to be the first class of the ECHS, has 56 students. Our population consists of 49% white students and 49% hispanic students, with 63% low socio-economic status. Dr. Rice noted that as we continue to grow, our low socio-economic status increases as well. Dr. Rice explained that to his knowledge, Harts Bluff has always wanted a high school, and we are wanting to give opportunities to our students that they might not otherwise have. The current Early Learning Center being built will allow students to shift and open up classroom space, and he does not anticipate building a HS building. Our freshmen and sophomores will remain on our campus, and our juniors and seniors will be bussed to the NTCC campus as needed. When asked about transfers, Dr. Rice answered that we currently take selective transfers and will continue to take transfers free of charge.

Dr. Rose introduced Anna Ingram who has a background in secondary education and has over 1,000 students taking dual credit classes. Ms. Ingram plays a vital role in bridging the gap between secondary and post-secondary school. In Dr. Rose's research of ECH schools in the state of Texas, most average about 100 students. We are planning to make ECHS available to all our students.

Vision and Mission

In discussing our vision/mission statement, it was suggested to keep it simple, brand it, and make sure we show our kids that don't normally consider college an option, that they can do this, and earn an Associate's Degree.

Data Analysis for Program Needs

Dr. Rose presented information regarding the work that NTCC does to develop courses and certification programs that match the local labor market. He went on to say that NTCC has the data to show the need for the certification programs.

Benchmark 1

Ms. Ingram explained the process for applying to NTCC and the required TSI placement tests that all students will need to complete. Mrs. Dickerson and Mrs. Rice will coordinate and plan dates for Spring 2020 to complete endorsements/Personal Graduations Plans, college applications, and testing for TSI. The TSI consists of Writing, Reading, and Math. The price is currently \$5 per test, and our students will be able to test on our campus. Ms. Ingram said there are prep sites for the test, and Dr. Rice suggested an intervention/tutorial type class for TSI readiness for the spring of 2020. One concern mentioned is for students who are not successful on the TSI. Dr. Rose shared that there is a Summer Bridge Program for those that are not able to pass the the TSI.

We anticipate that our students will be on the Multidisciplinary Endorsement with the goal of earning an Associates of Science Degree. Dr. Rice suggested having embedded courses (on our campus) for the first two years of high school.

Benchmark 2

Ms. Ingram gave everyone a copy of their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from NTCC. Their partnership agreement outlines student eligibility, eligible courses, TSI exemptions, composition of class, faculty selection, academic policies, student support services, and funding. Roundtable discussion suggested items to be added to fit the needs of our ECHS: guidelines, expectations, grading policies, FERPA etc. The current cost of dual credit classes is \$70 per credit hour- \$210 per 3 hour course).

There is no federal aid for dual credit, but NTCC does offer a \$200 scholarship per semester (\$400 per year) for those students who qualify for need. There is a limited number of these scholarships. The applicant

information goes directly to the NTCC Financial Aid Office, and scholarships are awarded by a localized decision. Mrs. Dickerson and Dr. Rice both suggested hosting a night to facilitate our students/parents in filling out the rather long application, with the goal of 100% of our students who qualify to submit applications.

Public Relations Plan

Dr. Rice and Dr. Rose both stressed that communication is key and to get our brand “out there” with brochures, handouts, etc. and be ready to share with the public in early August at Bulldog Bash, Meet the Teacher, etc. Dr. Rose shared that he would like to see some sort of double branding (NTCC and HB) to show the joining ties between the ECHS and NTCC. Dr. Rice will work on drafts for a vision and mission statement as well as information for brochures. Jody at NTCC will help with the layout; HB is responsible for the content.

Benchmark 4

Dr. Rice discussed the fact that the college courses have to match our PEIMS codes for dual credit purposes. He was going to look at Roscoe ISD and share their course crosswalk. Goals of Benchmark 4 were discussed to include providing advisory service to our students, parent outreach, social services, application assistance, college and career counseling, and the ability for our students to “give back”. Dr. Rose explained the Work for College Program at NTCC, and the whole team supported the idea of our students participating on some level of giving back with community service. Dr. Rose said that Harts Bluff students have always been identified as hard working and character based, and this aligns with their philosophy and the Work for College Program.

The ECHS Leadership Team will meet again on Thursday, July 11 at 9:00 a.m. at the HB Admin Office.