

April 9th, 2013

Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC)
Report on March 19th, 2013

Good evening: Ms. President, Board Members, Dr. Pedicone, Ms. Durkin, and Guests. Our last SSAC meeting was held March 19th at Santa Rita High School. We would like to thank Principal Mr. Chris Bonn and Learning Support Coordinator Ms. Zulema Suarez for being gracious hosts. Our objective was to focus on ideas for Courage to Be Kind Week, April 29th-May 3rd.

Our meeting was opened by a wonderful breakfast made by Santa Rita's culinary arts department. A leadership exercise led by our Vice-President Juana Moreno followed. In groups of four, members sat on chairs and formed bonds. Chairs were removed and the group that lasted the longest in the quite awkward position won! At the end, members were asked how they felt. Members realized that in order to persevere through the difficult time, they had to trust each other. I saw that every single individual had to put in all the energy they had because if one didn't, then the whole bond would break. After that, Dr. Pedicone read us a couple of stories from *the Big Moo* which taught us that: one person can make a difference if he/she believes in the cause; a failure is one who keeps secrets, ignores others, resists testing theories, believes that people who do not think the same are stupid, and always go for the big win; people must be able to listen actively to others, and that changing one's opinion can be good. Dr. Pedicone also talked to us about what is occurring in the district, answering our questions. We discussed the letting go of office administrators and staff members, the Unitary Plan, the budget, and briefly what the new culturally relevant curriculum will entail (honoring history of a variety of ethnic groups, broad perspectives). Lastly, Jeannette Mare talked to us about the necessity of having politicians and student leaders who can deal with issues relating to kindness, the science of kindness (it is a life-skill), the Courage to Be Kind Week should serve as an energizer and the campaign should continue everyday, and it would be effective to have a kindness model for the younger students. SSAC will be working with the Fund for Civility to receive a couple of goodies for our Kindness Week. We look forward to seeing how successful this week will be!

Thank you,

Evelyn Sanchez