Those present were:

Dr. Martin Stessman  Tamara Edington  Kristy Hanshaw
Rebecca Greer  Rebecca Gray  Reenie Olson
Rocky Busenitz  Bryce Liedtke  Jennifer Forshee-Weichert
Elaine Ford  Annie Harris  Jeannie Gish
Brenda Holladay  Leslie Florence

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Forshee.

2. Adoption of the Agenda
Tamara Edington moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Reenie Olson, motion carried 13-0.

3. Approve Minutes of October 8, 2018, Meeting
Kristy Hanshaw moved to approve the Minutes of the October 8, 2018, District Advisory Council Meeting as presented. Seconded by Tamara Edington, motion carried 13-0.

4. Communications and Announcements
None.

5. Site Council and PTO Reports
Leslie Florence – Tecumseh South Site Council
At their October 29th meeting, the Tecumseh South Site Council reviewed the communication and family engagement survey previously sent to parents. Mr. Dial is working on a follow-up survey to send to parents to follow up with more information. Some parents say they are not well informed about their child’s academic progress.

Brenda Holladay – Berryton PTO and Site Council
The Berryton PTO met October 9th and discussed the Carnival held October 6th, as well as teacher requests and grants. There will be a Berryton Craft Fair December 2nd. The PTO discussed Fire Prevention Week and Capital Outlay requests, which included a PreSchool playground. Dr. Stessman informed the District Advisory Council that it is highly unlikely there will be playground dedicated to just PreSchool constructed at the elementary buildings due to limited space. Administrators are looking at equipment that is suitable for grades PreK – 5.

The Berryton Site Council reviewed the engagement survey results, of which they were pleased. Linda Dishman was the recipient of the Milken Award and was awarded $25,000.00.

Kristy Hanshaw – Tecumseh North Site Council
The Tecumseh North Site Council met November 1st. Tecumseh North students raised over $1,400.00 for the United Way campaign. The goal was $1,350.00, so now Mrs. Glotzbach will sumo wrestle Mr. Eckelberry since students surpassed the goal. The “One School One Book” kickoff has begun with the book Charlotte’s Web. Even cooks and custodians are joining in on this. Family STEAM night with the Children’s Discovery Center is upcoming. This is for all grade levels and there will be 10 stations.

Elaine Ford – Shawnee Heights Education Association
SHEA reports a great turnout for the get out the vote tables. Cheyenne Shively is the new director of Capital Uniserve which serves SHEA.

Tamara Edington – High School Site Council
The High School Site Council discussed the survey results previously sent to parents. They discussed how to make the High School have a more family-friendly atmosphere as well as better parental attendance for conferences.
5. Site Council and PTO Reports (cont.)
Rebecca Gray – Tecumseh North PTO
Pancakes and PJ’s with Santa will be December 6th. The Penguin Patch will be open then and also on Saturday, December 8th. December 5th is Sonic Night.

Reenie Olson – Shawnee Heights Booster Club
December 3rd will be Bingo Night where everything – Bingo cards, food, drinks, etc. will be $1.00. This is to raise money for Post Prom.

Annie Harris & Bryce Liedtke – High School STUCO
STUCO has been very involved in the launch and running of the food pantry. The Care Closet has helped 5 families so far and will be taking 35 new families to help. High School administration are working on the Turkey Trot. STUCO will be holding a food drive in the middle of December, but the High School office is always open to take donations. Snack Packs for students are a popular item and that seems to be what the Care Closet runs out of the most.

Jennifer Forshee-Weichert – Shawnee Heights Elementary PTO
The PTO has developed an audit committee for their financial records. The SHES PTO reported 95% attendance at Parent/Teacher conferences. “Brush, Book, Bedtime” is approaching which entails students reading in their PJ’s, decorating bookmarks, have a read-aloud, and listening to a dentist guest speaker regarding the importance of dental health. The Chili Feed and Basket Auction will be December 7th. The PTO is working on new signage in the remodeled front area. The Grandparents Day and Book Fair was such a success, the PTO will not need to hold another one in February. SHES PTO is reviewing the possibility of having a Bingo Night. There is a talent show and spaghetti dinner scheduled for a night in January. Families will be able to participate in holiday pictures in December and the profits will be split between the PTO and the photographer.

6. Rocky Busenitz – Board of Education Report
During the last two Board of Education meetings, the Board approved field trips for Tecumseh South and Shawnee Heights Elementary Schools to Kaufman Stadium as well as facility use requests for the Civitan Car Show and the Darting Academy Basketball camp. The Board also approved Math Maps and a $27,000.00 a year (for three years) grant from United Way to assist Tecumseh North students in reading.

7. Dr. Martin Stessman – Superintendent
Dr. Stessman reviewed the ACT results with the District Advisory Council. Administrators were disappointed in the five-year trend. The State has seen decline, but Shawnee Heights declined more. Many people put a great deal of importance on this number. As a general rule, the ACT is not an accurate predictor of college success, just how a student will do in their first semester of college. At Shawnee Heights, we pride ourselves on instructing students to become better thinkers and problem solvers as well as develop a deeper understanding of content. This is not measured on the ACT test. The high school will take some actions to assist students in being better test takers to give more students a better chance at scoring well enough to access financial aid, but we will not simply chase the test or do things for a test score that are not good for kids.

Tamara Edington mentioned a free website for students who have a military parent that can help them prepare for the ACT and she will get the information to Dr. Stessman and Mrs. Greer.

Dr. Stessman also mentioned the possibility of offering an “ACT Boot Camp” for junior year students in the summer.
8. **Becky Greer - Curriculum Director**  
Mrs. Greer discussed Writing Assessments with District Advisory Council members. The district identified that three years ago, students were not writing enough. Students take a writing assessment in February, so teachers can have the rest of the year to focus on identified problems. All tests differ in elementary, middle and high school. The conclusions drawn from writing assessments are as follows: the results need to be used; no pattern emerges other than the need for rigor; writing improves reading and visa-versa; the ELA committee will addressing writing as part of their charge. Mrs. Greer informed Council members that since the writing assessments are not quite where she wants them to be, actions have been taken to improve the scores.

iPads were distributed to Council members so Dr. Stessman could demonstrate GreatSchools.org, Niche.com and the Shawnee Heights Facebook Page. He mentioned that on realtor websites, they obtain school information from these websites; which means the ACT scores are posted for parents to see real estate and school information when looking for a house. But it is also based on parent comments, so he encouraged Council members to write reviews on these websites about Shawnee Heights and to mention it to their PTO and Site Council members.

9. **Open Forum (Members – Questions, Comments, Concerns)**  
Tamara Edington thanked Shawnee Heights administrators for their attention to suicide awareness and putting it in the forefront of discussion. Shawnee Heights has teamed with the Family Service and Guidance Center to address the alarming number of suicides in Shawnee County. Counselors, social workers, and the StopIt App are just a few of the services offered to try and prevent teen suicide. Mrs. Edington would like to see suicide education started in 6th grade rather than in 7th.

12. **Adjournment**  
Tamara Edington moved the meeting adjourn. Seconded by Rebecca Gray, motion carried 13-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

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*The next meeting for the District Advisory Council will be Monday, January 14, 2019.  
There is no meeting in December.*