

SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD ROOM

April 11, 2011

12:00-1:00

The SHAC committee met for an hour to hear a presentation from Mary Ann Ely's Child Development class. Mrs. Ely brought four students with her to give their perspectives on the Real Care babies and how it has affected their outlook on having a baby at this time in their lives.

Dumas ISD has 32 Real Care babies and they are approximately \$500 each. There are several nationalities of babies including Asian, Hispanic, White, Indian and Black. Each baby comes with a diaper bag, car seat, bottle, diaper, and "mommy" chimer. The babies give certain cries for when they need to be fed, rocked, changed, or burped. Each student has the choice of taking the baby home from Friday after school to Monday morning or an alternative research project. Most students choose to take the baby home, and come back with many different experiences. Students are required to give up a weekend to care for the baby because it simulates real life. The crying might impede on a shopping trip or movie. Mrs. Ely also points out that class time is equivalent to work, and parents don't bring babies to work.

Mrs. Ely reported that most students come back sleep deprived, cranky, and realizing they are not ready to have a child! The students do get attached to the babies and feel guilt and fear when they realize they've missed a feeding, or can't get their baby to stop crying. The demo baby has light sensors to show how a small shake can affect different areas of the brain and impact vision, speech, motor development, and eventually cause death.

The committee thanked Mrs. Ely and her class for the demonstration.