

Ascension board OKs health education plan

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GONZALES — The Ascension Parish School Board voted 9-0 Tuesday to enter into a contract with the Capital Area Human Services District that would bring a Life Skills Training program to parish public high schools.

Coordinator of Student Services Linda Lamendola told the board that the agreement would mean a donation of \$45,000 to the school district to provide the health service education program.

According to information Lamendola provided the board, the course would cover topics such as the value of good health, risk-taking, substance abuse, health and the media, managing stress and anger, better family communications and building healthy relationships.

The class would fall under the system's health curriculum, Lamendola said.

Schools Superintendent Patrice Pujol told the board that Glenn Dorsey, a former East Ascension High School and LSU football standout now playing with the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs, approached her about holding a special "Dream Big" back-to-school event at the school Saturday.

The 10 a.m. event would be free and open to all Ascension Parish students from kindergarten through 12th grade, Pujol said.

The superintendent also said that the Bright Futures 21st Century Learning Center, an education partner of the parish's west bank schools, will hold its summer camp showcase finale event at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at B.C. Alwes Auditorium in Donaldsonville.

The camp offers six weeks of academic support in math and English as well as extracurricular enrichment in areas such as ballet, salsa dancing, violin, golf, sewing and quilting, choir, theater, and character building lessons. During the program, students will make presentations and performances of the skills they studied while at the camp, Pujol said.

In other action, the board voted to name Carli Francois as an assistant principal at East Ascension High School.