

Westlake High School  
**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

August 9, 2011 – 8am  
Lecture Hall

Attending: Audrey Barton, Rita Bowers, Natalie Clark, Debie Clegg, John Festin, Jen Finau, Lisa Gibby, Tani Ireland, Scott Mansfield, Caleb Miller, Fred Openshaw, Kriten Turner, Ryan Tyson, Julie Wallace, Franci Warner

Excused: Todd Abney

John Festin welcomed the group to the first School/Community Council meeting of the new school year. He thanked all of the patrons who were also in attendance. Natalie Clark read the minutes from the last meeting, which was April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The minutes were voted on and approved.

Because of the public attendance and to have enough time to hear all of concerns, the agenda was adjusted. Public input was the first item of business. Mr. Openshaw explained that on July 10<sup>th</sup>, Brother Beecher, the seminary president met with his seminary council, which is made up of all Stake Presidents in the Saratoga Springs and Eagle Mountain areas. The following concerns were brought to their attention:

1. Establishing better communication from Westlake High School to parents and community
  - New this year TXT Wire. This is a texting service that you can sign up for through our website. You will receive text messages on your phone of all updates and/or emergencies.
2. Swearing/Profanity in the halls
  - Get parents in the halls
  - Make adult presence known
  - Crudeness in halls needs to be cleaned up
  - Coaches/faculty/staff should all be held to the same standard
3. Dress Code Policy
  - Dress Code at Seminary
  - Same Dress Code Policy applies to faculty and staff (dress professionally)
  - Consistent on Violations (follow through)
  - If Westlake has a policy, then use it
  - Halloween—Should costumes follow dress code?
  - Extra-Curricular activities—dress code should be followed
  - Formal Dances—No. Mr. Openshaw feels that is a parent decision and he will not police dress code at formal dances.
4. Monday evenings being cleared of events
  - Events done by 6pm each Monday—except school plays and choir concerts
5. Attendance/Truancy
  - Can't force students to come to class
  - Credit will be held as an NC for truancy's and attendance issues until student has done attendance school or community service packet to make up the NC grade.

### **Solutions—**

1. Encourage more students to sign up for seminary. Westlake has the lowest % of student enrolled in seminary than other the other high schools in northern Utah County.
2. Parent volunteers in the hallways
3. Parent volunteers to help with a tutor program i.e., Algebra 1, Geometry, Chemistry, Physics, general writing structure
4. Encourage parents to teach these lessons in their homes –students spend more time at school than they do at home and need to be taught the correct principles
5. Be a listener to your student. If they tell you something that is happening and you feel that the administration should know, please contact Mr. Openshaw so he can be aware of the problem/concern.
6. Get neighbors and friends to sign up for volunteering. Create sub-committee's to help in areas of concern. Background checks for volunteers will be paid by Westlake. See Natalie Clark for details.
7. As a school, set parameters then hold the line. Raise the bar and then keep it there!
8. Parent/Teacher Conference—can it be later...from 5:30-8:30pm
9. Teachers must keep their grades current, at lease updated weekly
10. Get the SCC student rep involved in these meetings to know how the students feel about these concerns
11. As parents, recognize there is a truancy problem beginning as early as students in elementary. Make sure they are attending at an early age so when they get to middle school and high school, they don't have bad habits.
12. Make sure students know what is expected of them.

### **Other Concerns—**

1. TMU's—Students must do at least 60% of the work before they can take the test. They need to show they are ready to take the test by the homework they turn in.
2. How will the tutorial run? We are looking to take an elective class or the best time and put it on hold for 2 weeks for the tutorial session. We would need to make it clear to the parents and communicate this 2 week change to them.
3. Parent/Teacher Conferences is hard when it is in the teacher classrooms. It is not physically possible to get to all 8 teachers in the time allowed when you have to go from room to room.
4. What GPA must be upheld to participate in extra-curricular activities? 2.0. This year we have added a tracker for all students who participate in any extra-curricular activity. We hope this will help keep them up and on top of their grades.

School/Community Council Training Meeting—The annual SCC training meeting is on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the Alpine District Office. John and Fred will attend.

Class Changes—Students need to learn the importance of registering the first time the way they want their schedule to be. In June, students were able to email their counselor all month and work through class changes that way. Currently, class changes are over except for students who want to go to seminary, who have graduation issues, or are misplaced in classes.

Communication—Last spring, we talked about getting some sandwich boards for the different areas. Mr. Openshaw asked the council members to get 2 – 4 people who would be willing to house the boards, put them up and take them down at the designated times we would tell them to. We would provide all the stuff they would need. Come back to the next SCC meeting with names and how many

boards your area would like, and we will get that communication tool implemented as well. Encourage patrons to use the website. It is the most current and updated often. It is our first source of communication. We have added the TXT service and hope that parents and students will take advantage of this great tool. Twitter will also be updated at least once/week.

Concerns/Items from Council members—

- Club Rush week will be the first week of school. All clubs must be approved and must follow the Alpine School District Policy.
- The communication between the seminary and Westlake could be improved. Westlake will definitely make that commitment to improve this.
- First-aid kits for coaches to carry with them in case of emergencies.
- Remember to be tolerant with students of other cultures and backgrounds.

*“We are all here for the good of our students... We are all in this together!”*

**FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:**

**Volunteer Help—Form sub-committees and make a plan on how to carry out and follow through with handling these concerns.  
Sandwich Boards—How many do we need and who will be helping**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, September 1, 2011  
8:00pm  
Lecture Hall**

*Note: All SCC meetings for 2011-12 will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 8:00pm in the Lecture Hall. All meetings are open to the public.*