

Westlake High School
SCHOOL/COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2011 – 8pm
Westlake Lecture Hall

Attending: Todd Abney, Audrey Barton, Rita Bowers, Natalie Clark, John Festin, Lisa Gibby, Tani Ireland, Scott Mansfield, Caleb Miller, Fred Openshaw, Ryan Tyson, Julie Wallace, Franci Warner

Excused: Debbie Clegg, Jen Finau, Kristin Turner

The group was welcomed to the November meeting from chairman, John Festin, who shared a couple experiences that good things are happening at Westlake! The minutes from the October meeting were read and approved.

Driver's Ed—The overall feeling of increasing the driver's ed fee was positive. Those that the council members talked to just wanted to make sure that the extra money would be used to increase the number of teachers. There was a motion made for the driver's ed fee to increase to \$140 year round. The motion was seconded and approved.

24 vs. 28 Credit Diploma—The option of a 24 credit diploma in the high schools was discussed. The Utah State credit requirement is 24. Alpine School District holds students to a 28 credit diploma. The overall feeling of students being able to graduate with a "basic" 24 credit diploma was mixed. One side, it gives students the opportunity that would drop out and possibly not graduate at all. Students who would go for the 28 "comprehensive" diploma would more than likely be college bound. If students are lacking 4 credits or less, this will work. The decision to allow students to settle for the 24 credit option would be decided in an SEOP appointment where a parent, counselor, administrator, and the student would all be in attendance. This option would not be published. This would be that final action to help the student graduate and wouldn't be able to "turn on the switch" until the students senior year.

Stakeholder Report—The Stakeholder Report will be mailed home with report cards and a newsletter on November 11th. Watch for those to come! In the newsletter, there is a section pertaining to the Authorized Use Policy (AUP). Please encourage everyone in your communities to fill it out in Skyward. It will be open in Skyward for 2 more weeks then will get shut off. This will allow students to access the Internet while at school.

Westlake Cluster Data Review—The data pertaining to the Westlake cluster which includes, all of our feeder elementary schools and Vista Heights Middle School, was shared. It helps us see trends—where there are successes and where we need to improve. It also allows us to compare "apples to apples". What happens in elementary school really does matter in how students are in high school.

Trustlands—Last year, the amount of Trustlands monies that we had was \$63,430. The money was used for helping fund our student advocates, purchasing the Rosetta Stone licensing, the Go My Access software, the Gismo (science) software, and the Nova Net software. It also helped fund the Eastshore Center, where there was 146 credits earned last year. Our School Improvement Plan stated that we would increase our graduation rate by 3%. We only made a 2% increase but did improve our CRT scores as well as the attendance improved. This year we have continued to strive for an increase in our graduation rate.

Items from Council Members—

- Teachers need to update grades weekly. If a parent is having trouble with this, email the teacher and CC the administration. This usually helps. Teachers are strongly encouraged to update grades on a weekly basis.
- Kudos to the Choir performance! It is nice to see the choir/music programs growing. It was a great night!
- Elections are coming. Take a bond yard sign if you want one.
- Booster Club for academics—anyone interested in heading it up, let Mr. Openshaw know.
- The fall extra-curricular teams/groups have done well. We have had several showings at the state level.

Public Input—

- Tutoring
 - The debate room has been offered to hold small study groups after school.
 - Shari Davis has been contacted by all the department heads. They have let her know what the needs are of that department and when it would work.
 - Volunteers may be asked to sit in on the class(es) to hear what and how the lesson is being taught before the volunteer should tutor. Volunteers are willing to do this.
 - Currently, there are 10 volunteers that are interested in helping with the tutoring program.
 - All volunteers must have a background check done prior to volunteering.
 - It will be most effective if we can set the tutorial center up during school hours. We only have students from the time they get off the bus to the time they get back on the bus.
 - Could there be better communication on the volunteer/tutorial center?
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - The general walk-in times for parent/teacher conferences is from 3-4:30pm. From 4:30-6pm will be the appointment times only. Teachers will be calling the students who are struggling the most to set up an individualized appointment between that time. This is in efforts to maximize the time spent for parent/teacher conference.
- Halloween Dress Code
 - We either do or don't allow students to dress up for Halloween.
 - Costumes can be questionable if they fall under the dress code policy or not. Halloween is a hard time to manage when it comes to dress code.
 - If a student feels uncomfortable with something that a student is wearing, they are highly encouraged to tell a teacher.
- Test Scores
 - Our ultimate goal is to help students raise their ACT scores as well as the AP and CRT scores. We want to lead the district in these regards. We don't want to lose focus on this goal.
 - We want parents/volunteers to be actively involved!
 - Mr. Openshaw encouraged all to watch a TED video clip posted at http://blog.ted.com/2008/03/18/dave_eggers/ This clip shows what can happen if we all put our minds to it—anything is possible!
- Ideas to help students be successful
 - High School students go to the elementary schools to present to those students what they need to do now to be successful in high school. Mr. Openshaw will report back on how this thought can be implemented.

There was a proposal made to move the remaining SCC meetings to 7pm. It was voted on and approved. The rest of the meetings will remain on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm.

Be united in a common purpose. We are all about the same goal which is student achievement. Working together will get us there.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS: Implementing high school students visiting elementary school students

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 1, 2011
7:00pm
Westlake Lecture Hall