

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

November 7, 2013 – 7pm

WHS Conference Room

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**Attending:** Lynne Benham, Adam Bennion, Nicolette Fike, Tani Ireland, Leslie Jones, Caleb Miller, Kim Moir, Fred Openshaw, Trevor Schramm, Angela Webb

**Absent:** Todd Abney, Natalie Clark, John Festin, Ryan Tyson

Fred Openshaw welcomed the group to the November meeting. September minutes were read and approved.

**TRUSTLAND VIDEOS:** Two Trustland videos were shown.

**FINAL 2013 GRADUATION DATA:** The goal was to increase the graduation rate for 2013. The graduation rates are as follows: 2010 was 78%, 2011 was 79%, 2012 was 82% and 2013 was 87%. So the graduation rate for 2013 went up by 5% from the previous year. Mr. Openshaw said the focus was to increase each year and is pleased this is the case.

**NEW TESTING:** Mr. Openshaw handed out a test question to all council members, similar to the CRT multiple-choice test. In contrast, he handed out a test question from the new SAGE testing system. Data from CRT testing shows a jump, then levels out and stays the same. Also, CRT testing is a multiple choice test. SAGE testing will require deeper thinking and more effort by students, with not as many multiple choice questions, but filling in graphs or writing paragraphs. Also, SAGE testing will allow partial credit for answers given. This testing is progressive, meaning it will progress based on the student's level of understanding, and not every student will be given the same test. The question was raised about grading/scoring. Mr. Openshaw didn't know how the testing will be graded, as there may be more than one correct answer to a question. Significant drops in the passing score are to be expected, which will raise questions with parents. Mr. Openshaw said communication will be the key. Students will receive overall scores and a percentage, based on how they did in comparison to the medium of the state, class, teacher, subject, etc. A comment was made that teachers already have access to the SAGE testing and can build practice tests, enabling students to be prepared for the actual test. As SAGE testing is not just recall data testing, teachers will be able to factor in a "best-shot" mentality from students, not just asking for a percentage to pass. The testing will probably use the full window of time, roughly 1 ½ months.

**CTE DATA:** Discussion will be rolled into the next meeting.

**FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION:**

**OPEN HOUSE:** Parents of new 10<sup>th</sup> grade students cared most about the school being open so they could walk through and find classrooms, but the largest percentage of parents of new 10<sup>th</sup> grade students wanted the teachers to be present for a meet & greet. An "after-school-begins" open house was important to parents/students because they were more prepared with specific questions for teachers, students know the teacher, and parents can discuss disclosure documents. A comment was made that those who wanted the "before-school-begins" open house were those with new 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Mr. Openshaw said that before school begins, maybe a "sophomore night" would be a great idea where students can meet teachers, then have another open house for returning students after school starts. Mr. Openshaw said the council will revisit this at a later date.

**P/T CONFERENCE:** The first P/T conference this school year was poorly attended. Mr. Openshaw said he can't see the benefit when compared to the expense and time it takes to set up when very few parents come. A

comment was made that this first P/T conference was too close to the beginning of the year and it could serve the same purpose as a “meet and greet the teacher.” Mr. Openshaw suggested that the first hour of this first P/T conference could be to ask questions or meet the teacher, then the second hour could be a specific meeting with a teacher. The date cannot be changed and is set by the District. Another suggestion was given that WHS could have the Sophomore New Student Orientation/Open House, then have an auditorium discussion on the date set by the District about how to navigate the school, introduce the teachers, then visit teachers in classrooms the next hour. Mr. Openshaw proposed that the new “Sophomore Night” would take place 1 ½ weeks before school starts, then wait until the next P/T Conf. date for an open house with returning students. All council members were in favor.

**ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

- People in general are pleased so far with the school year.
- Marching Band took the 4A State Championship in the St. George competition. WHS was in the top 10 of the finals out of 27 schools in the region, including schools from CA, NV, NM, CO and UT. WHS took 4<sup>th</sup> place in region above Davis and Skyview high schools.
- Data on dress code: A comment was made about parents patrolling in the commons area before school begins and during both lunches. The most non-compliant students counted were 18, which is pretty low compared to the total number of students in WHS. This was a study conducted over a 2-3 week period. Some students are still non-compliant but the numbers are going down due to the cold weather.
- Parents are pleased that the number of students hanging out in the Commons area is going down.
- Seems to be confusion between teachers and possibly parents about the new TMU policy and when grading is done, when remediation period is done. Mr. Openshaw said that is a discussion that teachers need to have with their respective department heads. Mr. Openshaw further explained about how credit is assigned past the term or semester if a student receives an “F” in any class. Mr. Openshaw also thinks the staff is doing pretty well on emailing parents or students back in a timely manner.
- Caleb Miller talked about the Suicide Prevention evening. The District prepared a presentation about mental health, depression, suicide, drug/alcohol abuse, and pornography and internet safety. About 70-80 people showed up, including students and counselors from the community. It was a good resource for families so they talk to the right people. Mr. Miller talked about the HOPE Squad. The Science Department posed questions to their students about who they would talk to if they needed to. Several students were nominated and a list compiled. These students had to complete an application process. The HOPE Squad is composed of students that act as a sounding board for students that need someone to talk to. Also, the HOPE Squad logo will be designed for T-shirts and signs on the outside of classrooms so students can visibly see who or where to go if they need to talk. Erin Davis and Karen Pauga (Vista) will complete several training sessions for these HOPE Squad students, then training will commence monthly for them after the initial training. Mr. Schramm suggested that students be given a number to text if they are in trouble and need to talk. HOPE week will be the third or fourth week of February where HOPE Squad students will be doing activities, discussing suicide prevention, wearing their HOPE Squad T-shirts.
- Mr. Openshaw hopes other teachers will jump on board with what the Science Department has been doing. If teachers teach the same subject the same period, it saves remediation time. If students don’t pass the common assessment, they go to one room, those who did go to another room.

Next Meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2014, 7pm, WHS Conf room. At that meeting, Mr. Openshaw will revisit the CTE Data, and then begin planning for Trustlands money for the upcoming school year.