

Westlake High School
SCHOOL/COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 1, 2015 – 5:00pm
WHS Front Conference Room

Attending: Lynne Benham, Mickelle Bos, Janet Cherrington, Natalie Clark, DJ Conger, Nicolette Fike, Wendy Fork, Jared Huff, Caleb Miller, Trevor Schramm, Aprill Triggs, Angela Webb

Absent: Audrey Barton, Angela Duke, Ruth Gowans, Kerrienne Sabey, Gary Twitchell

Lynne Benham welcomed the group to the October meeting. The minutes from the September meeting were read and approved.

Civics Test Update

- The Counselors started having seniors go to the computer lab immediately following their CCR appointment to take the test. The Civics Test information didn't come to us soon enough for those who had CCR appointments in the beginning to take the test.
- We are planning to have seniors who attend College Day take the test during one of their rotations.
- From that point, the counselors will make contact with those who still need to take the test or didn't pass the test, to come in to the counseling office to get it taken care of.
- Students can take the test as many times as they need to in order to pass the test.
- As of right now, we are doing everything we can to get students to take the test while here at school rather than have them take it at home.

Trustlands

- The Trustlands budget came in for the 2015-16 school year at \$148,928.
- The extra money has been put in the Equipment category, as was agreed by the council and written in the School Education Plan and Trustlands grant.

Make-Up for Failing Grades

- It has been proposed through the Administration, Steering Committee, and faculty that the policy of how students make-up failing grades be held to a higher standard.
- Students would have 2 weeks after the term ends to make up a failing grade. After that, the grade would stay at an F and the student would have to look at other options for make-up.
- This policy would allow the teacher discretion on a case by case basis. This would only be allowed on rare cases.
- In math classes, where students build on concepts, students would only be allowed to fail two terms before they would be pulled out and placed in a different class. We do not want to set the student up for failure.
- This new policy would not allow students to procrastinate. We want to teach our students skills for life.
- The council stated they welcomed this idea as long as it is fully communicated to students and parents. There would need to be a caller, email and notifications via social media to communicate this effectively. The council also wanted to see this rolled out and become "the policy" as soon as possible.
- The new policy was proposed by the council, seconded and approved.

Back to School Night Discussion

- Mr. Schramm administered a teacher poll so the council could have an idea of where the faculty was on this situation. He reported the following:
 - The Open House (before school started) was effective
 - The Back to School Night was not.
 - The faculty would rather see the Open House, Back to School Night and the September Parent/Teacher Conference combined into one. This would mean that teachers would be in their rooms and available during the Open House night. Students and parents would be able to review the syllabi for each teacher and know the expectations of their class.
 - The council felt that better advertising needed to be done to promote this event.
 - A sophomore/new student orientation could still be done on this same evening, which would include club information and tours. Both of which worked well this year.
 - Right now, we are looking to hold this event on the Thursday before school starts. The council wanted to see the hours expanded to allow more time for parents to make it to all the classes and take care of everything they need.
 - Some voiced they would rather see Parent/Teacher Conference in September be done in addition to the Open House. Perhaps put not as many hours put into the Open House so PTC can still be done.
 - Could Mr. Twitchell bring this up at his Cluster Meetings with the other principals so the middle schools and the elementaries would not schedule an Open House on the same night? Parents have a hard time getting to everything!
- There will be more discussion on this topic to follow.

AP Data

- Mr. Huff shared the 2014-15 AP Data and a copy was given to all council members.

Out of State Limits Discussion

- As the council members talked with people from their area and/or people they associate with, they all felt that a cap on a budget rather than label it “Out of State” makes more sense. They also felt it be a 3-year average so students will have the opportunity to “tour” all 3 years they are in high school. The coach/advisor would just have to be reasonable with the trip expenses if they want to take students Out of State all 3 years.

Items from Council Members

- Parking is an issue. There are not enough spots for everyone who needs to park.
- Thunder Boulevard is very dangerous because of all the cars that are parked on the road.
- Visitor parking is also an issue. Parents who are coming to check out their student needs a place to park for a brief period of time. There never seems to be any spots. Sometimes students are using the faculty and the visitor spots.
- Tickets are being issued.
- Could the driving range be opened for more parking?
- Homecoming Carnival—could it be more in the evening and team it with Saratoga Springs City? Make it a bigger event for families.
- There needs to be some activities that are free for students who don't have the means to purchase tickets.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS: Technology Usage in Schools

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 5, 2015
5:00pm
WHS Front Conference Room**