

Westlake High School

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 1, 2011 – 7pm
Westlake Lecture Hall

Attending: Burgandy VanWagenen, Natalie Clark, John Festin, Scott Mansfield, Caleb Miller, Fred Openshaw, Ryan Tyson, Julie Wallace

Absent: Todd Abney, Audrey Barton, Rita Bowers, Debbie Clegg, Jen Finau, Lisa Gibby, Tani Ireland, Kristin Turner, Franci Warner

The group was welcomed to the December 1st meeting. The minutes from the November meeting were read and approved.

Surveys—Mr. Openshaw shared the data of the parent, student and faculty surveys that have been available online to take. These surveys were made for accreditation purposes. There were 811 students that took the surveys, 311 parents and 57 faculty. The data will be given to the department chairs to share within their departments and then to discuss.

Academic Booster Club—Scott Mansfield shared a powerpoint on the importance of having an academic booster club. One of the main purposes of the booster club would be to make connections with those kids in need. Scott strongly encouraged the council and patrons to view the movie clip on ted.com. The link is http://blog.ted.com/2008/03/18/dave_eggert/. The booster club would help in the areas of tutoring, academic recognition and provide opportunities for financial aid in micro scholarships such as, paying for an AP exam that a student cannot afford. The structure of the booster club would have a president, president elect, and so on down the line. Just as each athletic organization has a booster club, academics would benefit from something like this as well. This program is in its beginning stages and will be a process in the making.

Student Rep Input—FCCLA is doing a fundraiser to help benefit families in the Westlake community this holiday season. Anyone that can donate, please do so! Burgandy showed a video that was made regarding dress code. In this video, it is what boys think about the way girls dress. This video is posted on the Westlake website. There is also a monthly newsletter done and is posted on the website as well. There is a section in this month's addition that is regarding dress code. Mr. Openshaw thanked Burgandy for her work regarding this issue.

Trustlands—In April our School Improvement Plan (SIP) will be submitted along with the way we are projecting to spend the Trustlands monies. The projected amount is \$70,000. The SIP plan is to continue to increase the graduation rate. Some ideas to use the Trustlands monies are:

- Help fund the credit recovery center at Westlake. (Eastshore)
- Student Advocates
- Professional Development Days with Staff
- Tutorial Center (one person on staff to oversee the tutorial center)
- Computer Lab Upgrade
- Late Bus

This is a start and Mr. Openshaw has asked the council to come prepared at our next meeting to talk about next year's Trustland budget.

Items from Council Members—

- The signs for Parent/Teacher Conference seem to be helping. We are getting good comments from patrons.
 - The structure of parent/teacher conference worked well. Mostly all good comments from structuring it a little differently.

- We need someone at the table directing traffic the whole time. That really seemed to help.
- We will print progress reports and have them available at the front door.
- Teachers need to have a “take a seat” sign at the door or allow the line to be inside the classroom so teachers can see how long their line is.

Public Input—

- Can there be donations from businesses to help with the micro scholarships? Yes. It could go through the Alpine Foundation which gives the business a tax write-off. The academic booster club would have to come up with the criteria as to who they would consider giving the money to.
- Dress Code—
 - Can there be clothing donations to help students who need more clothes than what they are wearing? Maybe this is all they have. Burgandy is going to head this idea up and make it a cheer and drill thing.
 - Kathy McGregor will talk to the parent volunteer group about this idea
 - Are the policies being enforced well enough? Some feel like they are not and the effort needs to be increased in enforcing the policies that have been written.
 - The dress code standards for the faculty are the same as the students at school activities.
- Can public input be structured at the beginning of the SCC meetings rather than the end?
- Parent/Teacher Conference—
 - Time too short for walk-ins and just too short overall
 - School Map with name of teachers on the map
 - Hallways labeled better
 - Split parent/teacher conference up into 2 consecutive nights? By alphabet? Walk-in’s one night and appointments the other?
 - Make Parent/Teacher Conference user friendly
- Communication is improving. We are using the calling system, texts and emails.
- Parents feel they don’t know how to use Skyward. Podcast made and put on web?
- Parents need to get their log-in from the counseling office.
- Parents need to complete the Authorized Use Policy (AUP) in Skyward or they will not be able to continue to access their student account while at school.
- How can we immediately recognize those students who have increased their grades? Don’t let them completely fall before something gets done—beginning with contact at the student’s home.

If anyone is interested in getting the tutorial center going, come next Tuesday, December 06, 2011, Wednesday, December 7, 2011 or Thursday, December 8, 2011 to get it going. See Scott Mansfield—he is excited and ready!

NEXT MEETING: **January 5, 2012**
 7:00pm
 Westlake Lecture Hall

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS: **Trustlands—Come with ideas**
 Podcast on Skyward for parents—Can it be made?
 Academic Booster Club—How is it coming along?