

**West High School Community Council
November 11, 2019, 5:30pm-7:30pm
West High Media Center (approved)**

I. Welcome and Introductions

In attendance: Katherine Stroud, Ford White, Anna Cekola, Laura Hernandez, Michael Hughes, Ami Burton, Sherri Hutten, Emily Stromness, Katherine Kennedy, Joshua Pelton, Julie Lewis, Trish Coughlin, Suzanne Attix, Phillip Baker **Students:** Julliann Cruz, Christina Leung **Guests:** Lisa Speight, Kenwyn Derby, Suyin Chong, Ella Musuris,

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

B. Fundraisers and Trips: Softball team: selling sweatshirts and helping with U of U Concessions to pay uniforms and travel. Approve.

III. Information Items

A survey about late start will be sent to about 700 families via email.

IV. Discussion Items

School Safety Responsibilities Discussion Topics:

A. Building and Ground Safety: Ford handed out an itemized breakdown of the changes/improvements at West and areas that still need improvement. Mental health services should be included in this. Also strengthening student and family relations, a system of intervention, and positive behavior. Included on the sheet are the types of security incidents that have occurred. Many students don't even have one adult to talk to. Ford: We are a reflection of our community. We need to be supportive of our community. District needs to give the SCC reports/evaluations on things like radon, asbestos, lead paint, water, etc.

- a. **Additional Needs:** Social workers. De-escalation training. Magnetic doors. Chipped Student ID cards to get into the building. A lot of students come into West who don't go to school here causing trouble. The ID cards will restrict that. West is not fully staffed in security because of what the District pays and adults who don't want to be around kids. AND they need to be properly trained (currently training doesn't exist).

B. Crisis and emergency response protocol: Flip charts are done, parents need to understand protocol in an emergency (earthquake, etc). Teachers should each have a plan for their space to help reduce anxiety in students, and communicate that to them. Teachers need required training. Students need training to help reduce anxiety. Training for students who might be in a rest room, coming to school late, etc. Encourage parents to have their own personal plan as well. Train substitute teachers.

C. School and student needs and support related to school culture, mental health, and safe school violations. Ultimately, the students need to listen to their teachers. Assembly to teach students? There are individual trainings within the classroom already for other issues, like sexual harassment and safe school violations (weapons, assault, repeat offenses). West shares a social worker – only four hours a week. West should be

given more hours, since we have a higher percentage of students in the district going to West. Things have changed in the culture of the school. Originally, students wouldn't "snitch". Now they use the app as well as approach administration. Kids are now intervening. That's a culture piece. The students want a safe school, too. There is an uptick of students going to UNI this year. West is finding ways to help them when they return to school to help them reintegrate. That is fairly new. Vaping – there is a drop in use due to the recent deaths in the country. Some students who have vaped with high TCH have actually called 911 for themselves. SAFEUT is helping. Sometimes friend of at-risk kids might text in to inform that a student is having difficulty. Then a counselor might be alerted and contact that student to check in.

D. Transportation, parking lot, and safe walking route plans and protocols Some lots have had to be closed. Walking from the West side is dangerous and difficult. There should be more yellow school bus routes from Rose Park. Or work with UTA to have better bussing. Transportation is very underfunded.

E. How does administration and staff balance safety with creating a setting for learning? Admin does NOT want to make the school feel like a police state. There is drug trafficking and heavy gang involvement.

F. What recent actions has the administration and staff taken to increase a safe learning environment? (See list distributed by Ford White)

F. What does the administration see as the greatest day-to-day safety concerns?

1. **Student trespassers: an inconvenience and nuisance**
 2. **Mental health issues** biggest problem. Lots of constant, complex trauma.
 3. **District needs a clearer leverage with accountability**
 4. **Safe walking/bussing paths**
 5. **Emergency protocol, classroom plans, parent plans**
 6. **Unfulfilled work orders**
- i. **Council Responsibilities:** Listen, ask questions, and understand what is going on. Could give recommendations to the Board. SCC is supposed to look at these issues annually and try to help where possible.
- ii. **Discuss and identify priorities where the council may be effective:**
Grants? It would only help fund for 3 years, so we need a more permanent solution. Paraprofessionals, grounds, etc. need to get more money. What they currently earn is not a living wage. That will be very expensive for the district. Paraprofessionals did get a raise (those who work directly with students), but it's not enough. Money now available for a full time Family Resource Staff. SCC might need a representative to contact Legislature.

2. Select priorities that councils could address in the remaining months of the school year/ Prepare an action plan to address the identified issue Priorities to be chosen in December

V. Reports

A. IB

B. School Board

C. Equity and Access

D. SIC: might bring to board to graduate in 27 credits, with one course required of rigorous study. Trying to get more students take more classes. 2 language classes are also being considered as requirements. Who is this for? College-bound students? This might not benefit all students. Would like to make this a future discussion item for SCC.

E. Others as needed (LAND Trust, Development, Communication, etc.)

F. Principal Report: West High Data Set 2018-19: Highest growth in five years. 5% increase who are college ready.

VI. Assignments: Ford is going to set up a time for people to do a walking tour of the building to point out needs “School Safety Tour”

VII. Next Meeting: Monday, December 9, 2019, 5:30PM