

West High School Community Council Minutes (approved)

January 11, 2021 5:30pm-7:30pm

Zoom meeting

<https://slcschools-org.zoom.us/j/96614020381>

I. Welcome and Introductions

In Attendance: Katherine Stroud (chair), Suzanne Attix, Jennifer Barrett, Sela Botchway, Shane Brogan, Anna Cekola, Suyin Chong, Valerie Gates, Michael Hughes, Julie Lewis, Joshua Pelton (co-chair), Nidia Pollock, Bernard Price, Holly Reynolds, Emily Stromness, Rachel Vaenuku, Jared Wright, Ron Zamir

Student and Ad Hoc members: Katherine Kennedy (SLCSB)

Guests: Shannon Wilson, Lisa Speight, Rep. Jen Dailey-Provost, Alicia Kelly, Joel-Lehi Organista (SLCSB), Robert Guido, Josie Wankier, Jonathan Fink

II. Consent Agenda

- A. **Approval of Minutes:** December and Special Meeting from last week:
Moved and approved.
- B. **Fundraisers and Trips:** None

III. Information Items

IV. Discussion Items

A. **Return Plan or Spring Plan (Jared):** Work continues to develop an in-person option. Timeline unknown, tied to vaccination of teachers per recent board decision. The completed plan will be distributed to families for review before they must choose an option. Among the most recent developments related to the plan:

- We are going to expand the lunchroom into the tech wing gym.
- West will be host to a vaccine distribution center, working with Community Nursing Services. Vaccinations start Thursday (Jan. 14).

Discussion included questions about protocol on COVID sick leave for teachers and how to develop equally effective simultaneous online and in-person instructional methods. A plan to modify the current remote learning schedule by shortening Zoom classes and starting small in-person afternoon groups will be postponed.

B. **Discuss Overnight / Extended Trips and Activities:** None

C. **Data Review:** Postponed discussion to February.

D. **Review progress of current year LAND Trust plan** (Jared): Summary of estimated expenditures for 2020-2021: \$366,000, with an estimated carryover of \$10,250.

- **Goal 1:** Students will increase passing rates in core academic courses, make and maintain positive attendance increases, and contribute to a reduction in behavioral referrals for ninth-grade students; related to PXP. The school revamped PXP classes this year to support remote learning.
- **Goal 2:** The school will increase our college and career readiness; related to the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program.
- **Goal 3:** Increase reading, writing, and comprehension rates for Multilanguage Learners (MLL). West received an award recently for closing the achievement gap for MLL students—one of eight high schools statewide to receive the honor.
- **Goal 4:** Empower Latino youth to lead and strengthen their communities through culturally responsive social and emotional learning, college and career readiness, and leadership development through the Latinos In Action program.
- **Goal 5:** Increase College and Career Readiness standards, mainly through professional development, to provide students with more access to courses and support structures. The school has not been able to do the professional development aspect this year.
- **Goal 6:** Provide funding for credit recovery for students who are off-track for graduation. We will need to expand this area to deal with this disrupted school year.

E. **Continue TSSP discussion** (Jared): With regard to land trust funding, PXP is an important program. Staff is gathering data about it. AVID is an extremely worthy cause. We need to continue to close MLL gap. The process between now and April will be to gather and share information related to these goals and programs. We will be looking to develop a Land Trust funding plan with flexibility and the ability to adapt to address academic needs due to the pandemic.

F. **ADL assessment update** (Jared): Consensus to begin needs assessment to develop programming, rather than wait until after in-person/remote learning surveys are complete.

V. **Reports**

A. **Late Start** (Katherine): Committee might need board direction before the next meeting. Recommendations to come.

B. **High School Improvement:** No report.

C. **Community Outreach** (Jared): An expanded team including eight paraprofessionals and other staff members are calling students every day and coordinating with counselors, and directing resources to families. The effort is yielding great results.

D. **IB** (Ron): The last meeting focused on budgeting and fundraising. We are also looking at how IB is distributed across socio-economic lines. The IB Steering Committee is making equity a greater focus. Look for details soon on open houses.

E. **PTA** (Suzanne): Awaiting more information on whether to begin preparing for parent-teacher conference meals, Grad Night, and other usual PTA-supported activities.

F. **School Board:** Joel-Lehi's report included an update on the superintendent search. Katherine Kennedy gave an update on the board's decision to make sure teachers are vaccinated before secondary schools offer an in-person option. She estimates the vaccine process could take about eight weeks, pushing back the original Feb. 8 opening date. It is unknown what the delay will have on teacher bonuses from the state. She welcomes emails with opinions or feedback.

G. **Equity and Access:** Introduced new counselor Alicia Kelly. The counseling team continues to make strides in connecting social workers with students who need additional resources.

H. **SIC** (Holly): Reviewing and collaborating on the West Way in-person learning plan and new grading recommendations. Literacy is the topic of the current schoolwide focus. Class registration will begin soon. Overnight trips will be coming next month for approval.

I. **Principal** (Robert Guido): To address a significant increase in F grades due to remote learning and pandemic challenges, West is revising its grading guidelines. Credit recovery only addresses one part of the problem. There is a need to be proactive and stop Fs from happening in the first place. The new guidelines include a renewed commitment for actionable empathy and

compassion that de-emphasizes the need for makeup packets. Among the main points:

- Competency-based deliverable for a “P” (Passing Grade): This measurement will preferably be a conversation or a conference, not an exam, and will cover state benchmarks.
- Exit Tickets that only help, not harm, students.
- Reduce the number of assignments by 20 percent.
- Institute No Grade, rather than Fs, for chronically absent students.
- Review all Fs received by students with 504 plans.

Jared notes the tremendous support and thought put into these guidelines by the administrative team. We do not want to lower our standards and what a diploma represents. But the school is compelled to adapt in a more directed way to help students and honor teachers who are working harder than ever before under a remote-learning system that cannot compare to in-person instruction. SCC is supportive of the policy.

VIII. Upcoming Events: Parent-Teacher conferences; Jan. 20 school tour.

IX. Next Meeting: Feb. 8, 2021, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.