

West High School Community Council
Minutes (Draft)
May 13, 2019 5:30pm-7:30pm
West High Media Center

I. Welcome and Introductions

In Attendance: Katherine Stroud, Ford White, Trish Coughlin, Valerie Gates, Jennifer Johnston, Anna Cekola, Kenwyn Derby, Kara Budge, Suzanne Attix, Sherri Hutten, Laura Hernandez, Julie Lewis, Joshua Pelton **Guests:** Jake Garrett, Jen Dailey-Provost, Phillip Baker, Katherine Kennedy, Caryn Willardsen, Chris Gesteland, Janae Hunt

II. Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes: Approved

B. Fundraisers and Trips Cheer: Car washes, Butter Braids, Team Apparel. West High Drill Team: Oestana banquet, Rio Tinto concessions. Softball: "Stomp" for multiple schools' softball teams. Approved.

III. Information Items

A. Weighting of U of U classes at West: (student Sasha Jovonovic-Hacon) Propose classes taken at the U get additional weight, like IB, AP, and concurrent classes do. This is only a West issue, as East and Highland do not weight grades at all. Sasha asserts that the few students that have to resort to the U (because West classes are not advanced enough for them) should still receive weighted credit since the classes are of the same rigor as AP / IB. Backstory – this was brought up about 20 years ago. They decided not to weight U classes, because there was an inequity for those kids who couldn't afford to take classes at the U, are working, etc. West would also have to include online colleges. How would West equitably weight credits from the U versus other institutions? The biggest issue is one of equity. It was recommended that Sasha present to SIC. A possible solution is to decide on a case by case basis, with students appealing directly to the SIC.

B. Safe Routes Plan: (Suzanne Arthur) Geography class: Geo Inquiry: Trying to identify the safest walking path as well as other solutions. How many students would prefer a yellow school bus instead of the UTA pass that is currently given to those students who live within the 2-mile area? Martin needs to see the video the class created, and the class also needs to present to the School Board. Many students from the West side are missing school or are arriving very late because of the obstacles present for students to get here, like trains stopped at intersections, unsafe bridges, etc. The UTA bus passes do give students the most flexibility. Is that bus reliable? Accommodating? Martin confirmed that bus passes WILL be issued to students. The SCC can help by identifying the safest walking route to WHS, and by communicating with the district.

The district could help by creating a shuttle bus to transport students safely over the overpass and train tracks, and by creating a text alert system to notify students when trains are stopped on the tracks.

C. Informational Update: (Ford White) (see Principal's report)

IV. Discussion Items

A. Feedback for Calendar Committee: Option 1 was selected. Now we are considering adding fall break to it. To do this, we need to either shorten spring break, or

add additional days to the end of the year. West SCC would prefer to keep the Fall break, keep the Spring break, and end school later. We also reiterated that we would like to have a voice earlier on in the process. We are being presented with plans that are 98% finished, and feel like we have minimal influence.

B. Late Start Draft Proposal: Would begin no sooner than the 2020/21 year. Topic: delaying the start time, and how this would affect the entire district. The proposal is for high school to start at 8:30. Elementary schools starting at 9 or prior to high school. **Benefits of our current schedule?** Everyone's used to it. Kids get home earlier. HS students take care of younger siblings. Easy for parents on the way to work. Easy to drive pre-rush hour in both morning and afternoon. Kids who are working after school often start at 3. Sports after school. **Benefits of starting later?** Sleep research. Better health social/emotional. There were five suicides this year. Research shows later start times prevent at least 30% of suicides. Increase academic performance. Fewer car crashes in both the morning and later in the day. Students are making better driving decisions. Lighter in the morning. Better for long-term health. Benefits low income students the most (graduation rates increase, etc). **Concerns of starting later?** Work, sports, little kids walking to school early, concern that students will be tardy anyway. Concern that it will cost elementary schools a lot of money to have someone supervising in the morning. Katherine K. feels this trend will change nationally in the next 10-20 years. The question is if the SLCSd wants to be in the forefront of this, or be catching up. District is leaning towards a three-tier bus system. It would allow more of them to have a longer day. 2-tier is very difficult to get students to school on time.

SCC voting for later start time: 9.

SCC voting for keeping the time: 1.

Abstain: 1.

C. West High Attendance Committee Recommendations for 2019/2020: Create a dedicated attendance office to track and communicate attendance issues. Amend Red Card Policy so that only Juniors and Seniors (in good standing) can have less than 8 classes. Implement a STRICT truancy policy: Students that have 5 unexcused absences receive "NG"(no grade) for the term. 3 "L" tardies or 1 "T" tardy= one unexcused absence.

Another issue is that when there is a substitute, students are often skipping class. Or the school can't get enough subs for absent instructors. Decided to: get a secretary specific to attendance. 5% kids habitually truant. 15% selectively skipping.

D. Security Issues: (Discussion that will continue in the new school year) Have two people who are in charge of dispatch (if students are collecting somewhere, someone can be dispatched to address this). Previous years there have been more dangerous activities. This year there are half as many, we are just talking about them more now. Rumors that West isn't safe. There is a lot more smoking. With security cameras in the secret stairway, there are no smoking issues there (but where are they going? – bathrooms). Can no longer give citations (new law), which has removed some tools when the authorities have needed them. Ford now just suspends kids until a parent comes in. When a parent comes in, the student can come back. Ford works on course correction with students, and it works better when parents are involved. Used to be about 60 kids that were higher risk. But now it is down to 20. It took longer, but it has been effective. Some faculty don't feel as safe (could be a result of the repercussions of law changes). West suspends more kids than East and Highland combined.

E. Election of 2019/2020 Officers (Chair, Co-chair, Chair Elect...) Nominate Katherine Stroud FOR ANOTHER YEAR!!!!!!! The SCC must still elect a co-chair and a Chair Elect for next year.

V. Reports

A. IB: In order to maintain the IB program, there will need to be more effort to spread the base for the program (more faculty, etc). SIC has signaled that they are open to that. This supports the E2 initiative.

B. School Board: none

C. SIC: covered by attendance policy recommendations

D. Principal

Report: TSSA money (Teacher Student Success Act). All money toward student achievement for sheltered groups. West should receive about \$300,000. SIC already doing a lot of the requirements: Double block of math for slower learners, ELL courses, etc. TSSA money will free up money for FTE for hiring new full time attendance secretary, more student advocates, more paraprofessionals, etc. IB, AP, and AVID training is now freed up. Also need to cover fee-waivered students for activities, administrators for out-of-state travel, etc. Also instructional paraprofessional's salary has increased to \$15/hour.

VI. Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 11: Senior Prom

Friday, May 24, **NO** Snow Day Make-Up

Monday, May 27: Memorial Day-No School

Wednesday, May 29: IB Diploma 10th graders & Parents, CAS meeting. COMMONS

Friday, May 31: ELP 8th Grade Promotion, 6-8 pm

June 4-7: IB 11th graders Extended Essay (EE)/Reflective Project Camp; mornings

Wednesday, June 5: Last Day of Classes

Wednesday, June 5: Graduation @ Huntsman Center 4:00

VII. Next Meeting: September 9, 2019 5:30 (THANK YOU!!! Have a fantastic Summer!)