Westlake High School

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2011 – 8:00pm Westlake Lecture Hall

Attending: Todd Abney, Audrey Barton, Rita Bowers, Natalie Clark, Debbie Clegg, John Festin, Lisa Gibby, Tani Ireland, Scott Mansfield, Fred Openshaw, Kristin Turner, Ryan Tyson, Burgandy VanWagenen, Julie Wallace

Excused: Jen Finau, Caleb Miller, Franci Warner

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

Sandwich Boards—Generic Parent/Teacher Conference signs were ordered and distributed to the council members. Before ordering more, we want to get feedback on managing the signs. If we feel it is helping, we can look at more generic signs that can be reused. We had good reviews on the few signs that were put out at the September parent/teacher conference.

Hall Volunteer Report—Kathy McGregor, the chairman over the hall volunteer parent program, reported on the standings of this program. Currently, there are about 50 people that have signed up, 25 of those have completed the background check. There has been approximately 20 volunteering since the program began on September 20th. It is great to see the support of community members—we can always use more. Volunteers encourage good values and are trying to be positive influences with students. The overall feedback is that it is a good start but not yet where we want to be with this program. Those that have helped feel like girls blouses/tops are the largest problem. We realize that teachers need to help more with enforcing the dress code policy. When we hold students at a higher level and expect more out of them, they seem to rise to that level. An idea of going into the classrooms and give the coupons in class was given by the student rep on the council. She felt like it would be more effective when the other students and teachers could also see the program in action. That is something that will be looked into. We will continue to tweak until we feel it is working well. The hall volunteer program is more than just dress code, it is creating the environment in how we want Westlake to be.

Tutoring Program—Shari Davis is the coordinator of the tutoring program. It hasn't started yet but will within the next 2 weeks. We are going to start with having the volunteer(s) go into a class in the area they specialize in and help with students who are behind in that class. We originally talked about a tutorial center but as of right now, we don't have the means to structure it that way.

Public Input—Positive peer-pressure is the way students can be reached the most. One idea that a parent presented was to use a digital photo class, video production class, or newspaper class to have the teacher make it an assignment to write about some of the issues that we are facing. The thought is to have students influence students by using classroom assignments such as: pictures, video, etc. The council liked the idea. Burgandy, the student rep, will take this information back and implement this in all that she can.

SCC Training—John Festin and Mr. Openshaw attended the annual SCC training last month. One point that we, as a council need to clarify is if we want to continue with equal representation throughout Westlake's geographical area. Right now, the council is made up of a representative from each elementary area. Do we want to continue doing it this way? A motion was made to keep it the way it is. The motion was seconded and approved.

CTE Data Review—Mr. Openshaw reviewed last year's CTE data. Overall the scores were good. Some classes' scores must improve and Mr. Openshaw has talked to the teachers and the department chairs about this. In cases where there is multiple teachers teaching the same class and scores are not consistent, collaboration Monday's are not being used wisely and Mr. Openshaw has reviewed that with those teachers as well.

Driver's Ed Fees—Currently, driver's ed is being taught before/after school and during the summer. The \$90 fee covers range and road and the school has been covering the cost of the classroom instruction. The cost of driver's ed in the summer is \$140 because parents/students who want to take driver's ed in the summer has to cover the entire cost of the range, road and classroom instructional time. Mr. Openshaw would like the council to dialogue with their neighborhoods to see what their feeling is on increasing the driver's ed fee to \$140 year round. If this change was to happen, we would be able to use the money back into the school day to hire more teachers to level class sizes even more. The complete cost of driver's ed would be for the parent/student to take care of. The council members need to be ready to have a discussion on this topic at our next meeting.

Diploma Discussion—The Utah State credit requirement for the State of Utah is 24. Alpine School District is 28 credits. There is a discussion starting to see if the high schools in Alpine School District should let students graduate with a "basic 24 credit diploma". The administration and counselors would make that call for a student during their senior year only—once they could see that they were not going to achieve the "comprehensive 28 credit diploma". This would allow seminary to increase their numbers of students taking seminary their senior year. Several seniors cannot take seminary their senior year because they have to use that time to fulfill credits they are lacking. Currently, students with less than 28 credits do not graduate from Westlake. They either go for a GED or they check out of Westlake and check in to Eastshore where they are given the 24 credit diploma option. One concern is that students would catch on to this and not ever strive for the full 28 credits. Mr. Openshaw has asked that the council members take this discussion into their neighborhoods and see what the overall feeling is. Come back to the next SCC meeting with this information. A change such as this would have to go through the school board for approval.

Parent/Teacher Conferences—September's Parent/Teacher Conference was one of our largest turn-out's, if not our largest! As best as we can tell, there were about 700 students/parents who showed up for it. It was during Homecoming Week and there was some other events on that night which made for a busy night but our hopes was that parents would stay and support the homecoming parade and powder puff game. The next Parent/Teacher Conference is November 30th from 3 – 6pm.

Trustlands Video (6 minutes)

Items/Concerns:

- Communication has improved from the year's past!
- Westlake High is a great place to be!
- Remember to keep balanced. One council member hopes that getting the dress code, etc. cleaned up, we don't lose focus on staying balanced with academics, etc. at Westlake.
- Booster Club for Academics? Athletic/extra-curricular groups all have booster clubs to help their programs...why not have a booster club for academics? This could help provide scholarship aide, funding for AP tests to those who cannot afford it. It could really be a useful tool. Anyone interested in taking charge of this and becoming the Academic Booster Club President, contact Mr. Openshaw.
- Mr. Openshaw reminded the council that they are the voice of your communities and he needs them to voice their input at these meetings.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS: Driver's Ed Fees

24 vs. 28 Diploma Credit

NEXT MEETING: November 3, 2011

8:00pm

WHS Lecture Hall