

West High School Community Council Minutes(draft)
October 12, 2020 5:30pm-7:30pm
Zoom meeting

<https://slcschools-org.zoom.us/j/96787912300>

I. Welcome and Introductions

In Attendance: Katherine Stroud (chair), Joshua Pelton (co-chair), Suzanne Attix, Phillip Baker, Jennifer Barrett, Sela Botchway, Shane Brogan, Ami Burton, Anna Cekola, Suyin Chong, Jessica Esparza, Valerie Gates, Laura Hernandez, Michael Hughes, Julie Lewis, Nidia Pollock, Bernard Price, Holly Reynolds, Emily Stromness, Gina Tua'one, Rachel Vaenuku, Anabelle Valencia, Jared Wright, Ron Zamir **Student and Ad Hoc members:** Juliann Cruz, Katherine Kennedy (SLCSB) **Guests:** Jon Fink, Robert Guido, Samuel Hanson (SLCSB)

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Moved and approved unanimously
- B. Fundraisers and Trips – Moved and approved unanimously
 - [Black Student Union Car Wash](#)
 - [West High Men's and Women's Lacrosse Selling Cases of Fresh Oranges](#)

III. Information Items - 5 minutes each maximum (plus Q&A if necessary)

IV. Discussion Items

- A. **Review / Modify Rules of Order and Procedure** ([Original](#) and [Revised](#)) – Moved and approved unanimously

The most substantial change involves increasing the number of parents on the SCC board as follows: “The West High SCC will have a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 20 parent/guardian members. The SCC strives to equitably represent the West High student and family community. A group of parents who feel that they are not adequately represented on the SCC may petition the council for an additional representative position. Employee members must always be at least two fewer than the number of parent/guardian members.”

- B. **Seat Council** – Moved and unanimously approved new and returning parent members. Now have 19 parents on the council, including new members Jennifer Barrett, Sela Botchway, Shane Brogan, Suyin Chong, Jessica Esparza, Nidia Pollock, Bernard Price, Gina Tua'one, Rachel Vaenuku, Anabelle Valencia, and Ron Zamir. Moved and unanimously approved to have Holly Reynolds represent SIC. Can have up to 17 teacher/staff members on SCC.

- C. **Distance Learning Update** (Jared White)

- **Attendance:** Running detailed reports every week. Data points include Canvas usage. For example, 278 students who had logged in previously failed to log in last week. Such numbers are concerning but not yet cause for

panic. Numbers vary. Trying to verify student status, determine who has moved away or needs tech—tracking trends.

- **Instruction:** Hearing lots of positives. The situation is not ideal, but teachers have done an excellent job preparing online instruction and using time wisely. Multilingual Learners (MLL) who are behind on assignments are now receiving in-person help. Still, many teachers are already feeling “June Exhaustion.” Fatigue factors for students and teachers include the long amounts of time staring at a computer screen. For teachers, previously simple tasks like taking attendance require a lot of extra time. Monitoring as close as possible to maintain momentum.
- **Teacher perspective:** Josh, Holly, and Valerie agree with how exhausted teachers are feeling. But they feel like they are still making meaningful connections with many students and believe they are holding steady with the number of kids logging in to class. Students are also exhausted, but they are trying. The school continues to look for ways to make connections and make counseling services more available. A big concern remains the number of kids the school is not reaching with online instruction.
- **Technology:** Jared reports that West is picking up more hotspots tomorrow and has 100 computers ready to go for new students and those with computers that have broken down.
- **Seeking input:** Katherine Kennedy encourages suggestions from teachers, staff, parents, and students on what the district could do to help improve remote. School board members are interested in hearing feedback on such things as class schedules, namely four classes vs. eight. And what about Wednesdays vs. Fridays for asynchronous learning? Some parents say they’ve heard concerns that it’s hard to get students motivated to finish the week with the Wednesday break. But most of the comments came from parents, teachers, and students who like having the break on Wednesday. By the end of the day Tuesday, many students and teachers are already feeling wiped out. Wednesday allows everyone to catch their breath but still feels like a productive school workday.
- **Outreach:** Several parents expressed interest in helping the school reach students who have not been logging in to classes. This could involve assisting staff with home visits, providing translation help. Perhaps student council leaders could help? Jared suggests forming a committee to discuss further how parents and students could help within the school's parameters, what is safe and right.
- **Class length:** Student Zion Baker asked if it would be possible to shorten Zoom class times. Katherine Kennedy asked about how much flexibility teachers have to take breaks and how that is being communicated. Jared said there are specific guidelines about teachers being accessible during Zoom classes, but there is room for flexibility. Staff is still calibrating instructional times, and getting a better understanding, trying to support teachers in using time better.

- **Hybrid Learning:** Katherine Stroud expressed concerns that hybrid learning would be asking teachers to do even more. Katherine Kennedy said the district shares such concerns and is watching hybrid learning in other districts and tracking how the virus has transferred in hybrid situations. The district is looking at a lot of data and may ask for hybrid plans to be tweaked. Likely will be looking at different plans. Email Roberto.Munoz@slcschools.org with suggestions about hybrid learning. Sam Hanson previewed a state plan to begin COVID testing at schools, which would augment the ability to bring small groups into the building.
- D. **Anti-bias program (Jared Wright):** Recently completed the contract with the ADL for the No Place for Hate education program.
 1. Needs Assessment – The first step is to conduct a needs assessment. Will start by surveying parents on SCC before branching out.
- E. **Training [Introduction to SCC](#) (Katherine Stroud):** New SCC members are encouraged to watch the above-linked training video before the next meeting.

V. Reports

- A. **Late Start (Jared White):** West is using the planned shift to a late-start format next year to argue for being in a closer region in UHSAA realignment. Will forward a letter to Katherine to add SCC support to West's realignment request.
- B. **IB (Ron Zamir):** Students left welcome kits for 7th graders on their front porches, trying to make them feel more connected. The effort generated much positive response.
- C. **PTA (Suzanne Attix):** The PTA has been discussing how to best support teachers and students this year. Suzanne welcomes any ideas and new members. Email her at sattix67@gmail.com. PTA has been selling Panther masks for \$5 apiece. Seeking input on how to use the proceeds. Some discussion on funding AP exams for students who don't get full financial aid coverage? The group would also like to acknowledge the extra work being done by teachers.
- D. **School Board:** From Katherine Kennedy: Data not supporting in-person classes right now. Instead, looking at specific groups that need more in-person attention, like younger and ELL students, fifth- and sixth-graders for math skills, seniors at risk of not graduating. Will be teacher and student surveys coming up soon. From Sam Hanson: The superintendent search continues with a new committee. Discussions are underway for funding and a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) relating to school resource officers (SROs), how officers can interact with students. The district will be seeking input.
- E. **High School Improvement (Julie Lewis):** Julie will be representing SCC in coming meetings.
- F. **SIC (Holly Reynolds):** Finalized a plan for parent-teacher conferences. Trying to reach out to students most in need and provide the opportunity for any parent to meet. Will schedule timed virtual conferences at the end of October. Will have

translators available. From Joshua Pelton: Drafting a letter in support of a new building. Concern about the lack of time between terms.

G. **Principal (Jared Wright)**: Happy to partner with the district on coming surveys to increase participation. As for a new MOU with SLCPD, cited past professional development with SROs that proved very effective for positive change. Hopes that will continue.

VI. Assignments

- Vote and encourage voting
- Reach out to the community for input about SROs.
- Email Katherine Stroud if you want to be part of the hoc committee to address community outreach.
- Be on the lookout for the needs-assessment survey for the new ADL anti-bias program.
- Recruit neighbors and friends to join PTA.
- Complete SCC online training.

VII. Upcoming Events

Oct 15-16: Fall Break

November 3: Election Day

VIII. Next Meeting: November 9, 2020, 5:30 p.m.