

West Hills Middle
School Community Council
April 6, 2016

ATTENDING: Stacy Evans, Chandra Walker, Ellen Stemle, Rochelle Waite, Tammy Sarzalejo, Dave Pack, Caleb Olson. Anne Hickenlooper, Jenni Shelton, Anjanette Slack,

WELCOME

- Anjanette Slack welcomed everyone.

MINUTES

- Jenni Shelton motioned to approve the minutes with two changes. Ellen Stemle seconded.

LAND TRUST

- Stacy Evans outlined proposed plans for the 2016-17 school year, and commented that our goals are related to our recent accreditation.
- The first goal is directly related to 4 Key PLC questions
 - a. What do we want students to know and be able to do?
 - b. How will we know if the students have learned it?
 - c. So we know they don't know it what do we do?
 - d. Now they know it, what do we do?
- **Goal 1:** Teachers will continue to implement the PLC process through:
 - a. the creation and refining of common scope and sequence,
 - b. common formative and summative assessment,
 - c. analysis of those assessments with a focus on identifying students in need of more time and support for learning,
 - d. and an analysis of instructional practices to identify those strategies with the highest degree of impact on student learning.
- Teachers will provide minutes from data meetings.
- Formative and summative assessments will be placed in Mastery Connect.
- Anne Hickenlooper asked about tracking the number of teachers using Mastery Connect. Stacy Evans reported that use could be tracked through Mastery Connect.
- WHMS will participate in a USOE program about using data to increase student achievement, called Assessment to Achievement (A2A). We will get support from the state and district, for this goal.
- Land trust funds will be used to give A2A School Transformation Team members a \$500 stipend, to compensate them for additional time they will spend working with data and teacher teams.
- Land trust will cover professional development in other areas also.
- Two teacher leaders will be paid for one period to serve as teacher coaches.
- Money is put aside for software to support teaching and learning.
- **Goal 2:** Teachers and support staff will organize, operate and refine a variety of intervention strategies focused on improving student learning and mastery of standards.
- Ellen Stemle asked if the SAGE writing score was broken down. Stacy Evans will check on this, since the SAGE writing score reporting will now have quicker turn around, and we have not yet seen how the reports will look in the SAGE Portal.

- Interventions to include: reduction of class sizes in math, 3 semester classes of study skills, tutoring help after school, credit recovery option, and curriculum based field trips.
- Anne Hickenlooper asked about students at the upper end of academics. Stacy Evans said there are two challenges. One is having enough staff to conduct intervention for struggling learners, and also provide enrichment activities for those students who have already learned. We've not yet found a system that works well. The second challenge lies in finding enough space to hold all of the different types of interventions and enrichment activities. It was suggested that parent volunteers could come and do some fun activities for students who don't need intervention. Stacy said she is open to ideas, but would want the activities to enrich learning, and would also need to explore where to hold these activities, since teachers already have a TA group and administrators already host a session in the cafeteria for the students of TA teachers who are doing a targeted intervention session.
- Jenni Shelton suggested that the school send home information regarding the purpose and how LEAP is run at West Hills. Sell LEAP at back to school night and Student Led Conferences.
- Chandra Walker made a motion to accept the land trust as presented. Ellen Stemle seconded. Voting was unanimous.

COUNSELING CENTER

- Counselors completed the Accountability and Data project that is required by the state. The goal was decrease failing grades among our 9th grade ethnic minority students. Twelve students had one or more failing grade in a core subject during fourth quarter of eighth grade. Counselors met with students several times over the first semester of ninth grade. Eleven of the twelve students decreased there failing grades by one or more. One student had the same number of failing grades in eighth and ninth. Failing grades for the overall group dropped from twenty-five failing grades to nine.
- Chandra Walker discussed the efforts that counselors are making with all ninth graders to reduce the number of failing grades. Chandra reported that on March 14, 2016 in her alphabet, A-D, there were 50 students with one or more failing grades. At the end of the quarter the number of students in the A-D section of the alphabet with failing grades had dropped to 12.
- "No Holes in my Credit" for 9th graders who have passed all of their classes for first semester. This is still in the planning stages.

CONCERNS & SUGGESTIONS

- Dave Pack asked about the years of service. Stacy will discuss that in May.

ADJOURNMENT

- Chandra Walker motioned to adjourn and Eillen Stemle seconded. Voting was unanimous.