



Westlake High School
School Governance Council Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2017

Council Members Present: Alexandra Bates, Andrea Freeman, Christi Giddens, Latricia Gladden, Chantrise Holliman, Kevin Oliver, Tosha Oliver, Susanne Wilborn, Geary Woolfolk

Council Member Absent: Sheila Jackson

The meeting called to order by Christi Giddens at 4:39pm.

Action Items

Latricia Gladden moved to approve the agenda as printed and Kevin Oliver seconded the motion. The Council voted and the motion carried with all members of the Council voting “yes”.

Chantrise Holliman moved to approve the October minutes and Andrea Freeman seconded the motion. The Council voted and the motion carried with all members of the Council voting “yes”.

Geary Woolfolk reviewed the top 3 norms and Christi Giddens reviewed the Compass Points.

Westlake Data

Westlake has a 4-Star rating. We are 1.3 percentage points away from 5-star rating. Discipline and attendance data factored into reasons Westlake fell short of top rating.

Under the “School Safety” rating, the question of “My student feels safe at school” has taken extra explaining by administration to help families understand that exclusionary practices (e.g., excluding from going out to eat or not invited to sleepovers) is not considered bullying. Bullying is strongly related to this question regarding safety at school in the Parent Survey.

Aligning FCS and WHS Strategic Plans

The focus areas were collapsed to help effectively monitor outcomes:

- Student Outcomes was collapsed from 5 to 3 areas
- People and Culture was collapsed to 2 areas
- Community Collaboration was collapsed to 2 areas

“People and Culture” and “Community Collaboration” are the focus for this meeting.

The focus on the creation of a Parent University remains for “People and Culture”. This will be accomplished by progressively building the initiative through a partnership between the PTSA and the Community Representative on the SGC. It is emphasized that this will be parent-run.

Chantrise Holliman raised the concern of engagement from the majority of parents who are not Magnet and IB parents. Christi Giddens shared that over the next 4 years, classes will be added for each grade level to help shift the culture to increase engagement. There will also be one full year of research and planning to set the University up for success. Principal Bates suggested one strategy that may be considered is to use tactics that have worked in the past like extending personal invitations. Andrea Freeman suggests empowering the parents to offer their unique talents and alternate between addressing student and parent needs (e.g., college information vs. ToastMasters).

The second focus of the “People and Culture” area is retaining teachers using Critical Friends Group protocols to focus on career paths and professional development. This work will be aligned with existing district initiatives and will also focus on the design of effective learning experiences. Geary Woolfolk suggests conducting independent exit interviews for all teachers to understand the reasons they are leaving. This data should be compared to the plans for the work in the “People and Culture” focus area to validity check for alignment.

The “Community Collaboration” focus was collapsed into 2 areas and suggestions for fleshing this area out were solicited from the Council:

- Chantrise Holliman suggests including PTSA and SGC attendance as part of the Parent University initiative. Connecting this part of the “Community Collaboration” and “People and Culture” focus areas may increase effective execution in both areas.
- Geary Woolfolk suggests focusing on Freshman parents during the summer registration period to set expectations for parental involvement and attendance at a Parent University; thereby getting buy-in by having a clear value-add for the individual family.
- Susanne Wilborn suggests rebranding the PTSA with a theme of social consciousness and student preparation as part of the work to re-engage parents and partners. She also suggested conducting a parent survey to develop a database of potential contributions to the school community.
- Andrea Freeman suggests that partnerships are with parents too and urged us to find opportunities to collaborate by first finding out what talents, treasures and time parents and partners have to offer.
- Susanne Wilborn suggests reviving the needs survey for faculty and staff that was suggested last school year to help target partner engagement for specific needs.
- Andrea Freeman suggests leveraging personal relationships parents have with individual faculty and staff to reach out, connect and request support.

Next Meeting Agenda – January 22nd

- RFF Needs
- Community Collaboration Pillar
- Community Engagement Chair Vote – Chantrise Holliman

No Public Comment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:53pm by Christi Giddens

Respectfully Submitted,

Susanne Diggs-Wilborn, Parliamentarian