

WILLOWCREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

School/Community Council Meeting

November 14, 2005 - 12:00 (Noon)

Attending: Julie Barnum, Robert Bean, Ellie Bodily, Glenda Carson, Lisa Hadfield, Tani Ireland, Fred Openshaw, Natalie Peterson, Julie Wallace, Aleta Wilkinson, Tom Wiltbank
Excused: Roberta Catmull, Laura Giles

Julie Barnum welcomed the group. Minutes were read from September meeting and changes were requested. Changes will be made and re-posted on the web page.

Julie Barnum stayed for Monday meeting in the 8th Grade House. Is there funding for what's being planned? Where would the house get money? Mr. Openshaw reported that houses present their ideas and needs, and administration will work to find funding to accomplish the tasks.

Robert Bean attended the 9th Grade House and they were discussing testing issues and all in attendance seemed to be on the same page. Willowcreek Middle School, where caring really counts!

BSCT testing - our 9th grade will take the test as 10th grade Sophomores. If they do not pass the test, they have three more chances. If students do pass the test, then they will receive a high school diploma. If they do not pass (3 sections - Reading, Writing, Math), they can retake the section not passed three more times. If the test is not passed at the end of the students' senior year, they will receive Certificates of Completion.

This year, Lehi High School Seniors will be the first class required to pass the BSCT test to receive a Lehi High School Diploma. Some colleges will accept students who have not passed the BSCT test and some colleges and universities will only allow students who have received their high school diplomas.

The district has produced a collaboration film which was viewed by the council. Principal Fred Openshaw and Aleta Wilkinson participated in the production. The purpose for collaboration on Monday afternoons was discussed and also progress was reported. The interviews were very positive and the district is pleased with early-out Mondays.

WMS Counselors are part of the house teams on Monday afternoons. The Counseling office is working on SMART goals - identify 100 students who are having difficulties and need that extra TLC (contact being made with students). Reality Town is scheduled for November 16th and is a well-planned, life skills exercise for students which involves many volunteers. Reality Town will be for 9th grade students. Mayor Greenwood and Police Chief Smith are participating in the activity. Reality Town is scheduled to be an annual event at Willowcreek.

Practice BSCT was given to all 9th grade students. Test scores were read and a colored pie chart was shown to the group - very visual application. WMS departments will have insight as to the areas not being grasped by students. Taking advantage of the capabilities of this practice test is

extremely valuable for student intervention.

Trust Lands Budget for the 2005-06 school year at Willowcreek is \$28,716.24. The Read 180 program was given \$15,000 and licensing agreement for testing materials was given \$3,000. The remaining budget is approximately \$10,000. A technology Vantage Learning System was presented to the group by Mike May, Assistant Principal. This program allows students to write papers, the program will read the papers and also grade the papers, which gives students immediate feedback. The council voted unanimously to acquire the Vantage Learning System.

Teachers will still have the capability to give personal attention to students working with the Vantage Learning system. Data entered into system will be graded consistently. Theory - six steps of writing emphasized - lab-driven assignments and composition will be graded. Students have the capability to preview papers that were written several months ago for comparative writing evaluations. Teachers can create comments for individual papers. Parents can also access student writings. Mt. Ridge Jr. High piloted the Vantage Learning system last school year, 2004-05. They report an increased of 3.4 to 3.9 and are very pleased with the results. This program encourages students to write and write some more - immediate scoring and comments are very rewarding. The annual cost for software is \$2,200.00 and the council is anxious to see the results at Willowcreek.

Willowcreek will administer the practice CRT test to all students the week before the Christmas Break. The tests will be scored and back to the school after the break. Data will be used and the results evaluated to benefit students for the 2005-06 school year. Remediation classes will be held in January to benefit students as a result of the practice CRT testing.

Next School/Community Council Meeting:

**January 9, 2006
12:00 (Noon) - snacks provided
WMS Conference Room**