

**Willowcreek Middle School
School/Community Council Meeting
October 9, 2006 - 12:00 Noon**

Attending: Robert Bean, Roberta Catmull, Natalie Clark, Laura Giles, Lisa Hadfield, Dan Jackman, Fred Openshaw, Natalie Petersen, Aleta Wilkinson

Excused: Ellie Bodily, Tani Ireland, Leslie Jones, Tom Wiltbank

Natalie Petersen welcomed the group and Natalie Clark read the minutes from the September meeting. The minutes were voted on and approved.

Natalie Petersen reported on attending the School/Community Council District Training Meeting. Because it is an elected position, it is important to be more visible to the communities we are serving. They want us to keep the public informed through the school's web site. Both our School/Community Council picture and the minutes from each of our meetings are posted on Willowcreek's site.

The contact information for signs to help promote the Bond and Leeway Election is Jim Starr. The signs will be ready after October 16, 2006.

After the SCC Meeting in September, Aleta Wilkinson, one of the council members, attended the Monday afternoon house and department meetings. She attended the 7th grade house where they talked about teaching the students to use their planners. They want them to understand how to be accountable and to be prepared with the things that are being asked of them. Aleta then went to the Math Department Meeting. They were talking about the correct placement of students in math.

Walkaway's—What are Walkaway's? Mr Openshaw explained that walkaways are making sure each student will "Walk Away" from their classes, knowing the core concepts of that class, and being able to show mastery through testing. Why do we have "Walkaway's? After looking at the end-of-level state test scores last spring, we found students were not grasping the core concepts to help them through the tests. How do "Walkaway's work? Teachers were given their core curriculum at the beginning of the year. From that, the core concepts were broken down. Tests are given on those concepts and students must pass or *master* that test. Students can take "Walkaway" tests as many times as they need to. For some teachers "Walk Away" mastery is 70% and some are 80%. To alleviate the problem of students riding the bus after school, October 10th and 11th are days designated for "Walk Away" make-up tests. Students will attend all 8 classes on these two days. Students who have not passed their "Walk Away" tests will have the opportunity to make them up during class time on these two days. For those students who have passed them, there will be enrichment activities for them to do.

Walk Away's are based on the style of the teacher and the core curriculum of the subject. They also had to be approved from the administration. "Walk Away's will show on PowerSchool

throughout the entire term. Parents can look anytime to ensure their student has or has not passed the “Walk Away”. To make sure students remember what is being taught, a common assessment will be given at the end of each term. This year, 80% of our offerings are doing “Walk Away’s”.

The Trustland Funds have come in. We were given \$40,235. At the present time, \$12,000 was used for *Go My Access* program, which is used in the english/writing classes. This allows students to be graded on papers knowing instantly when it is correct and how to fix it. Students get specific grading feedback. Also, \$22,000 of the Trustland money helped purchase the math/science mobile lab. Mr. Openshaw feels this is a great addition to the school. There is about \$6,000 left in the Trustland account.

The practice UBSCT was given to the 9th grade students. Letters will be going out to parents to notify them of their students scores. If the student did not pass any part of the test, intervention classes will be offered.

Natalie Petersen contacted Larry Montoya about the heartfelt need of a traffic light. There was a study done last week and the information is being compiled. We should know this week how the study ended up. Natalie will continue to find out this information.

Follow-up assignments for the next meeting–Mr. Openshaw to present data from the first common assessment.

NEXT MEETING:

November 13, 2006

12:00 Noon

WMS Conference Room