

WILLOWCREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

School/Community Council Meeting January 9, 2006 - 12:00 Noon

Attending: Julie Barnum, Ellie Bodily, Glenda Carson, Laura Giles, Tani Ireland, Fred Openshaw, Natalie Peterson, Julie Wallace, Aleta Wilkinson, Tom Wiltbank

Excused: Robert Bean, Roberta Catmull, Lisa Hadfield

Julie Barnum welcomed the group and Glenda Carson read minutes from the November meeting. Minutes were voted on and approved.

Mr. Openshaw projected a graph chart showing sample results of the Practice CRT test which was given to students the week before the Christmas break. Question and answer session went well and the group was pleased to be able to visually see the breakdown of the test and the results. Council members were encouraged to attend Willowcreek's Monday afternoon meetings because the focus would be on the practice test and how to read and benefit from the results. Breakdown by class averages and also by individual students will be discussed in team meetings.

The 2006-07 school year, the Practice CRT test will be given a few weeks after school begins. The results will be reviewed and needs assessed. Before the December holiday break, the test will again be administered. The results will be reviewed after the break and needs assessed to be beneficial for the remaining months of school. Final overview test results can not be used to attack teachers. Attention must be focused on the benefits derived from testing materials.

Practice CRT test results have been returned to Willowcreek. When students meet for their SEOP appointments with the counselors, test results can be discussed at that time. Parents are encouraged to ask for Practice CRT results and discuss the testing information. Discussion should relate to diploma via certificate of completion.

Trust Land grants are due April 4th. The School/Community Council meeting to be held February 13th will discuss and write the grant for the 2006-07 school year. The application will be submitted and the council will await the outcome.

Mr. Openshaw presented an idea to the council: hiring two more trackers to run a Study Hall/Lunch Study to benefit students. Eight to ten students would be served per session and the students would receive a 'P' for 'F' grade. More at-risk students would benefit from these study sessions.

Our seven feeder elementary schools were contacted and asked to provide a list of at-risk students. WMS tracker works with at-risk students. WMS counselors (Mrs. Tall, Mr. Rawson, Mr. Wiltbank) are working Smart Goals which is identifying 100 students and working with those students one on one to help motivate them with personal goals and educational goals. The counseling department is pleased with the results from Smart Goals.

School/Community Council members are asked to encourage parents to contact a Willowcreek administrator if they are not getting responses back from teachers after requests have been made. Parent/teacher correspondence is an important tool in students' educational plan. Keeping communication traveling back and forth in a timely manner is necessary and of importance. Mr. Openshaw wants to be notified if lines of communication aren't working.

Late work policy. Parents have concerns. Are we working with kids or are we too harsh in our application of policy? Kids will eventually hit the wall with their bad study habits. As parents we should not be afraid to let students feel the results of their lack of preparation and dedication to their educational plan. Good study skills can be learned and student can move on when helped with homework. Our goal as parents and also educators is to help students succeed. This united effort benefits students. Identifying the problem and working together, parents and teachers, will help students share in the importance of their education.

Lunchroom concerns. Lunches taken away from students when they are out of money. Our lunchroom personnel are under very strict guidelines set by the district. Mr. Openshaw has allowed students to charge one lunch before lunch is taken away from students. However, parents are asked to be more aware and responsible for students' lunches. Parents can pay on-line and they can also call the lunchroom to check on the status of lunches.

Parent/Teacher Conference is scheduled for February 15th

Next Meeting:

February 13, 2006
12:00 Noon - Snacks Provided
Willowcreek Conference Room