



West Sylan Middle School
Site Council Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2019

Cherie called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

Mission Statement: We read through the Mission Statement, with context for the work of the school. Remembering that this also informs the work of the Site Council.

School Wide Goals: Cherie shared the school wide goals 2019-2020

- The School's principal and staff work together to create a safe, respectful, culturally-inclusive environment with consistent school roles and expectations.
- All instructional staff at the school collaboratively plan for sound instruction in a variety of instructional modes.
- School staff assists students in successful transition from elementary school to middle school and from missed school to high school.
- All teachers use instructional strategies and initiatives that are grounded in evidence-based practices, strengthen the core academic program, increase the quality and quantity of learning time, and address the needs of all students.

These goals were created after a school survey. Teachers and parents were involved in the conversation. It is "tweaked" each year, as plans and programs evolve. Very helpful for the administration.

FIT Survey: (NOTE ACRONYM) Survey will be administered on October 3rd. The data from this survey will be informative - moving forward. Will be able to add elements of what we are already doing (and also what are we not doing).

- School wide Support
- In the classroom
- Academic expectations
- Communication

This year's School Wide Goals were informed by the Successful Students Survey. There was very helpful feedback - so Cherie and her team can form strategies. This survey is administered annually - in the spring.

Successful Schools Survey 2018

SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS SURVEY			
	Parents	Students	Teachers
Positives	Barriers to Engagement: 81% Middle school 79% PPS 80%	Bullying: 88% (high # is favorable) Middle school 84% PPS 86%	Grit: 51% Middle school 31% PPS 36%
	School Safety: 78% Middle school 68% PPS 77%	School Safety: 64% Middle school 53% PPS 58%	Student Mindset: 77% Middle school 70% PPS 70%
Areas of Focus	School Fit: 58% Middle school 50% PPS 62%	Sense of Belonging: 37% Middle school 35% PPS 34% (bringing in school climate)	Faculty Growth Mindset: 53% Middle school 49% PPS 52%
	School Climate: 61% Middle school 54% PPS 66%	Engagement: 24% Middle school 22% PPS 21%	

School Safety Conversation:

[Ricky Almeida](#) (8th Grade Counselor and 6th Grade last name A-K) reported:

Focusing on Growth Mindset

Character Development

- Trait of the Month Assembly
- Rewarding good attendance

[Cam Awesome](#) (motivational speaker) will be here next week

Thursday, September 26th. Will speak first to 6th graders, then 7th/8th together.

Stress Management (anxiety): A big focus for this year.

Hoping to step into Health Classes - that's the easiest entry.

Questions about how Mindfulness would work with MS Students, in a large group.

[Smiling Minds](#): Suggested for MS consideration.

[Look. Listen.Link](#) will be here in November.

First with 7th Grade, then 8th and 6th. All will have a chance to experience this curriculum. This is a crisis hotline focusing on crisis management / stress.

Desire to address social media, and the prevailing issues. Conversation about the constant (and unrelentless) presence.

LHS Safer Club (maybe again this year)

Boundaries, consent and healthy relationships.

Idea to have LHS Students come down to Middle School.

Wonderings about making connections with Cardinal Family Network.

Suicide Prevention / Ideation

Drug and Alcohol Prevention

Vaping

Pack Watch: Could use some help.

MYP Programme:

The WSMS Staff are VERY excited about this:

[Middle Years Youth Programme](#)

[Anna Wessinger](#) (WSMS 8th Grade LA/SS & IB Middle Years Programme Coordinator)

How to build the strongest students we can, in preparation for a rigorous education at Lincoln High School. The MYP Programme (ideally) will support this process.

Making sure that what we are teaching has real purpose. We will start to see Unit Planners.

MYP will include [eight subjects](#)

- [Language acquisition.](#)
- [Language and literature.](#)
- [Individuals and societies.](#)
- [Sciences.](#)
- [Mathematics.](#)
- [Arts.](#)
- [Physical and health education.](#)
- [Design.](#)

Different Teachers will consider this theme: Time, Place and Space.

This is not a dramatic shift in the education our children will receive in Middle School. It's a new way of talking about it, though, with the importance of making connections between the different disciplines.

Anna reports a notable change in the perspective of the children. A sense of self drive (with real world application).

Policy Conversation:

Academic Honesty Policy

A requirement of the MYP plan is the creation of an academic honesty policy. Anna shared a portion of the draft, for consideration and conversation.

Use of cell phones emerged as an important issue. "Off and Away - All Day."

Ben discussed the challenge that adults don't follow this policy. So, some softening this year. All agree that this is a difficult situation.

Some wonderings about the sophistication of the language, and whether it might be lost.

Parent feedback is welcomed.

[HERE IS A LINK TO THE DRAFT ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY](#)

Approaches to Learning:

Part of the MYP Programme (NOTE HERE), as an explicit way for the school to discuss. Where are all of these skills taught over the three years that a student is at West Sylvan Middle School?

Creative ideas around sharing this approach with the Parent Community. Perhaps as a "Pack Watch"

School Climate: Ben Keller

School safety as priority. Recalled a communication issue last year. Pulling together a "School Safety Sub Team."

There is energy at Site Council toward supporting this endeavor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Phillip Craig

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WSMS Site Council Chair Phillip Craig at craigpdxmail@gmail.com

To view our Agenda and Minutes for 2019-2020 Site Council, click [HERE](#)

(this link will go live after our first meeting on September 19th)

