WCSD Student Advisory Council – Monthly Meeting

AGENDA / MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 2019 | 4:00-6:00 PM | Administrative Building - Board Room

Meeting facilitated by: Michelle Hammond

4:00-4:10 Welcome and Introductions

Students in attendance:
Nathan Noble, Wooster High School
Celeste Garcia, Wooster High School
Victoria Gomez Meza, Wooster High School
Cody Klein, Reed High School
Julian Klein, Reed High School
Lyn Galindo-Cloud, McQueen High School
Aubree Mowery, McQueen High School
Jayna Palmer, Billinghurst Middle School
Mindy Tran, Dilworth Middle School
Leigh Fisher, Sparks High School
Fernanda Cardenas, TMCC High School
Adan Albarren Ayala, TMCC High School
Brett Grimm, Reno High School
Christian Garcia, Innovations High School
Avery Pipkin, AACT High School
Dami Mihaylova, AACT High School
Quincy Mross, AACT High School
Ivy Batmale, Incline High School

Adults in attendance:
Michelle Hammond, Student Voice Coordinator
Kristin McNeill, Interim Superintendent
Trustee Katy Simon Holland, Board President
Ben Hayes, Chief Accountability Officer
Laura Davidson, Director of Research and Evaluation
Fatima Rivas, Multicultural Outreach Specialist
Megan Downs, Communications Department Manager
Lauren Ohlin, Director of Grants

4:10-4:20 Board Of Trustees Updates (from Nathan or a BOT Representative)

- School start times is a big topic of interest for students. Students want later start times for secondary students and early start times for elementary
The research supports this. This is on the agenda for the December 10th board meeting and ALL students are welcome to give public comment.

4:20-4:30 Student Representation needed:

- SHARE Committee needs 2 students who will attend meetings and share thoughts about the SHARE curriculum (they meet one Wednesday per month). Students can learn more about this committee by clicking here. Students will email MHammond@washoeschools.net or SAC@washoeschools.org to express interest.
- The Safe and Healthy Schools Commission needs 1 student to sit it on meetings and provide student perspective. Students can learn more about this committee by clicking here. Students will email MHammond@washoeschools.net or SAC@washoeschools.org to express interest.

4:30-5:00 High School Graduation Sashes: How do we recognize and celebrate students’ culture and accomplishments at the graduation ceremony, while maintaining appropriate guidelines.

Here’s what students had to say.

- Family Culture is important!
  - “It would make my parent so happy” (to represent my culture at graduation).
- Individuality is important!
  - “We work hard to earn graduation and everyone is different.”
  - It’s (Sashes) a form of expression.
- It was unanimous that we do need clear and somewhat strict guidelines.
  - “It (anything going on a sash) should have to be really meaningful.”
  - “It can’t be too obtrusive, like where it’s going to cause a safety concern.”
  - “It’s really hard to keep guidelines tight.”
  - Guidelines would need to be very specific about what materials are allowed or not. Limit it to cloth?
  - Exclude writing altogether! There is too much room for students to write things that are offensive to another student. They can be more creative in expressing themselves. Limit is to symbols only. If any writing is allowed, ALL writing must be reviewed. Logos are a good way to represent clubs/organizations who don’t have a pin.
- It was unanimous that we have to have a system to make sure there is a zero tolerance policy for derogatory items.
  - Maybe there is a system where students fill out an “administrator slip” to go to “SRO” when they want to include things on their sash that are outside the guidelines.
  - Maybe students decorate their own sashes at school, like in advisory, and each teacher is responsible for reviewing them to make sure they fit the guidelines? Sashes could be collected and given back after approval from a school committee? Maybe
it’s a quick check the day of the ceremony where school staff
check sashes as students’ line up?
  o Schools should fundraise for sashes so no student is left out if
they cannot afford one and the burden isn’t put on schools.
  • It was also unanimous that clubs and organization outside of school
should be allowed.
    o “The skills they (graduates) learn outside of school are just as
important.”
    o “It’s definitely important to recognize diverse
accomplishments.”
  • The students unanimously expressed that we must keep caps and
gowns as the central clothing for graduation ceremonies. “It’s what we
all grown up dreaming of...”
  • SAC members want a SAC pin for their sash.

5:00-6:00  Student/Pedestrian Safety:

  • Student Public comment from 5:00-5:40pm. During this time ALL students
from WCSD are free to provide public comment about this issue.
    o AACT students are doing a project to get more crosswalks on Edison
    Way by their school. They have stickers they are selling for $5 each
    and they have a Facebook page to raise awareness and a Gofundme
    page.
    o TMCC students who also work part time for Youth Sciences and they
are currently advocating for sidewalks in Sun Valley. They are
researching resources and connections and have reached out to
people like Oscar Delgado.
  • Students will have time to brainstorm solutions. Student ideas included:
    o Adding pedestrian safety to Drivers’ Ed. Courses. This will assure that
new teenage drivers know that risk and important of watching for
pedestrians and it will spread awareness to non-driving teens to be
responsible pedestrians.
    o We have to reintroduce pedestrian safety into secondary schools.
Raise awareness!
      ▪ “Everyone tells us and reminds us when we’re young to look
both ways and pay attention, but then we get older and
nobody talks about it anymore.”
      ▪ “Students need reminders when they’re older.”
      ▪ “At TMCC, a police officer comes in and talks to the students
at the beginning of the year and the students are receptive
to him and they’ve never had an incident.
    o Pedestrian Safety looks different at every school but every student
was able to cite a danger at their own school.
      ▪ At McQueen there is no clear path to walk and Robb drive
has a school zone, but once cars are out the school zone,
especially on Robb, they speed where there are still a lot of
students walking.
      ▪ Wooster: Plumb is a huge issue!
      ▪ Reed: Students report almost getting hit daily, mostly by
other students driving away from campus after school.
      ▪ Virginia Palmer: no sidewalks for the kids and they go
through ditches.
The students felt that providing flags and/or vests to students crossing streets would be a good way to make kids more visible to drivers.

- If school had a system where students could go to the office and check out a vest, especially when they know they have to walk to school the following day in the dark.
- Some schools (Billinghurst) are placing flags out on the street corners so students can take on as they cross.

Students feel like teachers avoid hard topics where students might not want to listen or might feel like it’s dumb. Maybe training teachers first on how to address pedestrian safety with students.

Increasing police force in school zones before and after school. “In Incline, there are so many police out before and after school, drivers know they WILL get a ticket if they speed or are distracted. I think we’ve never had a problem because of that.”

Students feel like it’s the students’ responsibility to be safe, but when students don’t care about their own lives and safety, we (adults) still have an obligation to keep them safe.

- “Some students at my school are like, “I’m a pedestrian, I have the right-of-way.” And I’m like, “well that doesn’t work bro.”
- “Students don’t always listen because they’re kids; the city still needs to do something.”
- “Teachers need to help out. It shows us they care.”

Teachers can serve crosswalk duty before and after school on major intersections. “They do this a lot at elementary schools, but not at middle schools and high schools.”

- There might be space for a student representative to sit in on the Vision Zero project. Students can email MHammond@washoeschools.net or SAC@washoeschools.org to express interest.
- Zero Fatalities project can team up with WCSD to share their stories. Contact: Michael Mireno (?)

Upcoming Meetings:

1. **Leadership Development Workshop**: December 4th 3:30-5:30PM in the West Conference Room at the Administrative Building located at 425 East Ninth Street. (This is leadership Development Workshop for SAC members only. If you are interested in serving on SAC, please email MHammond@washoeschools.net for more information.

2. **Student Advisory Council Meeting**: December 17th 4-6PM in the Board Room at the Administrative Building located at 425 East Ninth Street. (This meeting is open to ALL students in WCSD).