

CAC Minutes – September 25, 2006

Next CAC meeting: Monday, October 16 at the Board of Education Building 7:30. Please advise Lee Field-Starks, Garn Anderson or John Doucette in advance if you will be unable to attend the meeting.

Attendees (14): Lee Field-Starks (presiding), Dr. Jim Costanza (Superintendent), Renee Wargo (Board of Education), Tom Mays (Board of Education), Tim Freeman (WHS), Chris Bauer, Marcia Columbro, John Doucette, Judy Friedman, Jayne Hoon, Troy Miller, Jean Seasholtz, Lisa Swisher, Christie Wiedt, Gina Wittenberg

Absent with notice: Garn Anderson, Dan Walsh

Absent without notice: Scott Patterson, Kathleen Stock, Linda Wade

The following are the minutes from the September 25, 2006 meeting at the Board of Education building:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lee Field-Starks at 6:40 p.m., immediately following the reception for the CAC at the Board of Education meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no additions or corrections.

The motion was made by Christie Wiedt and seconded by Marcia Columbro.

Approval of Minutes

The August meeting minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

The motion was made by Marcia Columbro and seconded by Troy Miller.

Chamber of Commerce Report by John Doucette

- John has been designated as the CAC representative on the West Shore Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.
- Brief discussion of the Chamber's Student Achievement Award program.
- Will use Chamber as a vehicle for recruiting additional business representatives for the CAC.

Discussion with Tim Freeman, Principal of Westlake High School

- Mr. Freeman was invited by the CAC to share with us his thoughts about WHS and how the CAC can assist him and his staff. His major points were.
 - The High School should be the center of the community.
 - It has great kids and great resources but is under used and under appreciated, perhaps because the facility has not been well cared for.
 - It's not yet a "great" school – it's good, but good is the enemy of great. WHS is in the middle of the pack of a group of 21 comparable schools in terms of academic achievement. Some less well equipped districts are doing better. The goal is to be in the top 5 this year.
 - "Demon Pride" will be an initiative. This has a lot to do with how WHS looks from the street. Litter and smoking will be hit hard. Parking on grass and in driveways will also be attacked. Groups that use the school will be asked to tell parents about the rules.
 - The building needs some major capital investment, including windows and heating system. However, many of the nagging problems can be fixed for little or no money. We should address them first. He will want to ask local businesses and community organizations for donations.
 - Looking to build a new sign facing the street. This will cost \$25K, less any donations. The students are excited about this.
 - 19 new faculty and staff were added this year. It's rare to find that much youth and energy in a school.
 - Kids will rise to the occasion if it looks like someone cares.

Superintendent's Report by Dr. Jim Costanza

- Operations are OK.
- We have 4072 students enrolled. The last enrollment projection was more than 250 students less than the actual number.

Board of Education Report by Renee Wargo

- Renee described the project the Board would like to CAC to undertake this year.
 - A land use study a year ago showed no need to keep the Bradley Road property. So, what would be the best way to use the funds that the sale will generate?
 - The Board is considering options for restructuring the district to get the maximum use from facilities. This might involve realigning grades in buildings or redistricting. Creation of a campus setting, with K-12 all in one location having several buildings, is also a thought since the Dover/Burneson/Red Brick grounds are a potential site for this.
 - The CAC would be asked to investigate how other districts are structured as well as address the inclusion of community input to the planning process. We need to look at how the last redistricting in Westlake went and keep in mind that this change would be about both efficiency and effectiveness.

New Business

- Discussion of projects for the coming year.
 - Agreed that we need more than just the one large project proposed by the Board. We need to respond to that initiative but not be consumed by it.
 - Review of brainstorming notes from the prior meeting resulted in the following three topic areas being selected to move forward. Motion was made by Jean Seasholtz and seconded by Judy Friedman. Lee will write up the descriptions and circulate them to the members.
 - Diversity and Tolerance
 - Serving all populations adequately and appropriately
 - Use of internet and technology in the schools
- It was noted that the November meeting was the week of Thanksgiving. The CAC voted to change the November meeting to the 13th. Motion was made by Marcia Columbro and seconded by Jean Seasholtz.

Unfinished Business

None.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Lee Field-Starks at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by John Doucette

Corrections/missing items/amendments may be made during the next meeting as needed.