

Highland High School Community Council  
Minutes, May 11, 2011

**Present:** Pam Croft, Monica French, Suzanne Hammond, Chris Jenson, Karla Keller, Joanne Moffatt, Latai Nonu, Jim Olson, Shane Sadler, Paul Schulte, Kristi Swett.

**SCC:** Pam Croft, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 am.

**MINUTES FROM APRIL APPROVED**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Trip:** Debate trip to Washington DC for 6 students for National Championship Tournament over Memorial Day weekend. One day of school missed. Approved.

**BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT PROCESS UPDATE**

Principals and SCC Chairs from Highland, East, and West are in the process of forming a Boundary Realignment Committee which will make a recommendation to the SLC School Board. Highland has requested that Highland and East realign boundaries to keep both schools in 4A to reduce out of class time and the expense of traveling. East is requesting a district wide realignment involving all 3 high schools.

**ELECTIONS**

New rules for SCC elections are being followed. A voting box was provided at Tartan Fest. Community members elected were: Suzanne Hawker, Joanne Moffatt, and Shane Sadler. Employee elections will be held soon.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Paul Schulte/Chris Jenson**

**TESTING** is currently being done for AP, IB, and CRT. Highland is giving over 650 AP tests this year—the largest number ever.

**VALEDICTORIANS** at Highland are those students with a 4.0 GPA—there are 10 this year.

**CALENDAR** for next year will be the same as this year for late starts, early dismissals, etc.

Teachers will be surveyed about the possibility, in coming years, of late starts every Monday

**SURVEY** for parents about calendaring and other issues is online at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/highlandparents>. **Please take a moment to fill out this survey.**

**SPA** will be moving their performance classes to Rosslyn Heights next year.

**SUMMER SCHOOL** is staffed and funded for this summer. Administration is looking for grants to fund summer school next year. There is one session in the AM which ends by July 4.

**RAM CAMP:** Mr. Schulte would like to make Ram Camp for freshmen a 2 day event in Aug if he can find funding. Freshmen would work with teachers and senior mentors, learn study skills, and could earn .5 Life Prep credit.

**POWER SCHOOL** will replace ESIS throughout the district beginning Aug 8. It is much more user friendly for teachers, students, and parents. Online tutorials should be available to train teachers and parents.

**ATTENDANCE** lists, especially the green list for seniors, are posted in the hallway and students are working to make up absences and tardies. Administration is using positive reinforcement to get students to class on time, and one Café Rio certificate is given away each day to a student with no tardies.

**SIC: Monica French**

**SPLIT BLOCK CLASSES** for next year will be Susan Wrathall's classes, resource classes, Language Arts/ Reading. There are no split Math/Science classes. The ability to ring bells in split rooms only will facilitate students' moving to classes.

**CLOSED CAMPUS** is an ongoing discussion. Highland teacher Brian Birchler addressed SIC about having a closed campus.

Attached on next page from April 25 SIC minutes about that presentation and discussion

**DISTRICT REPORT: Kristi Swett**

The School Board has been working on the budget for next school year.

Next meeting: September 14, 6:30 AM

All meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, Room C110

Meeting adjourned 7:30 am

Suzanne Hammond

## April 25 SIC minutes about that presentation and discussion:

. Closed Campus – Brian Birchler presented this item which has been brought up due to concerns regarding student safety and academic rigor. The following is the paper Brian presented:

CLOSED CAMPUS

SCC – Parent Support

### PROS:

- Increase student safety (major violations this year)
- Increase focus toward academics during the school day
- Should improve problems with truancy/tardies
- Less expensive/healthier

### CONS

- Difficult to implement and monitor (at first). Possible increased cost to school.
- Local fast food chains would be sad.
- Students would not be able to return home for lunch

## Reasons to Leave Campus

### Home Release

This introduces an entirely new topic for discussion at SIC. But home release is not something that should be offered at Highland High School. Something is wrong with our school when a senior has multiple home releases and TA periods. We must promote a culture of academic rigor. For any student needing a period to support his or her studies, a sponsored study hall does make sense. This should be a class period, monitored and facilitated by a teacher. In this way, there is no complication to (now non-existent) home release students making closed campus a difficult policy to enforce.

### Work Release/CTC

What are the numbers? I would think this won't be too difficult.

### Seminary

A scheduled class with a direct, line of sight between the seminary building and the school... again, not too hard to monitor.

## School Lunch Planning

This one is tricky. If our cafeteria truly doesn't have the capacity to handle only two lunches we go to a three lunch system. Take the 2 hours after second period and split it into three forty minute lunches (with bells). Note this means one class would start, break for lunch, and restart for its third period.

## Enforcement

This one is trickier. It will be especially difficult to implement early on as we are making a major cultural change. I'm assuming locking the building internally is a major fire safety violation (and the locks may not even work that way). Locking the building externally would force returning students to check in through a designated station by only leaving the main entrance open. Of course, this may discourage students from even bothering to return (but I don't think that's something we can control if a student wants to leave that badly). This would require a member of maintenance to walk around right after the start of 1<sup>st</sup> period and lock all the doors (obviously we'd want them open at the start of the day). We would have to find money to pay someone to monitor the entrance to the school and check rosters for students leaving due to CTC/work-release etc... It would be impractical to check in and out all the seminary students (and students could always "slip in" or "slip out" if they timed their entrance or departure to be with a group going to or from seminary. Again... perhaps for the 5 minutes of passing time with seminary classes a hall monitor (Colby/Martha) just posts in that general vicinity and makes sure kids are only traveling between the two buildings.

The basic idea is this... we can't really control them getting out (at least not in a manner that is safe for the whole school), but we can control them coming back in. And if they are returning without a valid reason then they have left without a valid reason. I don't know what it would cost to staff the main entrance all day. But I imagine it is a position you would want someone to be able to multitask at and complete other assignments as well.

### Consequences

This is an important piece. They must be effective. In other words, students must want to avoid them. I believe our issues with truancy and tardies are strongly correlated to the fact that we don't have meaningful consequences. It is far too easy to make up your seat time in a non-meaningful way. I would promote a four-tiered structure: (1) warning with a call home, (2) after school detention, (3) in school suspension, (4) student services council.

This was discussed at length and the following are some of the items that came up: if the parking lot is closed at lunch, parking will be pushed out into the neighborhoods; how will closed campus be enforced; teachers need to call counselors if students are absent a lot; perhaps one day per month everyone calls the homes of at least ten absent/tardy students; discussion morphed into an tardy/truancy discussion which also addresses safety; park is actually "closed" during lunch but how many students/teachers actually know this; admin believes that tardy enforcement would turn things around if everyone would do it; perhaps we could start with one or two things but still continue to discuss ways to accomplish a closed campus at a future date; we will inform parents and students that there will be strict enforcement of tardy/absence policies for rest of school year; instead of literacy and numeracy at faculty meeting, we would like to discuss strategies surrounding enforcing tardy/absence policies.

The decisions regarding this item are as follows for the rest of the school year: everyone needs to be in the halls during passing to encourage students to get to class; everyone needs to call the homes of students who are tardy/absent; rewards for perfect attendance will be given out. Statistics regarding tardies/absences will be checked for the month of May to see if these strategies work.