

Los Angeles Unified School District
West Hollywood Elementary School
School Site Council
Meeting Minutes
January 17,2013

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Alla D. and 2nd by Mrs. Carmen Marsh Weiss at 3:03pm

II. Roll Call

The following members were present at the meeting: Miguel Navarro, Julia Charles, Carmen Marsh Weiss, Jennifer Davy, Alla Donera, Claudia Katz, Angela Miller
Non Member - Joël Mejia ~ FOWHE Representative

II a. Meetings minutes for November were reviewed, no corrections noted.
Approval of minutes called by J. Charles - 2nd by Jennifer Davy

III. New Business: Updates on School Safety Concerns:

SCHOOL SAFETY

J. Charles stated negative feelings are in the air from the public in reference to current school issues in the media/news

SSC Members were asked to write down on a post it what they feel is working at the school in reference to school safety

POSITIVES Statements included the following:

Mr. Navarro - gate closures working well - consistently happening - schedule set for when gates are locked;

Angela Miller- parents are observant of the school environment, sheriff relationship is strong, gates surrounding school, classes are not spread out except bungalows

Alla D. - Police presence, parent community is well known- if someone new is here parents ask 'who are you?' ;

Marsh Weiss - car line in the morning; works well because you see the majority of the kids coming to school

Jennifer Davy - neighborhood watch created by the parents observations of who is entering the school, police visibility

J. Charles - Emergency Drills performed on a monthly basis, School Safe Plan (updated yearly -new staff plugged in), who is on each team is on file with the Sheriff Department, Valet System helps with traffic safety, Sheriff Department relationship, LAUSD visitor protocol

Joël - teacher /parent awareness of the school community

Claudia - WEHO Sheriff visits, classroom pickup, cones utilized at Stop & Drop

J.Charles - there are many items that we are already addressing and have been as a school community that are working. Next Wednesday, a town hall meeting about security and safety will be held.

FOWHE and School will come up with security procedures/protocol to follow

Marsh Weiss - Wed 23rd town hall mtg - will a second one be held ? - timeline for implementation - J. Charles~we want to make sure we are hearing any and all concerns/issues ; Angela M. discussed if Stephanie (Risk Management experience) will be the leader of this new security

J. Charles - several representatives from LAUSD will be present to discuss installation, rules, regulations that include operations coordinator from ESC West.

Additional Comments regarding safety included:

- robo-call will announce parking options for Wed. Jan 23rd
- there will always be parents who can not come
- will notes be posted about the security mtg
- disseminate the information to Room Parents to trickle down to the parent community

Discussion items referring to School security system included:

- a letter of approval has come, camera and buzzer system to be put in. the full details will be discussed at the Sec. Mtg. - cameras in the office, principal office and possibly somewhere else
- stated the cost of the system is \$25k ,Robert knows what needs to be done in order to install this system
- Can anything be added to this system?
- Gardener, and several other schools have a system in place
- Lots of different ideas about security
- Some Jewish schools have a system in place and some have no windows. Security is very tight there.
- Upgrade option is a 'key card' - with a database of photos of that parent assigned to that 'key card' - Angela Miller stated- that can be bypassed
- Do we have the \$25k
- it is paid for by LASUD - down at the serv. centers each division has a budget and it comes out of that fund
- Focus on 'positives' on the post-it notes is because issues/concerns can be exaggerated
- There have been lock downs at this school
- I've been stuck in one and it is instant- I was very impressed
- If there are parents wanting to know lock down procedures where would they get that information?
- School Safety binder in office for emergency protocols
- What type of conduct is expected of parents should they be on school grounds during a lock down event
- If you are here and there is activity, you will not be left behind/outside, teachers know what and how to notify the office
- The school staff know who to call, procedures and '911' should be dialed by someone
- There will be more info. available after the town hall security mtg - and we can bring it back to the SCC Committee and it will be approved by SSC

- Discussion took place as to what happens during a school lock down.
- Having a random police presence is awesome
- I agree
- Should the surrounding neighbors be invited to the mtg?
- All said 'no' . J. Charles stated- No not really, There is a 90% chance of a child getting hurt outside of WeHo Elementary, I agree that they should be involved but I am not sure it will go over well. Fliers can be used to engage the surrounding community of the school
- When did this new security system get approved?
- Dec. 23rd approved, been working on it since 2011, it is approved and it is paid for day of holiday show district reps came out to view the logistics of the school and how it operates then Sandy Hook Elementary event happened that Friday and timing was very coincidental
- The likelihood of a weirdo walking to our school is high
- Homeless are near the school in the cul de sac off of Harratt

Security Task Force meeting held on 1/10/13

There was a security task force mtg. two deputy sheriff, two LAUSD reps, Brent Evans - traffic flow, Ops Coordinator and Stephanie (Risk Management experience) and Mark Anderson. It helped to raise awareness of security and safe routes. Tips for getting in and out of car safely.

There is a lack of volunteers - better recruiting

Joël-stated being a volunteer helps reinvigorate parent awareness

J.Charles - coming up with the next steps to help increase security and safety, more advertising to capture attention of the parents to help increase volunteering, more formats of what to do and how to disseminate the info - utilize all formats to cast a wider net at town hall mtg. fliers, robo call and email was done to announce the mtg on Wed. Marsh Weiss - comment made; some parents state 'not enough emails'

Claudia - What to do when a person is in the restroom? I grew up in New York and that was discussed to me as a child , kids are scared about these things

J.Charles - That can be addressed to reps and sheriffs at the mtg. , best ways to talk to them is ask 'tell me what you want to know' and then 'begin the conversation from that point.

Claudia - I have told my kids what to do, listen to your teacher etc etc

Jennifer Davy - There are drills done here

Angela Miller - My child has had an incident, I've instructed them to trust your instincts.

J.Charles - Yes get away from that unknown person

Angela Miller - I want to keep my kids away from that

J.Charles and Joël stated- You can't keep kids from everything but we can make the school a safe place for them.

Claudia - Stated that incidents do scare the kids and they feel the tension

Alla - The kids start thinking that bullying equals shooting - kids are talking about these issues, that does not equal shooting of any kind

Jennifer Davy- My child has been afraid of the dark as of late , it may be caused by my own new concern

J.Charles - What else may I answer for you in reference to security?

Angela Miller - The response to this security meeting is a time for everyone to voice their concerns/thoughts

Claudia -It is sad that it takes a tragedy to start this action

J.Charles - Safety can not rest on one person - it really is about the response of the teachers to have plan, parents to discuss and follow protocol and have a mtg. and create action steps. After school there is no one out in front at dismissal and kids are not waiting alone out front. If they have not been picked up by 3pm, they need to check into Youth Services.

Claudia and Jennifer Davy stated - youth services is where to go if your parent hasn't picked you up - glad that it is now a known option

Angela Miller - Are you going to ask the teachers what their thoughts are?

Mr. Navarro - We have done that in our last staff mtg.

Angela Miller - Great to know that everyone is being utilized

IV. FOWHE Updates / Public Comments

How has prop 30 impacted our school?

Marsh Weiss stated - 5 more days returned back to the school year

Angela Miller stated - staff getting back the 5 more days of pay (restoration of salary)

Claudia stated- So Prop 30 doesn't create new funding?

J.Charles - I wont be getting back my 100k

Marsh Weiss asked - upgrade to security system? if parent group wants more needs to be FOWHE paid

Mr. Navarro stated- staff lounge sink issue not working and LAUSD not fixing because they didn't install it

J.Charles replied- The staff sink is being serviced - a trouble call to LAUSD has been placed.

J.Charles - due to time, meeting was adjourned.

Angela Miller agreed to conclude the SSC mtg - Jennifer Davy 2nd @ 4:08pm

Next Meeting: February 14, 2013

Minutes taken by Joel Mejia

