



Attendees:

Barbara Nassab, Jeffrey Schroeder, Lea Mishlan, Stephanie Matlock, Jarrod Baxter, Jay Phillips, Kathleen Zita, Keri Wittpenn, Stevie Smith, Sherry Campbell, Erin Wolfe, Jeanette Ellis, Casey Biswell

- I. Welcome and Check-In Question: Ms. Wittpenn commenced the Microsoft Teams meeting at 4:30 PM.
- II. Covid-19 Updates:
  - a. Rapid Testing—to begin on-campus soon. Our school nurse is in training to administer testing. Staff will self-test, not sure of frequency. Parent consent will be required for students.
  - b. 10 total events for Westside since 10/19—anytime there is a positive or presumed positive case, a call-out is sent. School cannot share info about individuals. One event can sometimes cause several people to quarantine. Westside has not experienced hot spots, nor spreading. Nurse doing terrific job with quick and efficient communications.
  - c. New nightly fogging protocol—previously an event triggered a sanitization response by HISD facilities department. Recently, the responsibility shifted to school level, custodial staff performing nightly fogging as a precautionary measure.
  - d. Parent opt-in period for Cycle 3—this week only, window of opportunity to make a change for Cycle 3.

Questions/Comments: Is there any directive for kids to self-report? No district initiative but perhaps campus platform could be considered for students to volunteer info. Concern expressed about upcoming holiday gatherings, but no protocols exist to limit what happens on personal time.

- III. Evaluating Flex Time in our virtual environment—student/parent mental health concerns (including Reflection)

Read "Reflection Emails"(attached). Teachers lecturing during live time, not a lot of time to slow down and check for understanding/engagement. We're living through a pandemic, mental health issues on the rise. Experiencing student and teacher outcry. Some students say work is overwhelming. How can we improve upon flex time and address mental health perspective?

Westside High School SDMC Meeting Minutes  
November 11, 2020

Discussion: general consensus among teachers that students are present during live time but many drop off-line during flex. Teachers can try to encourage and offer value, but difficult to motivate students to stay on. Many do not do work during flex time and then submit work late at night.

Challenge: Need to keep human element, some sort of mental health break, brain break. Try to keep cameras on and motivate kids. Teacher staying online to chat and catch up with kids. Finding value. Struggle is keeping kids, staying present. If students sign out, no way to know how they are using the time if they are not interacting. Attendance policy allows flexibility and personal choice.

IV. PSAT 9 on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> graders only on campus,

V. Proposed Final Exam Schedule

Dr. Mishlan shared proposed plan for Week of January 25-28. (29<sup>th</sup> prof development.) Feedback includes: additional time for passing between tests, pair odd and even periods, should be 2 hour blocks. Do we need office hours? What are transportation issues? Any possibility of exemptions for first semester?

VI. Virtual Holiday Celebration—Options for WHS Staff

Ideas include: Outdoor movie night, scavenger hunt, virtual game party (House Party app)

VII. Adjournment at 5:32 PM.

Submitted By: Barbara Nassab, SDMC Secretary

## Reflection Emails

### Example 1:

*I am writing to you today as a concerned parent. I know that virtual learning is very difficult on everyone involved. I feel that the kids are not getting enough "instructional" time including time with teachers to discuss reading materials, practice concepts taught, and ask questions to clarify understanding. This model may work well for some classes such as athletics, but it leaves a lot for students to learn without as much direct instruction and immediate feedback.*

*It seems that there has also been an increase in the numbers of minor and major grades required from teachers so there may be little time for instruction between graded work. I see a more anxiety and self doubt with my own kids and have heard the same from other parents. I am not sure what can be done, but feel that this is important enough to reach out. Perhaps, it would be worth looking at decreasing "flex" time in core subjects and increasing instruction time.*

### Example 2:

*I'm emailing on behalf of me and my peers. I want to start by saying welcome back to westside we are happy that you are hear. I'm sure you know that right now we are in hard times. I know that online school is the best option for us right now but it is very overwhelming. The teachers give an extreme amount of work, and personally I have had breakdowns from it. I know this is my email to you but every student can relate and approve this. Honestly I don't know what you can do about it, but we just need help. In online school it feels like we are teaching ourselves, the teachers read a power point and give us 3 assignments due at 11:59. I don't know if you see a lot of children's post on social media nut they all say "at this point I'm not even learning I just submitting by 11:59". That's not good the teachers are not making this experience easy for us. I have never struggled with school but right now its hard. There have been some day when I just cry because its just to much. Don't get me wrong I love some of my teachers but the amount of work is too much. I hope there is something you can do.....thank you for your time.*