

# Agenda

Waimea Canyon Middle School  
School Community Council  
Wednesday, November 8, 2017  
WCMS Library  
9555 Huakai Road  
P.O. Box 518  
Waimea, Hawaii 96796  
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Principal Speetjens called meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
2. Attendees: Steve Franco, Principal Speetjens, Dayle Takakusagi, Denise Moriguchi, Misty Tsukayama, Jill Suga, Shana Brown, Amithea Love
3. Approval of the Minutes: Minutes from October 17, 2017 meeting approved
4. Old Business
  - a. Update on WASC Accreditation process (if any)
    - i. No updates. We will probably hear from committee in January 2018.
  - b. Review of Covered Play Court Plans
    - i. S. Franco returned conceptual drawings, preliminary report about play court. He expressed satisfaction with the plans
    - ii. Permitting still needs to take place, which could take a year or more
  - c. Social Media follow up
    - i. The message about social media will run again in the parent newsletter.
    - ii. Council members noted some concerns with accuracy of SCC information posted to school website. S. Franco to clarify the procedures with the office clerk who posts the information.
  - d. Recycling of phased out WCMS Shirts
    - i. The issue has been brought up to team leaders, who will talk to their respective grade level teams about the concept.
  - e. Update on Artist In Residency
    - i. An artist has been selected. Mr. Bud Spindt is the artist, and has accepted the contract.
    - ii. At this time, the art foundation is conducting a review to ensure that the artist is compliant with taxes, etc. This process could take 6 months or

more.

- f. Boundary line changes
  - i. Several boundary line change meetings were recently held. They were informational. Individuals were permitted to submit electronic or written feedback or questions.
  - ii. Complex Area Superintendent will set up meetings to discuss the comments submitted at recent informational meetings.
  - iii. All principals potentially affected by boundary changes attended the meetings.
  - iv. WCMS provided informational sheets about the positive aspects of our school and showed a video showcasing recent accomplishments.
  - v. The decision has been made to change the boundary lines, and the goal is for the change to occur 2019-2020 school year.
  - vi. There will be consideration for geographic exceptions (GE) for families who have a student already enrolled at one school and an upcoming sibling, to allow siblings to attend the same school. GE provides other circumstances as well. GE paperwork will be due between January 1 - March 1 2019.
  - vii. It is important to consider the upcoming communities being built in Hanamaulu which will likely tax Lihue school resources. It was also noted that busses are being taxed by split, and assigning students to one direction would reduce this concern.
  - viii. Kalaheo is the only town in the entire state of Hawaii that presently has a choice of school.
  
- g. Bus concerns
  - i. Principal Speetjens noted that the Department of Education has filed numerous complaints against the bus company for failing to fulfil their contract. The deadline for submitting complaints has been pushed back repeatedly.
  - ii. If a family has been impacted by the bus shortage, they do not have to pay. If not impacted, the family does pay. The front office has already informed those who need to pay.
  
- h. The school mission statement has been finalized:  
"Waimea Canyon Middle School empowers students to navigate the present and to shape the future."

## 5. New Business

- a. Parent/Teacher Conferences
  - i. Will be held November 14-17. School will release at 11:30
  - ii. Clarification of conference format was requested and concern was noted regarding short amount of time available to meet with teachers and ask questions.

- iii. Principal Speetjens noted that teachers are currently considering ways to improve conferences for next year. Parents will have an opportunity to complete a survey at the conferences and to offer suggestions.
  - iv. Principal Speetjens noted that one option being considered for the future is to have one full day with extended hours for conference scheduling (without students).
  - v. Parents can let their child's teachers know if they have a need for a more lengthy discussion of their child, so that a separate meeting can be arranged with that teacher at a later date. It was also noted that time slots later in the day don't tend to fill as quickly.
- b. 20%, PBL, Deeper Learning Competencies, Design Thinking, Most Likely to Succeed (Video Presentation)
- i. Principal Speetjens showed a video on the 20% learning concept. The focus is on developing innovative thinking. Currently, focus on testing does not prepare students to apply higher order thinking skills to solve problems in the real world. We want students to focus on asking questions and exploring.
  - ii. When the school talks about shifting to "20%" we are preparing them to use thinking and problem-solving skills. We are considering reducing the amount of elective classes students take, and instead spend 20% of their time exploring unique inquiries.
  - iii. WCMS teachers recently completed a two day training to help them encourage students to use deeper thinking skills.
  - iv. The film "Most Likely to Succeed" is on PBS tonight. Principal Speetjens recommends watching it.
  - v. An article, entitled "Why 20% Is Good For Schools" was given out. It has been given to parents at meetings, and will be available at upcoming parent teacher conferences.
- c. Heat abatement.
- i. Principal Speetjens raised this concern at recent Ways and Means committee meeting with Senator Kouchi. No clarification was given.
  - ii. WCMS is currently on the list for the second round of air conditioning installation. However, it is not clear when this will happen.
- d. Band Room Concerns
- i. Recent rains and old infrastructure caused damage to band building Internet and phone connections.
  - ii. Internet and phone access are imperative for safety reasons.
  - iii. Principal Speetjens contacted Complex Area Superintendent.
- e. Science Department
- i. Science fair will be held November 13 2017.
  - ii. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teachers will be out on maternity leave, with 7<sup>th</sup>

- grade teacher out 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher out 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- ii. Mrs. Imomura is the substitute for Mrs. Yamagata (7<sup>th</sup> grade)
- iii. Mr. Barba will likely be the substitute for Mr. Yamagata (8<sup>th</sup> grade).

f. Chorus/Media teacher

- i. Is out on medical leave, Chorus class will have a showcase after she returns.

g. Christmas Tree Decorating Contest at Marriott

- i. Leadership class will be decorating the tree this year, and funds earned will go toward leadership initiatives.
- ii. The tree has been decorated by the technology class and Connecting for Success project in the past.
- iii. The trees will likely go up around Thanksgiving, and people can make donations at the hotel lobby to vote.

h. High School Course Selection for 8<sup>th</sup> grade

- i. The high school counselor came to WCMS to discuss course registration for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- ii. This year, WCMS might have the 8<sup>th</sup> graders go up to WHS to view presentations on the various courses, rather than having presenters come down.
- iii. Registration is usually done in February.

i. Grants Received/ in Process

- i. WCMS received a grant from Dupont and was in the newspaper. The grant funds were used to procure a laser cutter.
- ii WCMS received a \$5,000.00 grant from Department of Health. The plan is to install a water bottle fill station.
- iii. Agriculture teacher is applying for a \$10,000.00 grant from Ceres Trust. The funds would be used to expand the agriculture facilities. It was suggested that the local agriculture companies be asked about donating labor and use of equipment to facilitate the project.
- iv. Hartung Brothers donated pumpkins to WCMS which were appreciated by staff. Ms. Brown's Functional Skills class utilized the pumpkins to make various recipes, including roast pumpkin and pumpkin muffins.

j. New Equipment

- i. We received several Epson projectors recently, and have procured someone to install them for a reasonable fee. Paperwork is currently in process to contract the work. The projectors have a number of excellent features to aid in teaching.
- ii. Copy machines on campus have been replaced
- iii. The front office is being redesigned, and staff will have new desks. The changes will be implemented over December break.

- k. 55 by 25 Initiative.
  - i. WCMS was asked to join the “55 by 25” initiative, which aims to ensure that 55% of students are college educated by age 25.
  - ii. WCMS requested further details regarding what this would entail.
  
- 6. Announcements
  - a. Next SCC meeting is set for Wednesday, December 6 at 5:30 pm.
  - b. Waimea lighted Christmas Parade is on 12/16/2017. Band and Hula classes will perform.
  - c. Upcoming music class performances
    - i. December 8, Advanced Ukulele and Advanced Band students will be touring to perform at local elementary schools.
    - ii. December 13, Ukulele class to perform in cafeteria
    - iii. December 15, Band class will perform with high school band at Waimea Theater.
  
- 7. Adjournment
  - i. Steve Franco adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.