

Pittsburg Unified School District
DAC Meeting
November 8, 2022
Educational Services Conference Room

Foothill:
Heights:
Highlands:
Los Medanos:
Parkside:
Willow Cove: Miguel Angel Alvarado
Stoneman: Carol Archie
Marina Vista: Tasharie Ameral
Hillview JH: Alma Rodríguez
Rancho Medanos JH: Susana Osafo

MLK, Jr. JH:
PHS: Mark Linde, Todd Whitmire, Jose Gutierrez, Mr. Saxon Chives, María Tapia, Miguel Ángel Alvarado, Susana Osafo, María Zárate, Alma Rodríguez
Educational Services: Shelley Velasco, Sandra Guardado, Tina Chamorro, Lorena Asdourian,
PUSD: Alicia Bush

Ms. Shelley Velasco welcomed the DAC members and mentioned that DELAC was invited to come to this meeting. She also introduced our DAC chairperson Ms. Tasharie Ameral. We invited the people from Pittsburg High School to talk about the concerns that were stated in the last DAC meeting.

We would table the minutes from the last DAC meeting of October.

Ms. Velasco indicated that this is an informational meeting. We are here to help this group, as DAC, we inform and share what was brought in our meeting.

- Safety issues going on, fights, kids coming from off campus to start fights.
- Concern for the use of drugs in the bathrooms.
- Some of the general safety concerns.
- We want to hear the safety that is in place in the high school

Mr. Whitmire, Pittsburg High School Principal thanked the parents for being here and their concerns. He mentioned, In the high school, we have about 3200 students. We have a very large campus. We are struggling this year to keep the students in campus, we are short of staff. Staffing continue to be an issue.

Safety, in the high school. One of the programs we have in the campus is an Officer with a dog that comes to do random checks. This dog checks for drugs, contraband and guns. Mr. Whitmire, introduced Mr. Saxon, who is one of the security officers at PHS he has been there over 20 years. We also have a police officer in campus.

We have a general plan. Mr. Whitmire distributed a copy of list of the daily functions for PHS Safety team CRAs (Campus Resource Assistants).

A question was made. How many students, that go the PHS do not belong to PHS?

Mr. Whitmire mentioned that Students that may live in Antioch and may have a relative. They apply for Open enrolment. We probably have 200 students. When we suspect that students do not live where they say, Students Services sends a person to check their home.

In the next 7 years, the district is expecting about 400 new students. A new housing development is being built in Pittsburg. We had added about 2100 students in the last 16 years. It is challenging for Food Services.

A comment was made. I think that the majority of the problems is over population. That is a discussion with parents and the board. Do they want a second-high school?

Mr. Alvarado, a member of DELAC. We have proposed this in ELAC and the response is that the parents do not want it because of the band. He mentioned that if the problem is the band, there could be band classes in the two high schools and the two schools could still come together. It is not enough to say, we do not want to break the band. By building another campus is to provide service to the students. An outside company could be contracted, to provide better service to the students. What we had heard before, it is not acceptable.

Ms. Rodriguez mentioned also that it is said that is because of the football team.

Mr. Whitmire, mentioned the high school is growing. At some point, it would be a decision that the community would have to make. In Antioch, it created a tension with old and new. In Antioch, they have two main high schools, and a magnet (Medical school)

Ms. Rodriguez mentioned, another part of security. It is the feeling of the students; I know the security is doing a good job. I go there every day. We are also concern, going from home to the high school it is crazy, sometimes it takes about an hour to get there. People just stop in the middle of Harbor Street and block the street. A student got hit by a car. The officer that we have now, I hardly see him.

The problem is that the lights for the community flow, we may have 1000 cars coming and the area to pull in is very small. School Street is hard they keep the street block off so students can cross the street and don't get hit by cars.

Mrs. Alma Rodriguez mentioned about the officer we have at PHS. Even If he is in the campus, it depends where he is. We are worry and we want to see the officer going everywhere. It does help to have an officer in campus!

Mrs. Velasco mentioned. Visibility.

Mr. Alvarado. The main concern is the security of the students Sometimes the students are distracted and the students cross the street without looking. We asked them to put a new light there.

It was asked if anyone or group has gone to a City Council Meeting.

Mr. Whitmire suggested to go the City Council Meeting.

Ms. T. Ameral mentioned that she has been on the Pittsburg's CAC board a board appointed by the City Council members. You can bring this concern to the city, and some of the elected reps can help. You could bring the issue in public comments, and talk about the landscaping issues.

Someone from DELAC mentioned that the concern of the high school is that, the students don't wear the ID batch. In campus everyone looks, the same. The students that I see with IDs are the one on Special Ed. Every high school student should use their ID card.

Mr. Whitmire, agreed.

A member commented on the timing when the students, get the food and the lines. There is a little time. The food is there, and it goes into waste. If you are late, because you are getting food is O.K. I tell my student.

We have 9th graders students and 12 graders getting the lunch and the same time, and when the lines are not regulated, I see the big students pushing the smaller students.

When you are dealing with 3, 000+ students and only 13 CRAs, it is a low number for that amount of students in the high school.

Parking lot. In the morning there is a lot of traffic. The big parking lot in front of the Gym is closed, the entrance could be opened for parents to turn around. We are begging the administrators to open that parking lot.

Could the lunch we separated in two groups or grade levels?

9-10 grader and 11-12 graders.

There were more comments regarding the wearing the students' IDs. Students love the high school because they do not have uniforms.

Mr. Whitmire commented that when he was at Hillview wearing the IDs was enforced. Every time a kid did not have the id, they would get mad.

Ms. Alicia Bush, our Supervisor of School Site Safety and Emergency Preparedness mentioned there has been a much greater emphasis in the country regarding school security and school safety. Additionally, violence on campuses at all education levels has increased dramatically. One way that those communities have decided to move, in an effort to curb violence and unauthorized access to the school facilities, is the use of school ID cards. A school ID card system is a cost-effective solution that can increase security without being difficult or cumbersome to initiate.

Benefits of ID Cards in Schools

It's a fact that being able to distinguish staff and students from guests isn't always easy.

Students who are currently enrolled can be easily identified from those who are not, who are from another campus, or who have had certain access privileges revoked with school ID cards.

School ID card that is worn at all times can also help security and resource staff identify individuals that are not currently permitted to be at the school so they can be addressed appropriately, effectively, and most of all quickly.

If emergencies ever arise on campus, it's important that students are able to quickly identify staff members who are qualified to help and assist with the situation as soon as possible. ID cards can help play an important role in speeding up the identification process especially when the time is of the essence.

Mr. Zarate commented. We know that you are short of staff, there are many parents that want to volunteer. Please give them some training.

When I called my daughter to pick her up, they let students go outside. Maybe we could have a password, to let the office know it is really the parent calling.

Mr. Linden, mentioned that you brought things that the school has not control. The city has a phone application. Regarding your concerns like traffic, the median, the trimming of the hedges on the median. There is a link in this phone application that you can mention about the concerns.

Documentation is in its simplest form meaningful data that has the ability to capture important information. Ms. Bush highly recommends that we use documentation to quantify a problem/issue, or address the "what" or "how many" aspects of a situation. It helps justify the need to develop necessary results and is very effective when having to justify the need for something e.g., change in process, need for specific items, etc.

Ms. Ameral, our DAC Chairperson mentioned, don't forget to set a meeting with Mr. Whitmire. You can bring this directly to him. You can still go to the PHS School Site Council Meetings. If you are documenting your information and see how it is being addressed to the School Site Council.

Wearing IDs is very beneficial to school-wide safety. I know students don't like wearing IDs, but it is helpful in keeping the school community safe. The student's ID has a purpose.

I know that in the Long Beach Unified School District this has kept many students safe. I highly recommend keeping our students safe too. We need better enforcement of this policy, plus it can be loaded with a cash balance for student lunches when the expectation returns for paying per household. Also, it may be low cost if printed in-house and on-site for those students that will need replacements.

Mr. Whitmire, mentioned:

- In California all the students eat free lunch.
- We are trying to keep the students moving fast.
- Make printing off the cards accessible, so they can be replaced on site.
- In every committee that I am in, "safety" is one of the key elements.

Ms. Ameral, also, I think we could have a 9th grade ONLY campus, so the students trained on wearing their student IDs and have a small population to interact with to ease into the transition to high school and its expectations.

It is a hard job to monitor a high school as for the job of the school safety team. Parents, you can ask the Pittsburg police department to request for more officers to cover the high school. For the hour that is more congested and populated, extra officers could help with the traffic. As long as the crime and calls are low across the city they could send help.

Ms. Ameral mentioned a vacancy in the Pittsburg Community Advisory Commission (CAC). It is volunteer work. In March, four positions could be opened.

Community Advisory Commission. I found this information on the City Web Site. Phone 925-252-4063. The planning commission may be aligned with the city-wide planning and City Council.

Next meeting of the planning commission is November 22nd and the next after that meeting is December 13. The webpage has the telephone number listed as following: 925-252-4920

The city even has a planning commission for the youth run by the youth. I encourage your teen children to apply.

I had a challenging figuring out about the City's Community Advisor Commission meeting dates, so here's the email you can use to request the dates:
citycouncil@pittsburg.ca.gov.

Lastly, parents are stakeholders and administrators and city officials are employees of parent's tax dollars. Be sure to write letters or email when you have a safety concern or school or community need that needs to be addressed. Don't forget to ask for support from your local churches and local organizations, so they understand how pressing some of these issues are for our community. Thanks for listening. DAC Chairperson.

Mr. Alvarado commented, I did not want to repeat, but, we, all have the same opinions. It is important, and thank you for the invitation to the DELAC Committee to this meeting. Unfortunately, we are small group. The ones that are here, are always the same parents that attend and we do not have the time. I don't want to put excuses.

We, the representatives, like the principals and administrators are well aware of the needs of the students and the community. I think that this issue would have been for one meeting, this way we do not have to go to different meetings.

That's why we have this administrators and authority support. We are conscious of their responsibility, we already know with this message that the staff and teachers have a lot of needs. We as parents, we are also assuming our responsibility. As parents we are making our best effort. We talked to the planning commission, and it was a waste of our time. There are some lights that do not work and they are still waiting for parts for the lights. Many students walk to and from the high school.

Mr. Whitmire mentioned. I listened. There are things we have control like the IDs. I welcome coming to this meeting. I can hear your ideas. It is helpful. This is what is going on. It is good to know.

Mrs. Rodriguez, mentioned, we are talking about the high school and we are forgetting Hillview.

Mr. Whitmire. It is about the relationship with the students. Being present, you need to be visible. We have 2 parent's liaisons; and about 100 volunteers and we had a meeting. These are brand new people. This is about one hour a week.

Mrs. Rodriguez, my concern is Hillview, they have only 3 security people. The front of the school is O.K., you can ring the bell to get in the school. But the back is open.

Why do my kids have to pay the price for students that are not following the rules? Someone commented. They punished all the students, not only the one that made the mistake. We need more security and more consequences.

Mrs. Velasco mentioned that we could bring Hillview another day.

Ms. Ameral asked: Will we table everything else in the agenda? Yes, Mrs. Velasco replied.

Mr. Linden mentioned again about the phone application that the city has, it is really helpful.

- Transitions with more accountability with the wearing of the IDs.
- Accountability, drugs, whatever we need to do we have to do.
- You can give me a call or send me a text.

Mr. Whitmire thanked everyone for coming to this meeting

Mr. Alvarado mentioned, we the parents are the stakeholders. We are writing letters or emails, review the letters. Have a person or employee to review the letter. Understand that what is stopping us from getting what we need is not participating as a group, if we need a new high school.

Ms. Osafo, my first comment. I want you to understand and help. It is much better to wear the IDs and come home. Per example, when you come to work, you will be wearing the ID because you need to identify yourself. I am a CRA. If the chain to wear the ID is a problem, they can make a batch. Please talk to your friends, about the need to be identified. We do know how to identify the people. Your life is important for us, we need to protect you. Many people are going to the high school. Every student doesn't have their ID on. Please Mr. Whitmire, make it happen. I don't want to hear from parents I told you so.

Ms. Alicia Bush, mentioned that the students would adapt to wearing their IDs.

Mrs. Osafo mentioned that parents collected petitions for the speed bumps at Los Medanos. If we the parents go in and fight for what we need for them. We collected signatures from everyone in the neighborhood. It is a matter of encouraging the parents. A lot of parents say, you are just talking and they won't do anything about it.

Mrs. Zarate. Thanked everyone for being here. We care about all the children not just our children. For the community, she mentioned that we have to start early, before they get to middle school. When my son was at the high school, Mr. Whitmire called me and we build the community not the group. These kids are our future. We are not here to blame anyone, we want to support you, and each other, parents, teachers, community.

Mrs. Tapia commented. Why don't we contract more security staff for those areas? To go around those areas, where they are doing the drugs. Hire more security rather than the police officers, to keep the security on those places in the blind spots, and also to control the main entrance of the high school.

Someone commented. When something happens, all the students are punished, not only the one that made the mistake. We need more security and more consequences. Do not let strangers into the building. Some parents would not like it, but it would be for our student's safety.

Items in the agenda of 11/8/2022 below, have been tabled for next meeting.

- Review and approval of minutes for the last October 18th meeting
- Parent Engagement Policy- Table from last October 18th meeting

Ms. Ameral made the 1st motion to end the meeting and Mrs. Susana Osafo seconded. The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Next meeting will be on January 10, 2023.