

Washougal School District 112-6

Parent Linkage Meeting May 9, 2007 Board of Directors

Question: How well do high school programs prepare students for their next step in school or beyond high school?

- Excellent job – student in Running Start; she has been nominated for WSU scholarship, academically well-prepared; felt good about recent SAT experience
- One student well-prepared; one not so well-prepared; could be the difference in their personalities; “driven” student gets positive attention from teachers, beginning at JMS; other daughter (since grade school) has been challenged; frustrated as a parent; staff conference was held; Family Access is good, but I’m almost afraid to go on and look at it; Do something more for students who struggle
- Star mentor program didn’t work for struggling student
- Wish we could identify more to help those kinds of kids
- Downward slide for student who had history of learning difficulties
- Had difficulty getting make-up work after surgery; months later response from teacher; allowed to pass class although didn’t do all work
- Accountability shifts from teacher to teacher; one teacher will let kids make up test; another will not
- Kids who are articulate, “mainstream learners” do well; other kids who are bright but not mainstream learners are not getting the kind of esteem-building support they need; kids who are not mainstream learners get lost in the shuffle
- Didn’t get enough information on college, Running Start, SAT, etc.
- Would like to see Skills Center start earlier; junior year is too late; some kids need hands-on learning; not all kids will go to college to be doctors, teachers, etc.
- Saw Excelsior SIP presentation has a personal connection to one EHS student and the program is now meeting those students’ needs

Question: Do any of you have students who would like to be in the trades or enter the work force?

- Example of a student who struggles with traditional high school
- Skills Center fills the need for hands-on learning
- Nephew would really benefit from a program that trains students in the trades
- “Trades” curriculum would be good
- Skills Center has an excellent culinary program

Question: What are experiences with guidance counseling?

- Too many students per counselor; daughter seeks opinion from other staff members
- Not sure if counselors actually provide “guidance” counseling; seems that counselors help kids sign up for classes—could use more guidance counseling; HiCap counselor has been helpful
- Kids need to prepare for future now; end of or beginning of sophomore year parents/kids need more information about college
- Update website with more information on college prep, etc.
- Strong parenting really helps kids; it was me, the parent, pushing and helping our daughter, not the counselors

- For kids who want to get everything lined up, they need information early to make good decisions; 8th grade career placement tests were useful in helping students select classes
- My daughter did get ideas to explore from talking to the counselors
- Faculty advisor has been helpful for us
- We've had negative interactions with counseling staff:
 - a. scheduling mix-ups twice
 - b. counseled not to take a class; we over-rode the decision and daughter is doing fine
 - c. daughter intimidated by counselor
- Daughter in Skills Center misses advisory, class meetings, etc.
- Early releases mess up the schedule for Skill Center students

Question: What are the positive aspects of Washougal High School?

- Teachers are awesome; one teacher spent hours making sure my daughter succeeded
- I agree—Teachers are awesome
- Skills Center; Running Start; music program; sports
- Any program that allows students to grow as a person
- Very thankful my kids are at WHS
- Some students may want to go to a large school for the opportunities of getting scholarships
- A.P. Program

Question: What do we currently NOT offer that would be useful?

- Life skills – consumer education; family and consumer science; time management; study skills
- Balance checkbook, etc.; investing; mortgage; decision-making
- Attach to Health education or Occupational Ed.
- How to get along with other people

Question: If you could change one thing, what would it be?

- Bigger school – would offer more extra-curricular and sports; there are lots of kids who could use the larger athletic program
- Parent would be more informed/involved
- Teachers need to teach; not focus on other things going on; some students left behind when teachers get distracted
- One more year in high school
- Refocus, bring focus back to academics
- Son doesn't know how to study!
- Consistent use of Family Access/Skyward grading system by teachers
- Foreign exchange—more opportunities to interact with other students

Question: Is learning rigorous?

- Son trying very hard because he's motivated to do sports
- Our student needs more systematic instruction on how to study
- One class our son is taking is a joke; he's not learning anything
- New teachers are raising the bar
- Restructuring is working