

Highland Jr. High  
Community Council Meeting Minutes  
December 7, 2022  
4:00pm

**PRESENT:** Velden Wardle, Angie Barley, Casey Madalena Mitch Boatright, Bianca Mittendorf, Stephanie Wyman,

**WELCOME:** Bianca Mittendorf, Chair

Review and Approve October 5, 2022 CC Minutes – Motion to approve October 5, 2022 CC Minutes – October 5, 2022  
CC Minutes approved

**PRINCIPAL REPORT:** Velden Wardle;

- **School Policies Update**

Some changes that we have made are the suspensions for fights we increased to 5-8 days since the 1-2 days weren't making an impact with parents and students. The biggest things we have had issues with is fighting and vaping. Thus, we have stiffened consequences to get a better handle on them. While students are suspended they are able to work on their chromebooks at home and stay current on assignments.

In School Suspension (ISS) is used for smaller things such as behavior issues, skipping class, etc. In school suspension is more of a reteach opportunity instead of having students just hang out.

We have also taken privileges away due to issues with behavior and then the students have to earn them back.

- **School Data Review: test scores and school accountability**

Reviewed the RISE test results and the four categories that determine what the school grade will be. (1) English 18.2% were proficient, Math 13.3% proficient, Science 12.5% proficient. (2) Student growth in English 50.7%, Math 48.4%, Science 43%. (3) Student growth of lowest 25% of students 43% improved. (4) ELL progress 33.5% made adequate progress. These percentages are based solely on the RISE test results. Bianca asked if there is something in place to better show growth for the ELL and Special Ed students. There is a different test in place for ELL and resource students to help us show their improvement status.

Highland's grade is "F" as of the 2021-2022 RISE results. We are borderline. Points are weighted by achievement 37%, growth 37%, ELL 9%, and growth of our lowest 25% student population is 17% of the final score.

Highland has been in "TSI" (targeted support improvement) for the last 5 years due to the lack of improvement with the SAGE/RISE test scores. If the school improves, the school is removed from TSI. If not, then we will be moved to "CSI" (continual support improvement). With this, the state will come in and observe, recommend, and support the school to improve their status. We were recently notified by the state that we are now CSI. The state will provide additional funding, resources and support to help us improve. Highland is now in the lowest 5% of the state. You can find all this information on the USBE website. Bianca stated that we can work through this but this isn't the total picture of what is going on with the students. Velden is confident that we will see big improvements this year with all the changes that have already been made.

- **School Safety and Digital Citizenship**

By law we are required to have very tight controls over access on devices. We have filters in place that when students are using chromebooks assigned to them from the school, it won't allow them access to certain websites. We can disable the devices when students move and don't return the chromebook or if we see that a student is not using their device appropriately. We use a program called Go Guardian that shows everything a student is doing on their chromebook. There are alerts we receive when a student types a particular word and we can intervene.

During advisory class students receive lessons regarding digital citizenship and how to better prepare them with technology. We are working to provide more resources to the students on digital citizenship.

**COUNSELOR NEWS:** Mitch Boatright, Counselor

We just finished our 2nd CCA lesson (how to regulate emotions, priorities).  
We will be taking about 20 students Christmas shopping with the donations we received.  
December 19th we will be taking our DLI and LIA students to a multicultural conference at WSU.  
We will be starting our 9th grade CCRs in January.

6th grade event in January - orientation, teachers have stations for students to interact.  
SheTech Conference is in the spring - hoping to take 20-30 students.

Motion to adjourn 4:50pm

Next meeting – February 15, 2023 @ 4:00pm