

Date: 10/08/2025

Location: Library

Time: 7:30 - 8:30

IC MINUTES



Facilitators: Jorge Serrano (Interim IC Chair)/Stephanie Davy (IC Chair Elect)

Time Keeper: Stephanie Davy

Recorder: Jess Selbee

Members: Jorge Serrano, Stephanie Davy, Michele Torres, Brenda Ortiz, Stephanie Davy, Yvette Lozoya, Jess Burrows, Matt Aragon, Olivia Harney, Ron Yoder

Also in Attendance: Jess Selbee, Frida Almaraz, Alexa Rodriguez Cota, Santino Hernandez, Veronica Vasquez, Paul Burrows, Robert Stubbs, Shonn Shroer

**Instructional Goals
2023-2024 Year**

Take action in support of curricular and instructional improvement at WMHS.

1. Acknowledging that our students need help improving their reading, writing, critical thinking, and math abilities, teachers will integrate reading, writing, math, critical thinking, and reading visuals (charts, graphs, etc.) into their curriculum.
2. Improve staff-student relationships: Each student will be connected with an adult on campus who can support them with their academic goals and connect them to resources to support their social, emotional, and material needs.
3. Earlier (better) interventions for failing students including but not limited to: mandatory contracts, conferences scheduled with parents and counselors, mandatory tutoring (during lunch, after school, GradPoint, Saturday school, Early Warning System), remediation techniques for core classes.
4. IC will continue to have a voice and collaborate with advisory
5. IC will continue to advise and work with administration to plan PD that is of best use to our faculty and staff. This next year will include a focus on offering resources on how to teach digital literacy, culturally responsive instruction, and AVID strategies.

IC Norms

Everyone is welcome, as are all ideas and opinions.

- **We will:**
 - Start and end on time
 - Ground statements in evidence
 - Assume positive intentions
 - Show respect and consideration to one another
 - Work hard (if we do, we'll fulfill our mission and accomplish our goals)
 - Maximize the time we spend on issues
 - Work as a team towards our goals
 - Leave personal agendas in our offices/classrooms/homes

**(Opening/Business 2
Min.)**

Approval of Previous Minutes and Agenda

Important timely information needs to be added to the beginning of this meeting - more time sensitive, last minute things coming from District

Approval to add Veronica Vasquez to the beginning of the meeting to share.

<p>Risk & Resiliency Survey V. Vasquez</p>	<p><u>Student Survey: Risk & Resiliency</u> District has recently informed us that we must have our students complete this survey by the end of this month. This survey is administered every four years to high school students. Includes 110 questions on sensitive topics (sexual activity, drug use, suicidal ideation, etc.)</p> <p>Unlike other student surveys, we do not have a percentage of students that are expected to complete it, but we need to offer it. We can determine a time to have students complete it and that is it. We will not need to hunt down students to do make ups. All questions are optional, so students do not have to complete everything, only what they are comfortable answering.</p> <p>Survey is long and time consuming and could take upwards of twenty minutes... estimated most students could take forty minutes to complete.</p> <p>We must decide when we will have students complete survey (long advisory? Class period?) and if we would prefer students do the survey digitally or on paper. Likely digital would be preferred with students having one to one tech.</p> <p>Check with your constituents to get feedback on this. This be added to the agenda for next week's IC Meeting.</p>
<p>Admin. (10 min.)</p>	<p><u>Admin. Update</u> Results of Clear Backpack Surveys 750 parents surveyed: 45.7% FOR, 49% against, & 6% don't care 100% Staff Participation: 60% FOR, 34.5% against, & 9 people no preference 1000 students participated: 5.6% FOR, 88.2% against, & 6.2% no preference</p> <p>"Dirty Data" No way to guarantee only one vote or that individuals did not vote outside their role group. Some students admitted they voted more than one and/or as a different role group.</p>
<p>J. Serrano (Rest of the meeting)</p>	<p><u>Discussion on Clear Backpacks</u> Serrano: Happy initially with the idea of clear backpacks. Followed up with research and showed to be effective for events, but the research is solid that clear backpacks do not make a difference on safety in schools. Spoke with students and found that this could also pose a safety issue for students walking to school, making them vulnerable to theft with their items on display. We should consider saying no and allow other schools to be the pilot - allowing us to see how things work before we attempt to implement here.</p> <p>Department feelings? 60 seconds for discussion each Representatives speak for their department</p> <p>Math = against - students and parents against it (dirty data?) Teachers have same issues - safety in question for students - clear backpacks don't last as long</p> <p>MCNL = against - could become another teacher classroom management issue - not feeling supported from district - athlete bags could still be an issue</p> <p>Sped = FOR - presents a message of safety and openness</p> <p>English = against - similar to MCNL and Math - research suggests otherwise, "security theater" - clear backpacks more expensive and don't last as long - this could potentially lead to students missing out when they need to get their other bags (athletics, band, etc.) from other locations on campus.</p> <p>Counseling = Against - points already made</p>

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Social Studies = Against - Most of dept against - items can be decoyed

CTE = FOR - concern with if things happen and we don't make the change, lead to finger pointing - not a cure all, no quick fixes, but at least doing something - teach classes that already include enough danger

Students (Lea Reza sent talking points) = Against - points made include more school violence, creates a false sense of safety that works against "see something say something", not taking away the real gun threat, easy to hide weapons on campus, of schools that have switched considerable number have switched back
Suggest other security measures instead (i.e. random security checks, scanners, etc.)

Art = abstaining

No representative present for: Families, PE

Torres: See both sides of the issue, but if something happens and we do not take action could look bad on us - could also create false sense of security - how do we handle if students refuse to use clear backpack - no real guidance from the district.

Serrano: Issue for most of us - how is this supported? Students don't come to school because they don't have clear backpack. We were sued during Covid for students not having access. Allow others to be

EAs = FOR - Could provide somewhat false sense of security... sometimes doing something doesn't make a difference, but sometimes doing something is better than doing nothing.

DAVY: Based on votes, we will NOT be moving to clear backpacks.

Challenge to talk with departments - we can't continue to be on the news.

Metal detectors are not an option (cost) - what CAN we do to take steps toward more safety on campus that is in our control.

Speak with students about what we can do - students have mentioned having everyone on campus wear IDs. Things like this could be more feasible.

Torres: Admin team constantly told we need to do something. West Mesa makes the news EVERY TIME we have any issue - AHS had loaded gun found on campus recently and didn't make the news (until later).

Barrett: Consensus? (We can use a vote on this.)

We understand that we will get push back on not doing anything, but what support do we have from the district even if we did.

Serrano: Let's get on the news for what we are doing at West Mesa to keep students and staff safe - effective measures are being taken.

Davy: We won't get on the news for that - it is not news worthy

Torres: We have approached media outlets many times to get publicity for positive things and it hasn't happened. For instance, we tried with the staff softball game, but no success.

Stubbs: 1000 students voted and 885 said NO. We have to take that into consideration. The majority of our "customer's" parents also said NO. Clear bags are pieces of junk. It does not work and they won't hold up.

Vote results

3 FOR

7 against

1 abstained

<p>Date and Time of Next IC Meetings</p>	<p>West Mesa is not moving forward with clear bags at this time.</p> <p>Barrett: Somewhat related - Agenda request - Out of compliance with Negotiated Agreement - required Committee for Safety & Health, art. 26- sect D - brought to attention by Laine Douglas (will be added to IC Agenda for next week)</p> <p>Serrano: We had the committee, but it stopped meeting.</p> <p>Aragon: Stipulations that if we have any further issues, we go to clear bags?</p> <p>Shroer: Students likely won't want to tell if we did that. Want to encourage students to continue to "say something if they see something"</p> <p>Torres: The message can be. "We sided with you, but we NEED you to speak up."</p> <p>Serrano: More research?</p> <p>Davy: More research is not needed, but feel free. Have discussions within your groups. What are our next steps that are <u>in our control</u>? Regular meeting - next Tuesday in Davy's room (due to PSAT testing)</p> <p>Hernandez: Losing the right to carry a backpack if they have weapons, drugs, or other contraband (knives, mace, tasers, alcohol, vapes, etc.)?</p> <p>Davy: Would we need to update the handbook? (Yes.)</p> <p>Serrano: Backpack checks in the office, work toward removing backpacks for offenders/reoffenders?</p> <p>October 14, 2025 @7:30 am</p> <p>-Guidelines for Instructional Councils: https://atfunion.org/answers-docs/</p> <p>-Agenda Item Request Form: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AG2LYpebDn8fJpJ0nU0aSxeauXpe1-bZKjISZERE9is/edit?usp=sharing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please make a copy of the Google Document.2. Once completed, please email the document to Jorge Serrano.
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