

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

University City High School

6949 Genesee Avenue, San Diego CA 92122

Site Governance Team (SGT) Meeting

February 11, 2019 2:30pm

UCHS Media Center

MINUTES

Members present:

	UCHS Staff		Parent Reps		Student Reps
X	Jeff Olivero, Principal (SGT)	X	Virginia De Sa (SGT)	X	Elaina Martin (SGT)
	Aaron Pores, Certificated (SGT)	X	Mark McPherson (SGT)	X	Nick Van Daelen (SGT)
X	Donna Fallon, Certificated (SGT)	X	Meredith Kennedy SGT		Brandon Sutton (SGT)
			Viki Beaton (SSC)		Ari Weisman (SGT)
X	Maureen Quessenberry, Certificated (SGT)	X	Jessica Martin (SSC)		
X	Thomas Volle, Certificated (SGT)	X	Donna Hoegler	X	Eden Tillotsen (SSC)
	Gail Hall, Certificated (SSC)				
X	Marie Byrd, Classified (SGT)				
Other staff present: Jennifer Huszar, Jo McGlin, Alex Villalobos					

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:38pm by Jeff Olivero. Mark McPherson seconded. Elizabeth Frohoff motioned to approved the 1/31/19 Minutes by Liz with the following change on page 3, line 3 "Reduce dance units by 1.5. Dance Team will not receive units for the 2019-2020 school year." Elaina Martin seconded.

Principal Olivero shared with the group that a decision was made to have Admin and office staff supervise the Community College classes on their off days, effective immediately. The decision was made partially based on feedback received from the last meeting, and in an effort to reserve funds.

Elaina Martin opened the meeting by asking for public comments.

A community member brought up the topic of school start times. She shared her concerns about not having a schedule that easily works with late start school times, adding that sports teams will be impacted if school is dismissed at a later time. She is in favor of early start times because later start times will impact working parents and after school sports. She stated she's aware of data but says data can be skewed.

A parent stated the research in favor of late school times is overwhelming, suggesting that school start times is a public health issue that needs to be addressed as it can improve mental health, reduce athletic injuries, improve test scores, and prevent traffic accidents. Her opinion is that a late start time would be good for teens, adding that the issues preventing late start times need to be solved (traffic, transportation, sports schedules, etc.). When asked how it can be concluded that student injuries correlate to school start times, the parent responded that studies showed that schools with later start times have fewer athletic injuries than schools with early times. The parent added that the study used many variables and compared large and small districts, schools with bussing, and demographics were compared to San Diego schools. An SGT member shared that her student suffered a serious injury, and she believes it was directly related to lack of sleep.

Another community member, a physician at Scripps, spoke next, sharing with the group that the Center for Disease Control and other medical organizations recommend schools should start no earlier than 8:30am. The community member expressed her concerns that students are being forced against medical recommendations, adding that there are three important pillars of health - nutrition, exercise, and sleep. Students are being deprived of one of the pillars. The community member is of the opinion that something needs to be done to allow students to get more sleep, as sleep deprivation is a probable carcinogen, and plays a factor in increased obesity, suicide, and depression.

A UCHS teacher commented that the science is there to support late school start times, and the District has a directive to mandate all schools eventually switch to later times. The teacher made a suggestion to create a committee that would collect and address arguments for and against the late start school times in an effort to come up with a workable solution. She shared her concern that if our school doesn't come to an agreement soon about the start times for next year, we may risk losing out on desirable start times to other schools that might be requesting them before us.

An SGT member suggested the possibility that Standley kids might start decide to transfer to La Jolla High if they have late start and we don't.

A PTSA member told the group she'd be willing to coordinate carpools or van pools to help with late start.

Mr. Olivero commented in response to Mrs. Huszar about whether our school should wait in line to implement a late start versus coming up with a plan now. He agreed the research is there to support the need for late start but there are challenges to consider - traffic, work schedules, after school sports and activities.

A member asked if there are there more or less tardies on Wednesdays compared to other days. Another member commented that busses are late every Wednesday morning. A third member replied that it doesn't seem to have a noticeable impact.

A parent brought up the issue of daylight saving times. If it is eliminated, how might that impact kids' schedules, sleep cycles, etc.

Mr. Olivero shared his perspective that Board members are responding to parents and community concerns that early start are unhealthy for kids. If they're going to implement it district-wide, how will this work? If the busses can't get to school on time to get kids to school by 8:50, how is this helpful? If busses have to leave earlier to get to school on time, then it cancels out the benefit for kids to sleep in. The District is not providing extra funding to schools to implement changes, saying that changes have to be cost-neutral. Mr. Olivero proposed the idea of a staggered schedule which might benefit more students and staff. A member asked how a staggered schedule would work with after school sports? Would sports schedules adjust so that it's after 7th period if we recommend a staggered schedule? Do we want to make sure we're not excluding any students? Do the kids really have to be at practice or game an hour before? Teams like football or track will be impacted because they rely on transportation. Many need to get back in time to get on the bus home. Even without transportation as a factor, kids have to leave earlier due to traffic. An option is for athletes would be to opt for an early start so they're not impacted in the afternoon.

A student member commented that many of the kids he talks to say they favor early start time to give them more time in the afternoon. Bussed kids spend too much time on the bus and get home late. Late start will impact bussed kids. Homework will be impacted by the time shift. It will take longer to get homework done and kids will end up staying up late. Student member says sports after school will be impacted by late start. Students don't want to have to practice, play later in the afternoon and evening.

A few other members disagreed, saying that the students they talk to are pushing for late start. Another member commented that kids need adults in their life that will make the right decisions for them. We should look to public health and research and make a decision based on that.

A suggestion was made to leave bussing as is, and start school at 7:45am. It was pointed out that this option would adversely impact bussed kids and will only benefit local kids.

Mr. Olivero proposed to go to a staggered start schedule, offering students a choice of attending classes period 1-6 or 2-7. He also proposed to make Wednesday and early out day. Nick VanDaelen seconded. There were 6 members in favor.

Mr. Olivero suggested before making a final decision we should propose the idea to the community and get feedback.

There was a suggestion to include the following to the staggered start proposal: Offer two options regarding after school activities and sports - either start 1) after 6th period or 2) after 7th period.

Jennifer Huszar volunteered to create a survey to send out to the community regarding the proposed staggered start schedule and asked that members email ideas to her at Jroberts3@sandi.net.


The survey will be emailed to all members for review and approval before it goes out the the community.


Adjournment

Donna Fallon motioned to end the meeting at 3:58pm. Elaina Martin seconded.

Next Meeting Date: March 11, 2019 in the Principal's Conference Room

Signed by :

SGT Chair : 	Date : 3/11/19
---	----------------

Principal : 	Date : 3/11/19
---	----------------

Minutes prepared by : Marie Byrd