

School Community Council and PTA Minutes
Meeting held Friday, July 19, 2019 at 8:00am

In Attendance:

Cherie Wilson (Principal)
Leslie Ewell (Assistant Principal)
Marci Stewart (custodian)
Paul Bergera (Director of Transportation)
Jeff Beesley (Risk Management)
Lance Everill (Emergency Operations/Facilities)
Cindi and Ryan Schut (SCC and PTA)
Chad Wiet (SCC and PTA)
Sara Jo Martin, (Teacher and PTA Member)
Julie Randazzo (SCC, Teacher, and PTA)
Nic Hales (SCC and PTA)
Alysha Griffiths (PTA President)
Michelle Tolman (Teacher and PTA)
Robyn Gale (PTA and School Employee)

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss the west faculty entrance at Foothills- deciding whether or not opening it up for parent drop off/pick up is a safe and feasible option.

Discussion: How many employees arrive to work at which times and park on the west side?

Cherie Wilson says that we have a total of 120 employees at Foothills, arriving at different times. About 50 licensed employees will come to school by 8:30; the aides that work in the building will arrive around 9:00am or a little before. All employees have been instructed to use the west parking lot and fill it up before using the north parking lot. We'd like to keep that reserved for volunteers and substitute teachers that come to Foothills during the day.

It was realized that if we open up the west side to busses, and have to have two lanes of cars/busses, that when the aides are arriving to work, they will have to wait in line in order to park and may be late for work.

We staged our cars along the lane and when the bus arrived, we had the bus driver try to turn the corner by the garbage cans. The bus turning radius is huge. We'd have to cue cars to stop at the white car (see pic)- the white car is in the parking spaces because the bus has to swing wide. This will not happen in a real situation. Busses will hit the cars at the beginning of the curve. We can't control the stopping cars so the bus can turn-

There is a lot of liability with the driver. We also can't take out parking spaces- we need them for the high number of employees that we have.

We tried staging this a few times with the bus- to see how wide the turn must be- Cherie took video and will share it with everyone to view again and for those that didn't attend the meeting.

We also noticed that the parking lot is too narrow at the entrance- it is really narrow for about 20 feet and then funnels out a little- we can't fit cars and busses in two lanes into that narrow area.

Paul Bergera noted that once busses leave in the morning, we can do what we want with cars.

Chad and Cindi asked about opening up this area to carpool cars only once the busses leave. Could we provide a carpool sticker and agreement to only use this area when they are carpooling? Can we provide carpool incentives?

Discussion: Julie Randazzo, teacher, noted that this will be hard to monitor for the teacher on duty and safety patrol who are up at the cross walk at the entrance of the faculty parking lot where busses enter. Plus we could only open it up for 15 minutes once the busses leave. Cherie noted that once grades 1-6 busses leave, preschool busses are arriving at 9:00. There will still be parents dropping kids off. It was decided by all that allowing carpool cars into the west drop off lane is not a solution.

Cherie said that she can have the preschool teachers tell the preschool parents to wait to arrive until 9:05-9:15.

Discussion: PM Pick Up- will this area work for that?

Parents will come 40 minutes before the bell rings in the afternoon. Preschool pick up is at 2:45- busses are pulling in and out at that time. The two general ed busses for grades 1-6 are arriving at about 3:20. If there's a line up of cars, the busses will not be able to pull in. It is not a feasible solution to open up the west drop off lane in the afternoon.

We all agreed we need a solution, but visually the parking lot is not going to work for drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon either.

Chad Wiet motioned to not open it to cars- to keep it for busses and preschool only; Julie Randazzo seconded it. Unanimous for SCC Members

Alysha Rich, PTA President, initiated a vote among PTA members- unanimous to keep it for busses and preschool only as well.

The district thanked us for our participation.

Solutions Discussion:

*Encourage parents to utilize Shaggy Peak for drop off- students can walk down to the teacher/safety patrol to cross safely into school grounds.

*Encourage parents to utilize Morning Cloak to pull to curb and drop off kids. Parents can walk their kids to a cross walk, or kids can walk along the sidewalk to the school cross walks if they are close.

*Utilize the north pick up and drop off lane ENTIRELY- even before the cross walk and then down to the benches- dropping off along the entire lane and moving cars through quickly. Teachers will be stationed along the lane to help parents get kids out of cars as in previous years. One more station for teachers have been added before the cross walk.

*Implement a new rule that parents can only turn right onto Morning Cloak out of the north lane. The district will provide sandwich signs to block it off and Marci will get cones out so we can test this out before purchasing our own signs; and to see if this helps with flow. If we do any painting along this lane for any reason, it must be done before the second week of October due to weather.

*Parents will be encouraged to have backpacks ready to go in the car/kisses taken care of before entering the drop off lane.

*Teach students expectations at our opening rules/expectations assembly so that the kids can talk to their parents about pick up and drop off rules in the mornings and afternoons.

*During the first two weeks of school have PTA and SCC members out helping with this routine so that it will go smoother.

*Cherie will remind crossing guards not to cross kids until there's a big group of them ready to cross. This will allow more cars to go through the areas.

*Put in a City request- have them provide signage along Shaggy Peak from the faculty/bus west entrance to the 4-way stop on Shaggy Peak and Morning Cloak. The signs would tell parents not to drop off or park along that stretch of curb.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30am.