

WESTGLADES MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL ADVISORY FORUM (“SAF”)	May 19, 2017
	8:30 am
	11000 Holmberg Road, Parkland, FL 33076

Attendance:
T. Allison; A. De La Rosa; D. Gaines; C. Hunschofsky; C. Hylton; B. McKenna; J. Montalto; S. Tephford-Rush; J. Wolfe

SAF Co-designee (J. Wolfe and T. Allison) welcomed all.
The Minutes of the April 21, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.

MINUTES

Agenda:	Front Entry (CPE)– Security Office	Presenter:	T. Allison
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Discussion:

- Broward Schools has approved the following improvements to the Front Entrance / Security Office that functions as the WMS central point of entry (CPE).
 - Expansion of the space – adding square footage by reposition the west wall.
 - Relocating the desk to the north side of the room (from its current position on the west side of the room).
 - Adding auto lock doors with restricted access “buzzer” for entry as well as transition into the interior hallway.
 - Relocation and installation of a panic button (to be relocated to the desk top and accessible for the purpose of alerting designated school personnel in the event of a “situation”).
 - Adding seating for visitors and guests.
 - Adding storage to accommodate the growing amount of items being dropped off by parents for student pick up.
 - Adding an enhanced display area (likely on the west wall area) to showcase WMS and its achievements as well as providing a more welcoming atmosphere for visitors and guests.
- The plan is to initiate and complete construction of the improvements during summer break in order to launch the 2017/2018 school year with an improved level of security and a higher degree of efficiency at the Front Entrance / Security Office.

Follow Up: Mr. Bianchi or a designate to provide monthly updates (June-August) that will be circulated via email to members of the SAF.

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Agenda:	Backpack Safety <i>“Lighten the Load”</i>	Presenter:	T. Allison/J. Wolfe
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Discussion:
This topic has been discussed at prior SAF meetings with follow up discussion at faculty meetings. The consensus opinion from the SAF members in attendance is that there has been no change in the attitude of students toward reducing the weight of the backpack and only minimal evidence of support from faculty on this issue.

Lighten the Loan – SAF members in attendance viewed an alternative agenda that is currently used at Stoneman Douglas – which is significantly lighter than the agenda used at WMS. The consensus opinion

from the SAF members in attendance was to support the PTA recommendation to use the new agenda format that actually copies the agenda format used at Stoneman Douglas.

Additionally, there was discussion on alternative binders that would also serve to reduce the overall weight of the backpack. The consensus opinion from SAF members in attendance is that all school supply items should be reviewed with the objective of sourcing lighter weight materials and alternative products that promote the “Lighten the Load” theme.

The consensus of the SAF members in attendance was that this should be a priority issue going into the 2017/2018 School Year and needs greater focus and support from the school administration, faculty and staff.

Follow Up: Mr. Bianchi or a designate to re-engage active discussion with the faculty prior to the start of the 2017/2018 School Year. Build consensus among all faculty, staff and administration of the amount of materials that are required and absolutely necessary to carry in a student backpack. Convey these standards to students and parents. Promote “healthy” use of backpacks. Doctors and physical therapists recommend that kids carry no more than 10% to 15% of their body weight in their packs (for example, the backpack of a child who weighs 80 pounds shouldn't weigh more than 8 to 12 pounds).

Agenda:	Traffic Flow “Ticket to Safety”	Presenter:	T. Allison	

Discussion:
 Traffic Flow | ***Ticket to Safety*** – a program to remind and educate the parents, students and the overall WMS community of the proper protocol for morning drop off and afternoon pick up in order to promote safety and enhance the efficiency of the traffic lanes at WMS.

- Enrollment is projected to increase for the 2017/2018 School Year at WMS, which will only exacerbate the current traffic flow challenges at WMS.
- The objective of the “***Ticket to Safety***” is to (i) keep all of the WMS stakeholders on the same page as it relates to traffic flow and safety; and (ii) promote driving etiquette.

The consensus opinion from the SAF members in attendance is that Traffic Flow | ***Ticket to Safety*** is a focus going into the 2017/2018 School Year. Program to be launched concurrent with student schedule pick up in August 2017.

Agenda:	Coral Ridge Cross Walk	Presenter:	J. Wolfe	

Discussion:
 Coral Ridge Cross Walk(s): The cross walks are located within the City of Coral Springs, which has been made aware of the traffic and pedestrian concerns. The City of Coral Springs is going to investigate the issue and visually evaluate the number of students using the cross walk – this would include both WMS and MSD students.

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:00 AM				
Respectfully submitted by:		J. Wolfe		