

**School Community Council**  
**Thursday, November 9, 2023**  
**4:30 PM**  
**Westland Media Center**

**Agenda**

**In Attendance:**

- Rachelle Mann - SCC Chair
- David Bird - SCC Vice Chair
- Chalise Myers - SCC Member
- Alicia Smith - SCC Member
- Tim Pluta - SCC Member
- Laurie Goodsell - Principal and SCC Member
- Kimberly Andersen - Assistant Principal
- Mayor Dirk Burton of West Jordan City
- Nestor Gallo - Traffic Engineer, STOR for West Jordan City
- Matt Alvernaz - Safety Coordinator for JSD
- Patty Jones - Community Service Officer over Crossing Guards for West Jordan City
- Ariel Campos - Community Outreach Manager for West Jordan City
- 2 parents were in attendance as interested public members

1. Review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
  - a. Minutes from the 10/19/23 SCC meeting were reviewed, read aloud by Ms. Goodsell, and a motion to approve was made by Alicia Smith and seconded by David Bird. The vote was unanimous.
  
2. While waiting for the guests to arrive to the meeting, Alicia Smith shared her notes from the recent state training for SCCs:
  - a. The website needs to be updated with the following information:
    - i. Calendar - current calendar on the website is not syncing with all of the information from the Google Calendars.
    - ii. Rules of Order need to be posted on the website in the SCC tab.

- iii. Future meetings, a “soft” agenda, and draft minutes need to be posted regularly.
  - b. The state is auditing SCC websites/practices and our SCC will strive to keep things updated and be in compliance.
- 3. Matt Alvernaz from the district and Nestor Gallo from West Jordan City explain:
  - a. Our current safe walking paths
    - i. Nestor Gallo: Safe Routes to School is managed by the Utah Department of Transportation. Schools submit a safe route to school plan to UDOT each year.
      - 1. The summer was spent collecting traffic data for all schools in West Jordan. Audits of these safe walking routes and traffic plans should be happening more regularly moving forward.
      - 2. The city follows the submitted map routes religiously. Nestor shared a map for Westland’s safe route to school.
      - 3. The city takes these plans very seriously and wants to help support students at Westland.
      - 4. There are 3 times of day that speeding in WJC is higher than other times of day (7:30-8:30 a.m., 2:30-3:30 p.m., and during rush hour on the way home from work). The city wants to start a “campaign” sharing this information with parents to help recognize that traffic laws made a difference in student safety.
        - a. Alicia Smith shared that Ms. Goodsell is communicating expectations for parents related to drop-off and pick-up.
      - 5. The state and city have regulations that come from federal regulations that explain the way crosswalks and striping work.
        - a. The number of pedestrians, the number of vehicles on the road, and the posted speed

limits are all elements that determine what types of crossings/signals/etc. are put in. Studies are done to gather data and more can be done.

- ii. Mayor Burton shared that the city is using data to make decisions about safe walking routes and traffic patterns. Also, city police officers take speeding and traffic laws seriously and are out ticketing in school zones regularly.
- iii. Nestor shared why the crossing needs at 7000 S. and 2700 W. are high, but also the students crossing at that intersection are not in the school's boundary. They are permit students coming to Westland. The safe route plan notes the concerns and advisories for those who are crossing at that intersection. The city hopes to submit a request for a continuous walking route to UDOT that could be considered for next school year.
  1. Rachelle requested crossing guards at 7000 S. (at the light).
  2. Chalise asked if there was a problem providing a crossing guard there because of the permitted students. Matt explained that the crossing guards cannot be paid for by the district due to that issue, but that the school district feels strongly that crossing guards at that location would be a great option, but the city and school board make those decisions and determine how to fund these possibilities.
  3. Matt and Nestor are working on a proposal for the school board related to this crossing guard issue and will ask for support from the community when the plan is presented to the school board.
    - a. Questions about Oquirrh's and Majestic's safe routes and need for a crossing guard were discussed, but the plans for those schools are different.

- b. David asked if crossing guards can be implemented mid-school year and Nestor/Matt explained that time of year doesn't matter related to implementing new guards.
    - c. Matt explained that there is no guarantee that any of this will happen. The safe route needs to be updated first and then the proposals can be presented to determine solutions to this problem. Ms. Goodsell explained that the school board must approve any amendments to the safe walking route.
  - iv. Rachele asked about 3200 W. and 7000 S. and why there isn't a crossing guard there during Westland hours.
  - v. Patty explained that there have been no applicants for crossing guards from Westland and there isn't a huge pool of people waiting to be crossing guards. More applicants helps to make it happen. Recognizing that all the approvals (school board, city, school) need to happen to make any of this change.
  - vi. Nestor explained that many elements of crosswalks are being addressed and studied, including lights on the streets.
  - vii. Parents are concerned about 2870 W. Patty expressed that a request was made to put a crosswalk there but it was denied. There are no parking signs posted and requests have been made to have police ticketing, but it is still an intermittent issue.
- b. Reasons for why the new crosswalk is where it is
  - i. Rachele presented parent data that asked about the change that occurred when the crosswalk was moved from Bridal Acres (7268 S.) and 2700 W. to 7180 S. on 2700 W.
    - 1. Nestor explained that the crosswalk challenges include power boxes, driveways, and ADA

accommodations. The sight distance is limited by the power boxes.

2. Ms. Goodsell shared that many issues impact the crosswalks even if it is moved but David feels the Bridal Acres crosswalk route limits the amount of crossing that happens.
  3. Matt asked about pedestrian lights. Nestor explained that the city is working on getting better technology at crosswalks (including signals). Nestor would like to talk with parents about the things that they can do to support safer traffic (especially slowing down).
  4. Right at that crosswalk there is a power pole and the curb is so narrow that students can't safely congregate to wait to cross the street.
  5. Rachelle expressed that concerns were raised about crossing guards need more training for expectations with traffic. Patty expressed that she is providing significant training and education for the current crossing guards.
- ii. Nestor explained that ADA compliance updates are being done throughout the city to try to improve safety.
    1. Rachelle asked if flags or lights can be put in at 7180 S. Nestor said that was possible.
  - iii. The parents at the meeting as public were asked about their perspectives on the crosswalk concerns. They responded that the meeting has been educational for them.
  - iv. SCC would like to put out a flier/handout to parents about the safety expectations, safe route, etc.
    1. Ariel suggested that if Westland puts together a Safety Week we can contact his office to be involved.

- v. Nestor shared data regarding drivers under the influence, distracted driving, speeding and the safety concerns that exist in our state and city.
- vi. Questions about the canal public walkway were brought up and Nestor and Ariel said they would be able to look into it.

4. Review/discuss the parent Google Form Survey results

- a. The committee reviewed the Google Form Survey results and the suggestions made on the survey.
- b. Discussion of the map that is posted on the website included the concern that the map still shows the crossing guard at a different street than where it actually is.
- c. Clarification about the canal sidewalk not being included as a safe walking route was made.
- d. There was a concern about sex offenders that live along the school safe walking route and the committee discussed that this is a law enforcement issue, not an SCC issue.

5. Discuss alternatives safe walking paths options as needed

- a. Discussion was as listed above.

6. Suggestions/Discussion about the concerns from the survey:

- a. PTA and SCC can collaborate to discuss things that can be done to support safety.
- b. A suggestion was made to utilize parent events where “public service messages” are presented about safety (including WOM assemblies).
- c. Speed bumps in the neighborhoods with more traffic, more traffic studies through the city resources, and additional signage.

7. Alicia Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Goodsell seconded the motion. Vote to adjourn was unanimous.