

## **Administrative Perspective: Open and Closed Campus ISD #709**

Our presentation this evening is a request from the Board to look at two different scenarios regarding closing high school campuses. We will present our needs in relation to cost of materials and manpower to completely close our campuses and a second scenario if high schools had modified closed campus.

Before we begin to report our findings, however, we think it's important to voice our opinion as to a third option we hope the Board would consider. That third option is to continue to keep our campuses open as they have been, with a few changes. The rationale to maintain the status quo is that we tend to be reactive to the complaints we get from the community. It is difficult as principals to advocate for a closed campus when the majority of our kids are responsible and are doing the right things. Why punish the students who do what they are supposed to do because of those students who do not? If before school and lunch hours are the times of concern, let's consider a more cost effective plan that increases our supervisory assistant positions during those critical hours. Let's be proactive by having an adult supervise outside areas of our campuses, Lakewalk, and parking lots to deter loitering, littering, smoking, etc. in public areas. Increase our surveillance with cameras of outside areas, again to deter inappropriate and rowdy behaviors. Let's also look at cost effective ways to improve food choices at our schools so students would choose to stay at school to eat.

Our job as a high school, in part, is to help transition our students into adulthood. With that come expectations for appropriate behavior, responsibility, and the opportunity to grow as young adults. Open campuses, and the responsibility that comes with it, is a vehicle for these learning experiences and growth opportunities.

As we review our findings you will see what an extra financial burden the closing of campuses would add to the already struggling budget of our district, as well as the impact it will have on our nearby businesses who partner with us to support our co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, our fundraising efforts, who rely on student dollars in these tough economic times, and whose relationships we do not want to alienate.

We ask the Board to maintain our open campuses and provide us with the additional supervisory assistance and equipment to be proactive rather than reactive to the complaints from neighbors that have been generated.

### **Advantages to Closed Campus**

- Decrease truancy
- Reduced substance abuse during school hours
- Neighborly atmosphere for our residents
- Increase use of food service
- Increase in attendance which translates to increased student performance and test scores
- Decrease in juvenile crimes and activity when students are in school
- Increased safety/security
- Decreases potential for accidents outside of school setting

### **Disadvantages to Closed Campus**

- Does not prepare students for life after high school: responsibility, accountability
- Restrictive
- Increases district liability
- Limits student food choices with the current menu
- Less physical activity and fresh air
- Lunch serves as a needed break from the routine of attending classes
- Additional supervisions needed for detention or Saturday School when students do not meet expectations
- Systematically our campus has built in “open” aspects: PSEO, Work Study, Career/Tech Ed)
- Increased cost for supervision during lunches and school day
- Increased administrative/secretarial costs/time to track behavior and students coming and going
- Decreased partnerships with area businesses

### **Budget Considerations to Implement a Closed Campus**

Chillers/Warmers	\$ 76,000
Seating (East only. Denfeld from 2-3 lunch periods)	\$ 49,600
Supervisory	\$ 48,000
Custodial	\$ 42,000
Storage/Satellite	\$ 12,000
Checkout/Registers	\$ 7,200
ID Badges/Scanner	<u>\$ 4,500</u>
Total	\$239,302

### **Closing Comments**

The expectation set upon our schools is to help prepare students for life outside of high school. High expectations coupled with accountability, and the loss of privilege when students don't meet those expectations, has been something that has worked for our students and staff in Duluth. When our students take ownership of a problem, we empower them to respect themselves, and also our communities. We want to educate our students so they make positive choices during the school day.