

RINCON HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

**“Special Meeting:” Monday January 13, 2025**

Members Present: Marc Zelov, Megan Cramer, Alissa Welch, Kristin Zelov, Elyse Damiani, Darla Oliver, Izela Gallardo, Catarina Lopez, Andrew McDonough, Deanna Lilly, Georgina Carrillo-Gaxiola, Milan Peralta, DeeDee Scott

Guests Present: Jen Marlow, Jennifer Quigley, Catherine Fakler

Agenda:

- I. Meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm for special meeting.
- II. Invitation to Elyse Damiani to discuss the purpose of the special meeting. Elyse Damiani: Clarification on the motion that we are recommending this action to the administration. Wanting to make this a shared decision-making process and requesting the creation of a committee for adjustments to the bell schedule pursuant to ARS 15-351 which states that *“The purpose of this section is to ensure that individuals who are affected by the outcome of a decision at the school site share in the decision-making process.”*
  - Admin survey data did not include any UHS voices. With the 31 UHS votes added in from the previous survey to the admin survey, the results would be 53.4% to 45.4% in favor of returning to a 35 min lunch.
  - Recent student forum conducted by admin: Less than 1% of the Rincon student population were included in it, and only top achieving students. Student survey data from May 2024 had 62 participants with 64% in favor of the 35 min lunch, participants ranged from grade 9-12.
  - The lower amount of discipline issues (only 7 for fall 2024 semester vs. 29 last year in fall 2023) suggests that we can safely return to a longer lunch period. There is no causation for correlation between the discipline data and the amount of time at lunch. The more likely answer is that we are farther away from the pandemic and behavior is settling. Discipline issues and enrollment are down across every school in the district.
  - UHS site council discussion from their December meeting was completely in favor of returning to a longer lunch with 5 comments from parents and 10 comments from faculty. Some of the comments were read aloud. They make up half of our campus and should be included in any final decisions regarding bell schedule.
- III. Discussion by Alissa Welch. Intention was to address aggressive behaviors and situations at lunchtime, so lunch period was reduced by 5 minutes. Consultation occurred between administration and district, reducing lunch time was within consensus. Clarification that district-wide reduction is regarding a lack of district-wide incidents targeting specific ethnic groups. Administration has protocols in place for teachers with health issues regarding restroom use for their classes to be covered. Data gathered about number of discipline incidents at lunch for violent behavior (i.e. fights or assaults), 65% reduction. District guidance is that bell schedules are decided upon by the principal, even if Site Council advises against principal decisions.

- IV. Invitation for Site Council Members to speak on Bell Schedule.
- a. Darla Oliver: Felt that Site Council should have been more clearly notified about change in bell schedule and that administration could have been more transparent about considering changes, and that in the future, a committee can be formed about changes to schedules.
  - b. Elyse Damiani: Clarification on the motion that we are recommending to administration with recognition that the final decision is up to the principal. Wanting to make this a shared decision-making process and requesting a creation of a committee for adjustments to the bell schedule.
  - c. Georgina Carrillo-Gaxiola: Question of clarification for the laws cited. Query about if the issue lies in lack of communication or the change in the schedule.
  - d. Kristin Zelov: Question about whether Site Council is the appropriate place for this motion.
  - e. Catarina Lopez: Noted that students are still able to access the Finance Office when needed, either during lunch, conference period, or after school. Have not had any issues with students being able to access the Finance Office.
  - f. Marc Zelov: In future, if there are schedule changes to next year, a creation of a council regarding the bell schedule would be preferable.
  - g. Alissa Welch: In the future, if there are changes regarding schedule changes, administration will elicit more feedback about potential schedule changes. Will increase staff awareness of any adjustments to schedule and request feedback from staff in future. Administration will not formally commit to a committee creation, would prefer to offer suggestions that teachers give feedback on.
- V. *Vote on motion: The Rincon site council vote to recommend to RUHS admin/TUSD district that the RUHS campus return to a longer lunch period for the upcoming school year, with the creation of a joint RUHS bell schedule committee who will share in the decision-making process and creation of the actual detailed bell schedule*
- a. Yea vote: Megan Cramer, Elyse Damiani, Darla Oliver
  - b. Nay vote: Marc Zelov, Alissa Welch, Kristin Zelov, Izela Gallardo, Catarina Lopez, Deanna Lilly, Andrew McDonough, Georgina Carrillo-Gaxiola, Milan Peralta
- VI. Motion failed (10 – 3).
- VII. Discussion of Meeting Dates: Next scheduled meeting is on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at 3:30 pm via Zoom.
- VIII. Move to Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.