

Fremont replaces street skate with skatepark

HARRIS AFRIDI
Staff Reporter

The city of Fremont decided to open its first permanent skate park, and it is scheduled to open around September. The prior skate park officially closed down last year after ten years of operation. The temporary skating facility had become too expensive to maintain. Its wooden structure, inconvenient hours, and design did not appeal to many skaters. Without a proper skate park, local skaters resort to the Fremont

hub and other local spots to “kick and push.”

“I’m pissed about having to skate at the hub. It’s about time Fremont’s making us a skate park,” sophomore Oscar Vasquez said.

Vasquez and his friends head to the hub every Friday to skate, though unappreciated by local authorities.

“Cops kick us out of every spot. We literally have nowhere to skate, at least not without getting in trouble,” freshman Phillip Kim said.

Vasquez, Kim and the rest of the skaters at Washington aren’t the only ones looking

forward to Fremont’s new skate park.

“It’s gonna be sick, and I’m pretty shocked that this is actually goin’ down,” Caliskatz’s manager, Tony Pimentel, said.

He is offering his knowledge and years in the business to help Fremont design the new skate park, still in its planning stages.

The park will be constructed directly adjacent to Aqua Adventure Water Park. According to Pimentel, the city has a budget of roughly \$1.2 million and 30,000 square feet of land dedicated to the skate park. He also added that one of the top skate park

architects in California, Zack Worhoudt, will design the park. Worhoudt has designed most of the skateparks in the Bay Area.

The previous skatepark was ill designed for avid skaters. It combined only vert and street skating. The new skate park is going to be an “all-around” skate park, that accommodates the three main types of skating, street, vert, and freestyle.

“We’re reaching out to the skating community,” Parks and Recreation Director Annabell Holland said to the Oakland Tribune.

WASC team visits, writes glowing report

BACH PHAN
News Editor

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) evaluated the school March 7-10 to consider its reaccreditation. Visiting committee members were impressed with many aspects of the school.

Washington’s WASC coordinator, Brynn Osicka, helped prepare for the team’s visit.



Brynn Osicka

“I helped organize the teacher input in the report. I wrote sections of the report,” Osicka said. “I organized the actual visit with the committee. I did none of these things alone.”

ASB members gave the committee a tour, and the following

three days, met with teachers and administrations and visited almost every classroom. A student focus group was also included.

The focus group included members from some of the clubs on campus such as MeCHA, Gay-Straight Alliance, Black Student Union and Interact. There were also students from the African American Male Focus Group, the Multimedia Art Academy and a group of juniors who have been in the families program since their freshmen year. They discussed things such as school atmosphere, preparation for college, and the standardized tests.

“The chairman of WASC said we should bottle [clubs and support groups that allow a non-discriminatory environment] and sell it to other schools,” junior David Agorastos said.

According to the WASC

evaluation report, the committee concluded that the staff encourages high expectations of students and uses assessments, group projects and collaboration.

Other strong points were our school’s leadership program, student activities such as clubs and student government, the supportive community that we had and the school’s student related programs that were available at the school such as leadership. They also applauded the school for using assessment tools such as the Online Assessment Reportings (OARS) to direct our curriculum.

Most of the areas of focus that were around for the last evaluation were met except for closing achievement gaps and implementing ESLERS.

This year, the committee focused on developing programs for underrepresented sub-groups

and closing the achievement gaps for those groups.

Another area of improvement that was a factor was the technology plan. Even though the school recently installed LCD projectors, the committee wants to develop a technology plan that will be able to increase learning efficiency in the classroom. Osicka, math teacher Mark Clevenger, activities director Helen Paris and Principal Linda Fernandez will be visiting other campuses around the district to learn about different technology.

These areas will have to be improved upon before the next renewal. By sometime in June, WASC will let Washington know how many years—up to six—the school is accredited for. During that time, the school will be implementing changes to meet the requirements.

Bastard resubmitted for approval

ANTERPREET KAUR
Staff Reporter

For the second year in a row, AP English teacher Teri Hu submitted the novel *Bastard out of Carolina* to be reviewed by the Fremont School Board. Last year, the district officials voted two for and three against the book. The three that had voted against it had not read the book, while one of the two who voted for it had.

“As a parent, I just feel this is not appropriate,” District Board Member Ivy Wu said during the 2009 board meeting.

Wu is concerned about her daughter who will be reading this book in AP English next year if it is approved.

Board Vice President Bryan Gebhardt believes otherwise.

“Originally, I was not in favor of this book, but I did change my mind just from my perspective, and that is, when a book is brought forth to the twelfth grade AP, it really essentially is a college book,” Gebhardt said during the 2009 board meeting.

The same five officials who voted last year will be voting again this year.

“The most aggravating part about getting this book passed is that the supervisors didn’t vote from a position of knowledge. Three out of the four officials straight up admitted that they hadn’t read the book,” Hu said.

Whether or not there is a change in decision this year will be determined at the June 2010 District School Board meeting.

Everyday shopping earns money for WHS students

PAIGE CASTREN
Features Editor

PTSA aims to raise \$5,000 or more for WHS and PTSA through fundraisers such as Jamba Juice School Appreciation; eScrip; Raley’s Quality of Life and Supporting Humanities, Arts, Recreation, Education, and Sports (SHARES) program. The two most recent fundraisers are Jamba Juice and Raley’s.

“We are not asking for time which is already in high demand for most people. We are not asking for more money which is tight for many families right now. We are

simply asking them to register for these programs and shop at places where they routinely shop,” SHARES card coordinator Judy Gallegos said.

The Jamba Juice fundraiser began in February. Students can get a card from the student center. Whenever they make a purchase at Jamba Juice, they can swipe the card to donate 10 percent of the proceeds to the school PTSA and 2 percent of the proceeds to the National PTA.

“The card is amazingly convenient and super easy,” freshman Kimberly Henderson said. “You feel good about helping

the school.”

The Raley’s Quality of Life card donates 1 to 4 percent to PTSA when swiped at point of purchase. This fundraiser started at the beginning of March.

Swiping the SHARES card at Lucky’s, Save Mart, FoodMaxx or S-Mart stores will forward 3 percent of the proceeds to PTSA. The money from the SHARES and the Jamba Juice fundraiser go into the general PTSA fund for scholarships and special projects.

eScrip does not require a card, people just have to sign up at www.escrip.com. The money goes into the Booster fund.

“Next year we would like to begin a mini grant program for teachers, and hopefully the Jamba Juice cards will provide us with the funds needed to do so,” PTSA president Melinda Kufeld said.

You feel good about helping the school.
Kimberly Henderson

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