

# WJMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

March 2019

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*Date | 3/11/2019 | Meeting called to order by Sara Gilloth*

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## In Attendance

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Amy Gutierrez Baker  
Kate Broyles  
Sarah Chase  
Steve Cox

Michael Fisher  
Sara Gilloth  
Kim Halingstad  
Patti MacLennan

David Schoenhals  
Heather Swegle

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## Approval of Minutes

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The February minutes were posted on the school website and distributed to staff via e-mail. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes without revisions.

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## Principal's Report

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David Schoenhals gave the principal's report. He shared that Jeff Pierson, the district director of Safe School Environments, was scheduled to speak at the meeting but was unavailable to attend. It is hoped that Mr. Pierson might be able to attend a future meeting.

### School Start Times

The district's [School Start Time Task Force](#) gave its recommendations to the school board in February, including that middle schools should start a half hour later. Since then, the need to work out logistical considerations has delayed the proposed changes pending further work by the district.

The district's two-hour delayed start schedule was published to the community at the start of March.

The possibility of a school-level weekly late start to allow for staff professional development has been suggested. Concerns raised in discussion include transportation, what time school would be starting on the late-start date, consistency of school times, and issues with child care.

### Student Fees

The school is waiting for district feedback on changes to technology fees considering the 1:1 computer initiative that will be affecting students at fifth and ninth grades. Questions were asked about home Internet availability for students and the comparative percentages of families that pay fees to those that do not.

It was asked whether the printed planners continue to be a worthwhile investment as many students now use electronic methods for keeping track of information.

Drafting the 2019-2020 school budget is still in progress. The school is looking at student numbers, reconfiguring class schedules, and looking at possibilities to best meet the needs of all our students. The School Accountability Committee will be asked to prioritize budget spending items at the April meeting.

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## New Business

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### After School Enrichment

The subcommittee for after-school enrichment is meeting later in the week. Their discussion will include fundraising goals and logistics to determine what it will take to get a Boys & Girls Club program up and running.

### Community Garden

A community garden has been suggested to provide opportunities for the community, not only to supplement instruction, but for students and community members to have a sense of pride in the school and the community.

The district provides guidance documents on their [Jeffco School Gardens](#) site, including the Jeffco School Garden & Greenhouse Guidelines. At our school and in our community, we have a Green Team, which meets during student lunches, community organizations that could provide care over the summer, and we could follow the lead of schools where families have rented plots. The project could also take the form of a community greenhouse; staff member Steve O'Shea has contacts for geodesic structures if we wanted to pursue a geodesic greenhouse.

One anticipated challenge is maintaining stakeholder investment over time. This could be managed through planning assigned projects to maintain buy-in and building a recognition program that would recognize donors and volunteers to the project.

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## Open Forum

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There are still open paraprofessional positions at the school. To learn more about the positions or to apply for one, please go to the district's [Careers](#) page and search for "West Jefferson Middle."

Meeting adjourned at 3:50.

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## Next Meeting

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Date: 4/8/2019

Time: 2:35

Location: WJMS Library