

WJMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

August 2020

Date | 8/31/2020 | *Meeting called to order by* Kate Broyles and John SeEVERS

In Attendance

In attendance: michael brooks, Kate Broyles, Beth Bunchman, Sharon Burger, Sarah Chase, Melissa Gutierrez, Kim Halingstad, Dan Keane, Diane Lowry, Tricia Samuelson, John SeEVERS

Welcome and Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves. They represented school staff, families of students, and community stakeholders.

Principal's Report

Kim Halingstad gave the principal's report. We are in the second week of remote learning and while we are still working out some pieces with connectivity and engagement, everyone has been amazingly flexible.

Our virtual [Back to School Night](#) will be tomorrow, September 1st. There will be a standalone site with videos from each teacher, providing a walkthrough of their classrooms and discussing course expectations, and provide ways to contact teachers for individual questions that might be asked at an in-person back to school night.

Families may expect communication from the school to be sent out most days this week as the communication pieces are finalized. [Messages may be consolidated and edited into Weekly Wednesday Update format on the website. -mg]

One piece in progress is an infographic on what students can expect when they come to school, including the entrance screening, how they will travel through the school, and what safety expectations will look like in the classroom. [This was published as [WJMS Health and Safety Guidelines for Students and Families](#).] Dean of Students JP Squires has been delivering PPE to classrooms and setting up hallways for one-way flow and sanitizer stations.

Another item in progress is course material - the first set of math workbooks and kits for art - that will be available for pick up on Friday, September 4th. Families may contact the office to arrange for an alternate pickup time.

The school is in good shape with staffing as we have hired for positions that opened at the end of year or over the summer:

- Ali Hannawacker has been hired to teach sixth grade English/Language Arts, filling the position held by Devon Bar Hoover, who is taking a leave of absence for the school year.
- Sam Sherman has been hired to teach sixth grade Math, filling the position vacated by Michele Fulford, who has moved out of state.
- Susan Bergkamp was hired in the spring to teach World Language and Cultures and Spanish 1.
- Riley Merino has been hired as a paraprofessional to support teaching band and orchestra in multiple rooms.
- Shani Johanneck and Nicole Lopez have been hired as learning specialists. There was a need for additional Academic Intervention teachers as Mary Jo Gentleman retired at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
- McKenna Henderson will be our Significant Support Needs/Challenge teacher, replacing Natasha Kenton.
- Nate Storkson has been hired as the facilities manager, filling the position vacated by Jeff Tourtel, who took a position at another school.

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We are still filling in some support staff/para positions, such as an art paraprofessional to be in the classroom during hybrid learning while Sarah Dignan is teaching remotely. We have been very lucky compared to other schools.

About 84-85% of our students have selected hybrid learning. 15-16% of families have chosen 100% remote for their students, which is higher than other schools, but the balance works well for us.

Health and Safety

Morning entry

For entrance screening, 8th grade will enter at the emergency exit doors by Mr. Cushing's classroom, 7th will enter at the emergency exit doors by Ms. Fuchigami's and Mr. Little's classrooms, and 6th grade will enter at the school's main entrance.

Students will go directly to their classroom from screening, then have some time to settle in. We will be offering a grab-and-go breakfast for students that order those in advance.

There will be a separate room for students and staff that answer positively to screening questions or have a marked temperature; they will be rescreened and follow next steps from there.

There will be 18 buses in the morning and 20 in the afternoon, so we are hopeful that car drop-off/pickup will work out after buses. The timing will also be communicated to families in the coming week.

Changes to daily routines

There will be no lockers this year; students will need to keep everything in the bookbag they bring that day and it will need to stay by students' feet under desks during class.

There will be regularly scheduled handwashing breaks, every student will have a reusable mask, and there will be hand sanitizer and disinfectant in every classroom. Snowpack Taproom has been raising funds to purchase a tie-on mask for every EMS and WJMS student. (They will say Mountain Strong - no business branding.)

Teachers have masks and face shields to use when spaced appropriately. There are fixed desk shields for use in small-group instruction in some classrooms; if anyone has connections to assist with outfitting more classrooms, please contact the school. We are encouraging teachers to take classes outside as much as feasible with the weather.

Lunch and recess

At students' lunchtime, they will leave their backpack in the classroom where they will be eating lunch with their class. Students will be escorted by their teacher to the recess door and classes will have assigned areas (e.g., wall ball, a section of the field, etc.) for recess. After recess, the staff member taking class for lunch will get a hot cart from the cafeteria with pre-ordered lunches, and escort students to class. All students will eat lunch with their class in a classroom with staff supervision.

Questions from attendees

It was asked if students that are pulled out by screening will be required to have a COVID test before returning to school. When that happens, district nurse will speak with families to assess that need.

A question was brought to the meeting inquiring about social-emotional and mental health supports for students that have issues with remote learning and engagement. The staff is currently on heightened alert to notice issues, particularly following the recent losses of two students. Homeroom starts the school year with social-emotional learning work, so we really want to use that time to build strong interpersonal relationships and have time outside

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for interacting at a safe distance. Staff will be working with the counseling and mental health team on embedding supports for students throughout the year.

It was asked who families should contact for social-emotional or mental health support needs. The counselors are the first point of contact; please e-mail them and CC Kim Halingstad for problems of a larger scope. Dan Keane added that the counselors work closely with SELS Jen Baker, so they will loop her in as needed.

Open Forum

It was asked whether the 2:30 pm start time is flexible and why it is scheduled there. The time was set to maximize teachers' availability to participate. We could record on Zoom or look at holding meetings early on Fridays.

It was asked what help the school needs. (PTA has already reached out to Kim; discussion was tabled until hybrid learning begins to revisit needs.) The school can use new folding camp chairs to support outdoor learning work. We would like to hold class outside as long as weather permits. We could use some organization of donations. The school is seeking perhaps 4 sets of 15 chairs that could be cleaned between uses. Collectively used items cannot be stored in classrooms and individual chairs might not fit under desks with the students using them.

It was asked how the school is doing with outdoor Wi-Fi access. Unfortunately, the school's Wi-Fi signal does not extend far from the building. An attendee works in IT at an area school district and has some ideas to share with Kim; they will follow up with her.

Suggested topics for the next meeting are intent forms for participants (required by the state, a gForm or fillable PDF can be prepared by the next meeting) and safety/first aid.

Based on past scheduling of Accountability meetings on the second Monday of the month, the meetings for the 2020-2021 school year would be September 14, October 12, November 9, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, and (optional) May 10.

Attendees were invited to stay on the Zoom call after adjournment for a quick video walkthrough of recent construction that included a mounted projector, automatic screen, solar tubes, and paint in the cafeteria, new sound insulation, paint, security glass, and a new office window into the commons, and a look at classroom arrangement in classrooms in 7th grade hall, which also received new Univac units. It was noted that seating will be staggered to have one student per double desk.

Meeting adjourned at 3:28 pm.

The September meeting was canceled due to a lack of new business. The next meeting will be October 12, 2020.

Next Meeting

Date: 10/12/2020

Time: 2:30 pm

Location: WJMS / Zoom