

# WJMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

September 2021

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Date | 9/13/2021 | Meeting called to order by Kate Broyles

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## In Attendance

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Kate Broyles	Kim Halingstad	Tricia Samuelson
Sharon Burger	Kristen Oppenheimer	Jackie White
Elizabeth Claflin		

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## Approval of Minutes

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The May 2021 minutes were published to the school website over the summer and incorporated into the single document of the 2020-2021 minutes.

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## Welcome and Introductions

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The attendees introduced themselves and their relationship to the school. Three attendees have students in eighth grade: chair Kate Broyles, Sharon Burger, and Elizabeth Claflin. Two attendees have students in sixth grade: Kristen Oppenheimer and Jackie White. Two attendees are school staff: principal Kim Halingstad and assistant principal Tricia Samuelson.

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## Principal's Report

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Kim Halingstad gave the principal's report. The school year has gotten off to a good start! We have been focused on connecting and building relationships with staff and students the first few weeks of school. Our counselors have engaged in a 5–10-minute meeting with each sixth grader. Almost every sixth grader can already identify a trusted adult at our school that they could ask for help.

The overall climate and mood of staff and students is better this year, and students have mostly adapted well to the mask mandate. Our back-to-school events – the Community Ice Cream Social and [Back to School Night](#) – went well with a good turnout of students, families, and staff.

### Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)

Administration is currently working on developing the school's 2021-2022 [Unified Improvement Plan](#) (UIP). Our data trends showed an overall decrease in growth this year. Students' math growth scores increased, which we attribute to an in-depth teacher training process (learning labs) and use of a new math curriculum (Illustrative Mathematics; we previously used Big Ideas Math). Our reading achievement scores have decreased.

Our tentative UIP goals include working on fully implementing a systemic [Multi-Tiered System of Supports](#) (MTSS) process and improving our professional learning communities (PLC) process with teacher training and supporting better instructional practices.

### Attendee Questions

*Why was the weekly schedule built on a full-class and block-day hybrid?* There are pros and cons to both full-class and block schedules. The staff wanted to maximize the benefits by including components from both schedule types.

*Is the modified block scheduling part of the plan to help support students in Math & Reading?* Yes, in part. The schedule has also been designed to allow for department planning.

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*Was there a lot of staff turnover this past year?* We have six new staff members this year and a teacher that changed the grade level that they teach. This is an average value compared to past years.

Marianne Bitterly, Misty Bradley, and Hillary D'Amico moved away. Jen Baker, Ali Hannawacker, and Molly Kavanaugh (on sabbatical 2020-2021) are at other Jeffco schools. Devon Bar Hoover (on sabbatical 2020-2021), Amanda Woods Escherman, and Jessica Leonard are pursuing other opportunities, school resource officer Deputy Webber's assignment changed, and David Williams retired from his second career as a teacher.

New staff in our building this year include social-emotional learning specialist Melissa Shute; teachers Gregory Hughes, Haley Jancowski, Stephen Matschullat, Brad Peel, and Emily Smith; and clinic aide Ginger Dickinson. Teacher Dawn Wheeler moved from 6<sup>th</sup> grade math and science to 7<sup>th</sup> grade math. Non-site-based staff changes include occupational therapist Stephanie Hollis, school resource officer Deputy Schultz, and our area nurse.

*Has there been a decrease in enrollment?* Yes. As of the meeting date, we are at 495 students, down from around 560 at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

*How will the school accommodate a possible influx of students after the pandemic?* Our school has put aside some money to ease the need if that occurs.

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## Open Forum

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There are available positions in many areas, including Food and Nutrition Services, for adults interested in working for Jeffco Public Schools. Learn more about available positions and apply online on the Jeffco Jobs Board at [jeffco12jobs.org](http://jeffco12jobs.org).

Our district's Gifted and Talented Information Night is Wednesday, September 15 at 6 pm for families to learn more about GT Center programs and the GT identification process. Face-to-face and virtual sessions will be offered; the face-to-face sessions in the mountain area will be at Evergreen Middle School, 2059 S Hiwan Drive. For more information and to access the link to the virtual session, please visit <https://jps.click/GT-InfoNight>.

Jeffco Public Schools is offering QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training for adult family members and caregivers in September. Free registration is required to attend an online or in-person session. Please visit <https://jps.click/QPR-EN> for information in English or <https://jps.click/QPR-ES> for information en Español.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

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## Next Meeting

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Date: 10/11/2021 (may be adjusted to 10/18/2021 due to parent-teacher conferences)

Time: 2:35 pm

Location: WJMS / Zoom