

WJMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

February 2022

Date | 2/14/2022 | Meeting called to order by Kate Broyles

In Attendance

Kate Broyles	Melissa Gutierrez	Kristin Oppenheimer
Sharon Burger	Kim Halingstad	Tricia Samuelson
Elizabeth Claflin		

Approval of Minutes

The January 2022 minutes were published to the school website on January 25th.

Principal's Report

Kim Halingstad gave the principal's report.

2022-2023 Budget and Planning

The 2022-2023 budget has been submitted to the district but not yet finalized. We were able to carry over funds from the previous school year to cover expected overage in this year's budget, but this is not an option for the 2022-2023 school year. In addition, we had to pay pre-pupil funding back to the state after our October Count was below the estimated number, which is a situation we had planned for but was a significant amount.

We have a projected enrollment of 496 students for the upcoming school year. As shared at the January PTA meeting, the decline in enrollment means we will have to cut two full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching positions, which will be a temporary position held by a math teacher in the 2021-2022 school year and our Spanish teacher. (Last year we had to cut one FTE position, which was an English/Language Arts teacher, and the year before that we cut one FTE position which was a Social Studies teacher.)

Which positions to cut are based on the potentially impacted number of students and student requests for electives the previous year. We really wanted to offer world language but cannot support a full-time position for one when we only had 54 students (two classes' worth) request Spanish for the 2021-2022 school year. We have been talking with Conifer High School about possibly sharing a Spanish teacher in the future (we have done this in the past), but we are experiencing declining enrollment district wide.

It was asked if the declining enrollment at our school was due to an increase in remote learning. It may be in small part, but the demographic profile of area residents has been aging for some time and it is currently relatively expensive to live in the mountain area.

It was asked if a potential shared position would look like it had in the past. We don't know yet, as we would need to align our schedule to the high school's schedule to allow sharing and it depends on how many students would be taking the course. We have learned that when we have too few students for a full course section and transporting those students to the high school is not an option, offering an online section on-site at our school has not been a good fit for our students that strongly prefer in-person learning. It is difficult to see where it will go, and we will see what the situation looks like after our current 6th and 7th grade course registration.

It was asked how we are eliminating a math position. One of our math positions is currently filled by a temporary hire and the school can choose to not post it as a permanent position, figuring out how to serve our needs with the available faculty. Some positions, such as counseling, special education, learning specialists, and instructional coaches, are allocated to the school and cannot be cut from school budget.

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Upcoming Events and Updates

The PTA reported that over \$8000 has been raised with Raise Craze since the fundraiser kicked off on February 8. The fundraiser will continue through February 25, and we are grateful it is having positive impact on our school without families feeling like they have to sell anything.

We are looking at hosting an evening for incoming 6th grade families to visit the school since our School Showcase had to be held virtually. We are looking at dates right before Spring Break.

New Business

It was asked if anyone had requests or additions for the March agenda. It was noted that at the March meeting the committee usually reviews the upcoming school year's budget and student fees.

Open Forum

It was asked if there is an update on school start time changes. Nothing has been confirmed yet as decisions are still being made at the district level. It looks like the district may need to phase in change to school times over two years to first standardize school levels (elementary, middle, high) to have the same start/end times. We expect to have communication from the district seeking teachers and families' input on the process soon.

It was asked about holding at least one or two meetings per year at a different time to facilitate meeting in-person. It feels like brainstorming works better in-person and improves follow-through on plans to improve the school and provide budgeting input.

Meeting adjourned at 2:59 pm.

Next Meeting

Date: 3/14/2022

Time: 2:45 pm

Location: WJMS / Zoom