

WJMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

November 2022

Date | 11/10/2022 | Meeting called to order by [NAME]

In Attendance

Christopher Bauer	Melissa Gutierrez	Tricia Samuelson
Susan Bergkamp	Chris Harrington	Allison Thayer
Darby Brady	Kim Halingstad	Miranda Tucker
Elizabeth Claflin	Dominique Prizgint	

Approval of Minutes

The October 2022 minutes will be circulated to the committee the week of November 14 for approval. Once the minutes have been approved (and any revisions made), they will be published on the school website.

Principal's Report

Kim Halingstad gave the principal's report.

2023-2024 School Start Times

Next year's school start and end times have not yet been released. Some start and end time information was inadvertently released through a vendor website, but that information is not official as of the meeting date. Mountain area principals will be meeting the week of November 14 and updated information on 2023-2024 school start times will be communicated to families the week of November 28.

SSIS SEL Data Social Skills Improvement System Social Emotional Learning

An overview of the data collected from the fall administration of the Social Skills Improvement System™ Social-Emotional Learning Edition Screening/Progress Monitoring Scales (SSIS SEL) was provided to the meeting with slides from social-emotional learning specialist Melissa Shute. SSIS SEL is a teacher-scored screening to rate perceived risk levels for students and helps staff plan Social-Emotional Learning support programming for the year. A teacher in attendance at the meeting described the process of how teachers complete the scoring. While the information is anecdotal, there is a reduction in the number of students identified as at risk compared to last year.

It was asked whether having all teachers enter their screening information is the best way to collect the data. This is still up for discussion. It was asked what training teachers received on collecting and reporting the data for SSIS SEL. A brief training is provided by the school's social-emotional learning specialist. It was emphasized that the data collected is perception data to help mental health/counseling identify students with needs and not the only source of data used. Our sixth-grade students often come up with data from elementary school, so the SSIS SEL data is often just another layer of data to help.

October Student Count

Our enrollment number from the Student October Count is 501. This is a little higher than expected, so we will not have to return money to the state. Our enrollment trend is expected to be stable for the next two years, then decline until the 2028-2029 school year, when the current kindergarten class reaches middle school.

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Hiring Update

We have two full-time, benefitted custodial positions open in our building. Our night head custodian, Miss Syd, is out on medical leave and we have a substitute in her position until she returns. A new flyer promoting the openings can be run in the November 16 Weekly Wednesday Update.

While we have not hired a high-dose math tutor, the district offers the option to use an online system with access to a live tutor to meet that need for our students. A sped para opening may be filled soon by two applicants that have expressed an interest in sharing the hours. All positions in the cafeteria are now filled.

School Budget Priorities Survey

The School Budget Priorities Survey has not yet been released. Once it is released, Kim Halingstad will share the link with the committee to review and discuss.

Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)

Our school's 2022-2023 [Unified Improvement Plan](#) (UIP) has been submitted. Once it has been approved, it will be reviewed by the committee.

Our 2021-2022 UIP goals included 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.

School Performance Framework Results

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has released district and school performance framework results. Our school continues to have a Performance rating, with the following breakout information:

- Overall Rating – Performance
 - Participation - 76.8/100 points earned
 - Academic Achievement - Meets (31.8/40 points earned)
 - Academic Growth - Meets (45/60 points earned)
- ELA:
 - Achievement for all students – Exceeds
 - Achievement for students with disabilities – Approaching
 - Growth for all students and subgroups - Meets
- Math:
 - Achievement for all students – Meets
 - Achievement for students with disabilities - Does not meet
 - Achievement for students on F/R Lunch – Approaching
 - Growth for all students - Meets

Our lower participation in 2021-2022 CMAS testing may impact the school down the road. (CDE did not penalize school ratings for low participation in last year's framework results.) What does this mean? Our school could drop in future ratings, but more importantly, it means we do not have a complete view of data on our students.

As lower participation rates have been noted statewide, both CDE and districts have advised that schools need to improve their communication to families that CMAS is a snapshot of a student, and not high stakes, to reduce the number of testing refusals by adult family members.

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Suggestions raised by the committee included:

- Framing MAP and CMAS testing as practice for students to increase comfort/reduce anxiety with testing, so they are more comfortable when they get to higher stakes tests like the ACT, SAT, and Advanced Placement.
- Looking into whether the school can invite families to have conversations about their reasoning for refusals. Many refusals last year cited test anxiety and/or adding to the cumulative stress placed on students. It is possible that the increased engagement could reduce refusals.
- Communicating to families the amount of time spent testing during our test windows, emphasizing the proportion of the school day spent testing compared to the instructional time that continues during CMAS.
- Communicating specifically to families of students that receive testing accommodations what testing might look like specifically for their student(s). What does testing look like for students with extended time, text-to-speech, small group, or other accommodations?
- Last year's testing schedule allowed students without accommodations to leave after testing (early release) while students with extended time accommodations remained at school for the full day during CMAS. How can we reduce the sense of isolation/separation that caused?

It was noted that last year there was a lot of discussion on local parents' groups on social media that expressed generalized antagonism toward testing, a sense that kids are tested too much, and families that feel that way will choose to refuse when possible.

Overall, it is good to see that our students' overall achievement and growth performance was rated as meets or exceeds and has returned to pre-pandemic levels. We still have a way to go to reach where we want to be.

New Business

2022-2023 meeting dates

The committee traditionally does not meet in December, so the remaining meeting dates for the school year were agreed to: January 12, 2023; February 2, 2023; March 2, 2023; and April 6, 2023. While a May meeting was not scheduled, one may be scheduled if needed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 pm.

Next Meeting

Date: 1/12/2023

Time: 2:45 pm

Location: WJMS / Google Meet