

WJMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

October 2018

Date | 10/8/2018 | Meeting called to order by Sara Gilloth

In Attendance

Amy Gutierrez Baker
Steve Cox
Sara Gilloth
Kim Halingsstad
Salesa Hancock

Kimbrough Johns
Diane Lowry
Patti MacLennan
Sara Miller
Aimee Pless

Mya Sapien
David Schoenhals
John SeEVERS
Lynn Westfall

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the September minutes without revisions.

Welcome and Introductions

Attendees at the meeting introduced themselves with their name and relation to the school.

Meeting Calendar

Attendees at the meeting discussed the two tentative meetings during the school year, December and May. It was unanimously agreed to not have a December meeting. It was unanimously agreed to have a May meeting in consideration of the number of items that may need attention at the end of the school year.

Principal's Report

David Schoenhals gave the principal's report.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: The school solicited feedback from families following the fall parent-teacher conferences. The five-minute appointment slots are not very popular, so different ways to use that time needs to be considered. It was suggested that electives' conferences consider more of a showcase format; Bell uses an "office hours" style. We need to look at alternatives for the January conferences, such as student-led conferences or longer time slots for scheduling. A survey will be sent out before conferences are scheduled for the spring.

Lockout: There is a clear need to be very deliberate in expressing the differences between Lockout and Lockdown in parent communication. Questions were asked about standard protocol for frequency of updates and if it is possible to regulate cell phone usage during such times.

CMAS: Packets containing multiple report views of school-level, grade-level, and subgroup CMAS data was provided at the meeting. An infographic summary of the data was made available via Accountability last year; an infographic for the next meeting was requested. The committee would like to see cohort data and trend data.

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Questions asked about the CMAS data included: Why are we falling below in some areas and not others? What are the administration's opinions as to why and what we are doing about it? How does this help us know how we are doing? If CMAS is not helpful, what else can we use to tell us what we're doing?

It was noted that seventh grade ELA scores showed significant growth, supporting that our work around differentiation is showing results. This data can help us ask more questions as departments and teachers meet to dig into the data to determine concerns and/or areas of focus. The best data we have is what the students in front of teachers are doing and what they're understanding.

New Business

Principal's Beginning of Year Survey

There were 70 responses to Mr. Schoenhals's beginning of year survey. Strengths included teachers, families, and communication; challenges included teachers, communication, and bullying. Hopes were for a great school community. A set of three word clouds were handed out that showed responses to the questions. It was asked if the survey would be given regularly and if future surveys could target specific concerns and issues to produce more actionable responses.

Open Forum

It was asked if the school could host more outside activities for students. Issues to consider in doing so include cost, volunteers, transportation, and gym space.

As part of the school's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) goal around school culture, Mr. Schoenhals and counselor Jen Baker met with WEB students, who brainstormed activities around culture and fun. The UIP is a work in progress; goals include differentiation, writing/discourse, and school culture.

As a follow-up on Safety Information Night, there will be a student assembly in January coordinated with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

It was asked to consider the value in keeping GT Center designation, even if it looks different due to the smaller size of our school. We need clarification around GT labels, what possibilities are offered, GT Counselor, and emotional needs of GT students.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Next Meeting

Date: 11/12/2018

Time: 2:35

Location: WJMS Library