

WJMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

January 2019

Date | 1/14/2019 | Meeting called to order by Sara Gilloth

In Attendance

Amy Gutierrez Baker	Sara Gilloth	Sara Miller	David Schoenhals
Kate Broyles	Salesa Hancock	Janet Moore	John SeEVERS
Sarah Chase	Patti MacLennan	Frank Reetz	Heather Swegle
Steve Cox			

Approval of Minutes

The November minutes were distributed to staff via e-mail and posted on the school website. A motion was made (MacLennan), seconded (Hancock), and passed to accept the November minutes without revisions.

Principal's Report

David Schoenhals gave the principal's report.

The format of parent-teacher conferences will change in response to stakeholder feedback. The first conference date, January 16th, will have conferences by invitation only where grade-level teams will meet with students and families between 3:00 and 5:30 pm. The second conference date, January 24th, will have 10-minute long conference slots between 3:00 and 7:00 pm (less a dinner break from 5:00 – 5:30 pm) that families may register for using SignUpGenius. Other formats for future conferences were discussed including office hours, modeling a current practice at Bell Middle School; student-led conferences; and using student portfolios to share feedback.

Concomitant with conferences, Infinite Campus was brought up for its role in how we can shift the discussion from and start the conferences on a higher level than reviewing students' grades. The most recent upgrade to Infinite Campus removed the assignment comment field, which some teachers have been using to include notes and descriptions of a given assignment. Mr. Reetz has drafted a letter to address this issue with the district.

New Business

After School Enrichment

Achievement Director Dan Cohan and principal David Schoenhals have been in conversation with the Boys & Girls Club. They feel that the community would support great opportunities for kids. They are looking at facilities needs before meeting at the end of January to take preliminary steps toward crafting an agreement. If those next steps are taken, there will be a need to convene a subcommittee to gauge community interest and commitment potential. Anyone interested in serving on that subcommittee may contact Sara Gilloth. Issues to be addressed include assessing the committed demand for Boys & Girls Club services, transportation, the program's open hours, looking at models in similar geographic areas, and sustainability of the program.

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School Safety & Security

Two West Jeff Middle family members have been involved with the district's work on school safety and security; Mya Sapien served on the School Safety & Security Task Force in 2018 and Steve Cox currently serves on the School Safety Advisory Committee. The [School Safety & Security Task Force Report to the Board of Education](#), which contains the task force's final recommendations and the district's response, is published on the district website. The report outlines information about support staff, social-emotional learning funding, and money attached with security measures. Our district's schools work to find a balance between safety and being thoughtful with constraints and restrictions. The passing of ballot measures 5A and 5B has raised the possibility of additional district funds to support safety and security; specific information on that funding contributing to security improvements is not yet available.

Concerns have been shared with the accountability committee by families about students' safety during dropoff/pickup and when they are on the football field. Security cameras cover the hallways and some outdoor areas but are not monitored 24/7. It was suggested that the school alarm exterior doors and apply 3-M bullet-resistant film on windows that would allow access to the building, per the recommendation on pages 38-40 of the task force report. Additional feedback on school safety and security may be sent to Mr. Schoenhals or Sara Gilloth.

The news coverage about the graffiti in November was discussed and how it can be used as a teachable moment. A letter about the incident was sent to families on November 30th and shared via the West Jefferson Middle School PTA Facebook page on December 3rd in the interest of transparency to the community. Options and forums to share concerns include Safe2Tell, school counselors, and contacting school administration.

Cell Phone Policy

Another concern that has been shared with the accountability committee has been the school's cell phone policy. Evergreen Middle School has a no-cell phone policy; at Conifer High School, many teachers have students check in their phone at the classroom door. Our current policy leaves the decision up to individual classroom teachers. Staff discussion is needed to seek consensus and develop a policy that will be consistently applied in all classrooms. The next steps are that staff discussion and keeping students and families apprised of any policy changes before the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

Open Forum

Families have voiced interest in the school offering a foreign language elective for more than one period.

Conifer High School is having a Curriculum Showcase for current 8th grade families on Wednesday, January 23rd. Information is on the Conifer High School website and the West Jeff Middle School PTA Facebook page.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Next Meeting

Date: 2/11/2019

Time: 2:35

Location: WJMS Library