

WJMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

February 2024

Date | 1/26/2024 | *Meeting called to order by* Christopher Bauer

In Attendance

Allison Barker	Melissa Gutierrez	Abby Redwine
Christopher Bauer	Dominique Prizgint	JP Squires
Susan Bergkamp		

Introductions and Minutes

It was agreed to skip introduction as all attendees had been present at prior meetings this school year.

The January 2024 minutes, a draft of which was made available the day after the meeting, were briefly reviewed for acceptance. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the January 2024 minutes into record.

Principal's Report

As Kim Halingstad was unavailable to attend the meeting, assistant principal JP Squires gave the report.

Mid-Year Student Achievement Data

Winter MAP results were included in a packet the school used during the recent interviews for assistant principal.

[relevant data will be included here pending a scanned copy of the material -mbg]

Overall, the results are mixed with improvement in some areas and not as much as we'd like in other areas. Our school has been trying to create a culture of balance between lowering the anticipated stakes of testing with ensuring students understand they should put in their best effort, so the results are an accurate picture of our students' growth and achievement. We want all students' results to show a year's worth of growth each year, which is a particular challenge with students whose scores were high to begin with.

Our instructional coach Caity Mergendahl does a lot of work in "sense-making" information from test results and the district for our staff to use in planning. Our students are capable of more growth and staff will continue to focus on ways to help students achieve that.

2024-25 Projected Enrollment

Our projected enrollment for the 2024-25 school year has not significantly changed since the district-provided estimate of 499 students. We continue to expect 165 – 170 students in the incoming sixth grade class.

2024-25 School Budget

The 2024-25 school budget has been accepted by the district and approved by a district budget analyst.

The number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff will be the same. We currently have openings posted for a math teacher – a new position that would allow us to have smaller math classes – and a social studies teacher to fill a

WJMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

February 2024

position being vacated by a current teacher that will be moving out of the area. We anticipate also hiring for a half-time learning specialist position. As it is early in hiring season, there may be other openings between now and the end of the school year.

It was asked if the posted openings will be difficult to fill. We often have challenges with getting as many applicants as openings for schools closer in to the city, due in part to the perceived distance from the metro area. It would be preferred for applicants for the social studies position to have a Gifted and Talented endorsement as well.

Old Business

2024-25 Student Fees

The price of the Spanish workbook price increased since the draft 2024-25 student fees were prepared. There is a possibility we may add a section of French; we do not yet know what its expected fee will be yet. As some electives aren't settled until later in the spring, it was agreed to table further discussion and approval to the April meeting.

Annual district surveys

The Family-School Relationships Survey window has closed, and our students have taken the Make Your Voice Heard survey. The Teaching and Learning Conditions in Colorado survey for staff opened on February 2 and the window to complete it has been extended.

New Business

2024-25 Student Registration

The attendees briefly reviewed the student registration process. Middle school students only need to provide their preferences for elective courses. Current sixth grade students began that process last week; the date for current seventh grade students will be communicated once it has been scheduled. Current fifth grade students at our feeder schools are visited by our counseling team twice in the spring – once to be presented information about middle school, including a slide deck and a “day in the life of a sixth grader” video, and then later to distribute registration materials. Generally, sixth grade students rotate through all of the electives offered to sixth graders so they have an idea by registration for seventh grade electives what they would like to choose for the upcoming year. It was noted that students that have an elective spot used by additional academic support (e.g., reading, math, or study skills) are given additional weight to their top choices for electives.

Open Forum

The committee had a brief conversation about student travel after a mention that an attendee's eighth grade student was excited about the Colorado West Invitational Music Performance Festival trip this spring. (Eighth grade band and orchestra students travel to Grand Junction for the festival.) Our school organized optional summer travel in the past to Boston for students going into seventh grade and SeaCamp San Diego for students going into eighth grade. Conifer High School counseling organizes travel abroad with a tour company that they extend an invitation to the informational meeting for to current eighth grade families.

WJMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

February 2024

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 pm.

Next Meeting

Date: 4/22/2024

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: WJMS / Google Meet