



School Community Council Meeting Minutes  
September 24, 2015

**In Attendance:**

Mark Whitaker  
Brittini Smith  
Jaime Ward  
Ellen Palsson

Pete Swiderski  
Julie Hallsted  
Amber Gardiner  
Lynne Mower

Michelle Bagley  
Misty Purser  
Derrick Kellis

**Excused:** Heather Morgan, Rachel Hoffman, Marie Pavich

**Principal Mark Whitaker** conducted the meeting for Co-Chair Heather Morgan. He welcomed the committee members, asking each to speak briefly about themselves by way of introduction. He led a short discussion on the duties and responsibilities of SCC members and the process for electing a faculty co-chair. Heather Morgan will continue her duties as parent member co-chair. Co-chair responsibilities include taking turns conducting the meetings, making sure the meetings run according to Robert's Rules of Order, working closely with administration analyzing and gathering data, etc.

Mr. Whitaker opened the floor to faculty members to nominate a faculty co-chair. Michelle Bagley nominated Pete Swiderski, Derrick Kellis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously carried.

SCC parent member Liz Walbom has recently moved out of state. We were unaware of her relocation until after our SCC elections were held. Mr. Whitaker offered several possibilities for filling her vacant seat. The position could be filled by offering it to the candidate who had the next most votes from the election, by member recommendation and invitation, or by going to community members to see if anyone is interested in serving. Mr. Whitaker read the bios provided by the other nominees. Julie Hallsted moved to offer the position to the next candidate with the most votes, Janet Wynn. Amber Gardiner seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion was unanimously carried. Shelly May will email Janet Wynn and offer her the seat vacated by Liz Walbom.

Members were asked to provide their contact information required by law to be posted online on our MRJH school website.

**SCC Faculty Member Ellen Palsson** next spoke on behalf of the MRJH counseling center regarding a needs assessment that will be sent out as soon as possible.

**SCC Co-Chair Pete Swiderski** shared MRJH attendance data provided by the district data specialist.

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:**

- For the first range of absences (20-99 periods missed) MRJH had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of unexcused absences in the district (14.17%). Last year, we had the highest number of unexcused absences, so we have made an improvement in this area. Lakeridge had the lowest rate in the district (2%), Frontier the highest (17%). Our rate is similar to the rates of AF Jr., Canyon View and Oak Canyon.
- The next range (100-199 periods missed) MRJH's rate was .21% of student population, approximately 30 students.
- The final range (200+ periods missed) MRJH's rate was also .21%.
- MRJH referred 67% (@200 students) to truancy school
- MRJH referred 33% to juvenile court

**EXCUSED ABSENCES**

- MRJH students had 39,850 class periods missed with parental excuse. That averages to approximately 7 days of missed classes per student. We unfortunately do not have excused absence data from other schools for comparison.

While excessive absences can effect state funding, more importantly they affect student learning and achievement. Nothing can take the place of class instruction with a teacher. It was suggested that this attendance data could be shared with parents in an effort to help emphasize the importance of making sure students come to school. Worksheets, tests and quizzes can most often be made up, but nothing can make up for lost classroom instruction time.

**Mr. Whitaker** asked the committee members when they wanted to hold this year's meetings. The committee can have as many or as few meetings as they want. The committee could most likely accomplish all they need to with four meetings. We have always had more meetings, at least monthly, in order to give an opportunity for optimum community feedback. Key dates to remember are October 20<sup>th</sup> (membership form and final report due), and April 22<sup>nd</sup> (school improvement plan and Trustlands report due).

All members agreed the time of 1:30 p.m. was convenient. The meeting schedule was set, as follows.

Thursday, October 29, 2015  
Thursday, November 19, 2015  
Thursday, January 21, 2016  
Thursday, February 18, 2016  
Thursday, March 17, 2016  
Thursday, April 21, 2016

**Principal Mark Whitaker and Co-Chair Heather Morgan** attended district training on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. There are only a few significant changes to take note of:

- SCC members will no longer be required to watch the Trustlands training video. In lieu of this video, Mr. Whitaker shared a brief description of the history and intent of Trustlands legislation.
- SCC must come up with a digital citizenship program and online safety program for every student in school. Our MRJH media specialist, Linda Bushman, will present information about this to the committee at the October meeting.

This year MRJH has been allocated nearly \$100,000 in Trustland funds. The SCC decides the area of greatest academic need in which to invest these monies. 10%, or \$5,000, whichever is less, can be spent on character education if it can be shown that it relates directly to student success.

**Principal Whitaker** shared his pride in our MRJH teachers and students and their SAGE test scores. MRJH had the second highest scores in science, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest scores in math, and the 11<sup>th</sup> highest in English. We were one of 2 junior high schools to receive an A grade because of our phenomenal SAGE test results.

A copy of the 2015-2016 Trustland Budget that was approved last year was presented to each member, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Principal Whitaker explained the necessity and expectation that all Trustland allocated funds be spent. MRJH will still seek out and apply for grants to help save money whenever possible. He discussed amendments made to several budget line items as indicated on the attached budget. Derrick Kellis moved to approve these budget amendments, Amber Gardiner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously carried.

The members were thanked for their attendance and participation. Member who have items they wish added to next month's agenda, please email them to Mr. Whitaker, Heather Morgan, Pete Swiderski, or Shelly May. With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled SCC meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Mountain Ridge Junior High Media Center.

**2015-16 Proposed Budget Items**  
 \$84,000 estimated + \$10,000 carryover = \$94,000  
**Actual=\$92,066 + \$96 carryover = \$92,162**

<b>Certified Teacher</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>(\$25,000)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra Period Math/English (class size)</li> <li>• Read 180—7<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Study Skills—7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>		
<b>Substitute Teachers</b>	<b>\$4,800</b>	<b>(\$4,800)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grading Days (\$2,400 to grade major assignments that require individual feedback for students)</li> <li>• Professional Development (\$2,400)</li> </ul>		
<b>Hourly Certified</b>	<b>\$8,000**</b>	<b>(\$4,000)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Collaboration</li> <li>• After-school Lab (\$1,000/lab/semester)</li> </ul>		
<b>Hourly Aide</b>	<b>\$24,000**</b>	<b>(\$21,000)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievement Center</li> <li>• ZAP</li> <li>• Guided Studies</li> </ul>		
<b>Benefits on Accounts (24.5%)</b>	<b>\$16,000**</b>	<b>(\$19,500)</b>
<b>Contracted Services</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>(\$7,000)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Development</li> </ul>		
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>(\$2,000)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books for Read 180</li> <li>• Planners for A.C.</li> </ul>		
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>\$15,000**</b>	<b>(\$8,862)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology/Software (Ascend, MC, Canvas)</li> <li>• iPads, Chromebooks</li> </ul>		
<b><u>Total Expenses Above</u></b>	<b>\$107,800</b>	<b>(\$92,162)</b>

**\*\*Deduct from this budgeted account if funds are lower than predicted**