



School Community Council Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2015

**In Attendance:**

|                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Mark Whitaker  | Pete Swiderski | Heather Morgan |
| Rachel Hoffman | Marie Pavich   | Janet Wynn     |
| Kim Pence      | Amber Gardiner | Julie Hallsted |
| Ellen Palsson  | Lynne Mower    | Kara Edwards   |

**Excused:** Jaime Ward, Michelle Bagley, Misty Purser, Brittni Smith, Derek Kellis

**SCC Co-Chair Heather Morgan** opened the meeting and welcomed all members in attendance. A motion was made by Kara Edwards to approve the minutes, as amended, from the October SCC meeting. The motion was seconded by Janet Wynn, all were in favor and the motion was unanimously carried.

**SCC Co-Chair Pete Swiderski** presented attendance data prepared by the district regarding the rate of excused absences at MRJH:

- 838 students had 20-99 periods of excused absences, correlates to 5-20 days.
- 92 students had 100-199 periods of excused absences, approximately 6.36% of our student population (1,447). The district average was a little over 4%. Compared to other schools in the district, MRJH had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of excused absences. Timberline had the highest number.
- 7 students had 200+ periods of excused absences.

The ASD policy prohibits schools from asking why a student is absent from school. According to the district data, 60% of junior high and 65% of high school students have attendance issues, which is considered 5+ days absent according to this report.

**Ellen Palsson** spoke regarding the counseling department's needs assessment survey which was recently sent out to all 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents in conjunction with 7<sup>th</sup> grade CCR's (College and Career Readiness meetings). This needs assessment is also posted on our school website. Information gathered from this survey will determine projects to be undertaken by the counseling department next year. 7<sup>th</sup> grade CCR's were completed on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Parents were invited and encouraged to attend as 8<sup>th</sup> grade registration was discussed and next year's master schedule is created from student registration information. 8<sup>th</sup> grade CCR's will take place in January, 9<sup>th</sup> grade CCR's are scheduled for

February. Both 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade CCR's are individual meetings with parent, student and counselor in attendance.

**Principal Mark Whitaker** addressed the plan to dismiss students at 12:15 on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> due to the LPHS championship football game. The last time there was a championship game we had over 450 students check out to go to the game. For the semi-final game last week, we had over 250 student check-outs. In order to avoid mass check-outs and preserve effective instructional time, MRJH has decided to observe an early dismissal on Friday. Mr. Whitaker made this decision with input from the district, the administration of Timberline, Co-Chair Heather Morgan, and PTSA president Charmian Christensen. A brief parent survey was sent out as well to determine how many students were planning to leave school early so that they could attend the game. He also conferred with transportation and food services to coordinate how an abbreviated day would look. Ultimately, an early dismissal on Friday was an instructional decision. If more than half the student body leaves early to go to the game, only limited instruction can take place. MRJH administration believes in the importance of a school day where students have access to every class period.

Therefore, on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, school will be dismissed at 12:15. School lunch will be provided from 12:15 to 12:45. Buses will pick up students for transportation home at 12:45.

The members were thanked for their attendance and participation. Members 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 2:25 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled SCC meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the Mountain Ridge Junior High Media Center.