

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 18, 2016
TIME/PLACE: 6:00 p.m. Jefferson STEAM Center

ATTENDEES:

Dr. Kevin Smith	Carine Griffeth
Luis Carreno	Alisha Moore
Portia Clark	Beth Jarrett
Mary Dugan	Danielle Montgomery
Tammy Williamson	Pam Watson
Randy Farmer	

Call to Order: The JHS Council Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. at the newly opened Jefferson STEAM Center.

Minutes: A motion to approve minutes from the September meeting was made; the motion was seconded; and approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – DR. KEVIN SMITH

Report Cards: Dr. Smith said report cards were issued on Friday, October 14. He encouraged parents to review progress, continue to check Infinite Campus for grades posted.

Online Payments: Dr. Smith reported that newly every school and extracurricular activity can be paid online on the JHS website, except football game tickets and some events. A fee is assessed for the transaction convenience.

Accreditation Process – Parent Survey: Dr. Smith reminds all parents to please complete the online survey that is provided as a link on the Jefferson City Schools websites. The survey is required as part of the accreditation process for the school system and is intended to gather parents' feedback on ways the school system is doing well, as well as to identify areas for improvement.

Scotland Exchange Program: Visiting students from Scotland left on the afternoon of Oct. 18 to return home. Dr. Smith said students showed a lot of emotion as they said goodbyes, which indicates that the friendships and experiences made in bringing these two cultures together are significant and that the program continues to be successful. L. Carreno said that he had heard from parents in Scotland that they are grateful for this program and the generosity shown by Jefferson's leadership.

“Waiting for Leftie” – One-Act Play: Jefferson High School is hosting the Region 8AAAA One Act Play Competition on Saturday, October 22 beginning at 9:00 am in the Performing Arts Center. Jefferson’s one-act play is titled, “Waiting For Lefty.” It will be performed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 18 through 20 in the PAC at 7:00 pm. JHS drama students are under the direction of Stephen Ingle.

Homecoming: Students are dressing up for certain spirit days during this week leading up to Homecoming, which will be celebrated with a dance on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Jefferson Civic Center from 8-10 pm. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

PSAT: Dr. Smith said the the PSAT standardized test will be administered at JHS on Oct. 19 for all 10th grade students and some 9th grade students as identified.

STEAM CENTER TOUR – MR. RANDY FARMER

Mr. Farmer introduced himself to the JHS Council and provided insight into his background before becoming the current coordinator of the Jefferson STEAM Center, which promotes K-12 creative learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, the arts and math.

Mr. Farmer has been teaching for 20 years in various schools, most recently at Gainesville Middle School where he knew Mr. Ken Martin. It was Mr. Martin, current principal of Jefferson Middle School, who suggested that Mr. Farmer should consider coming to Jefferson. This is Mr. Farmer's first year with Jefferson City Schools and he said he feels like “he's in school heaven.” He is impressed with the community support and that of parents and teachers alike.

He additionally praised Dr. Donna McMullen and Mr. Tom Parker at Jefferson City Schools' administration for giving him the creative freedom to expand on these initial ideas for the STEAM Center, which were previewed by the JHS Council at this tour.

Mr. Farmer said that when determining what technologies and innovations that a STEAM lab should offer, he considered foremost “What would get kids excited about learning?” JHS Council viewed several of the innovative features already being used, such as :

- **3D Printer** – Offers students a way to turn their ideas into tangible three-dimensional objects with a printer that can produce objects made from liquid polymers.

- **LittleBits Invention Station** – A collection of littleBits electronic building blocks are arranged in a shelving display where students can pick and choose easy-to-assemble components that are magnetically connected and run off small batteries. The electronic components enable children to invent just about anything using motors, wheels, lights, switches, buzzers or remote controls.
- **Z-Space Virtual 3D Computer Lab** - Enables students to use software and 3D visualization glasses to explore the inside of the human heart, among many other things, but to virtually manipulate the heart or other objects.
- **Presentation Creation Suite** - A green room, huge screen and conjoined video/audio editing programs provide students with ways to demonstrate their projects with greater visual flexibility.
- **NAO Robot** – Students are able to learn and use programming software to manipulate the movements and commands of this autonomous, humanoid robot.
- **Lego Assembly Table** – Comfortable, contemporary chairs are set out around a large table with many Lego blocks where students can sit and create.



Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the JHS Media Center.

The October JHS Council meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m., although some members were hesitant to leave the STEAM Center because they were having fun in the Z-Space virtual computer lab.

Minutes recorded by M. Dugan.

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