

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



MEETING DATE: Tuesday, September 20, 2016

TIME/PLACE: 6:00 p.m. JHS Media Center

ATTENDEES:

Dr. Kevin Smith

Luis Carreno

Portia Clark

Mary Dugan

Tammy Williamson

Carine Griffeth

Cheryl Kerr

Beth Jarrett

Danielle Montgomery

Dr. Donna McMullan

The JHS Council Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Minutes: A motion to approve minutes from the August meeting was made by B. Jarrett; the motion was seconded by T. Williamson; and approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – DR. KEVIN SMITH

Rotary Presentations: Superintendents of area schools were invited by the Rotary Club of Jefferson recently to provide a history and update on local school systems; Dr. Jackson and Dr. McMullen spoke on behalf of Jefferson City Schools and showed a video about the history of the system. Dr. Smith said the video may be available online for review at some point in the future.

STEAM Center Publicity: Dr. Smith said Jefferson's new STEAM Center is featured in the JHS student newspaper and that 350 copies of the issue will be distributed at no charge to students. The *Jackson Herald* prints the newspaper for JHS. The editorial staff is looking at funding options to cover printing costs. The editorial staff includes advisor, D. Montgomery and 17 students.

PROBE Fair: Dr. Smith said the recent Georgia Probe College Tour was a success and well attended by students. Colleges in attendance included the Universities of Georgia and Alabama, Penn State University, and more than 60 other schools. Probe, managed by the Georgia Education Articulation Committee (GEAC), is a program where colleges and guidance counselors work together to give students the opportunity to speak to college representatives.

College and Career Fair: Dr. Smith announced that East Jackson HS is hosting a College and Career Fair on Friday, Sept. 23. Several high schools will be participating to see exhibits from more than 70 colleges and businesses. This fair differs from PROBE in that career options other than college as a next step can be explored.

Graduation Information: Dr. Smith said that Herff Jones representatives will soon be distributing information about cap/gown purchases and options for graduation items for purchase.

Scotland Exchange Program: The 13th year of Jefferson's Scotland Exchange Program will begin on October 4 when the students arrive from Scotland. On October 10 at 6:30 p.m., a reception cookout will be held at Crow's Lake and the community is invited.

World War II Trip: Dr. Smith announced that 26 students have just been selected to attend the World War II Trip.

AP Exam Cost Reductions: Previous funding that has generously helped offset students' costs of AP Exams will not be available in 2017 and JHS is looking into alternative fund raising options to continue AP exam cost reductions. AP exams currently cost about \$93 per test. An estimated 400 tests may be administered in spring of 2017.

School Store: Plans are underway to have the school store management structure transitioned more to students in order to utilize this program as a learning opportunity and business enterprise managed by students. The store has been managed by parent volunteers. The concept for transition is to have students make and sell items created at the new STEAM Center, such as T-shirts and 3D printer-made key chains, and take a more active role in managing inventory and operations.

DISTRICT'S REPORT – DR. DONNA MCMULLAN

AdvancED Quality Assurance Review Process: Dr. McMullan addressed the JHS Council to further expand the community's understanding of the accreditation process that Jefferson City Schools will be going through in 2017 and the role that parents, students, teachers and community partners have in assisting with this review.

AdvancED is a widely accepted set of accreditation standards administered by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Dr. McMullan said that the objective of this process is to retain accreditation for the JCS District.

This is an important educational review function because colleges and universities ask for a school's accreditation when determining acceptance of and giving credit for a student's completed course work.

Parents and community representatives will be asked to participate in a survey to support documentation required as one part of the accreditation process measures, which include:

- Internal and external reviews
- Analysis of student achievement, survey and other data
- Self-assessment of the current level of performance
- Stakeholder surveys at the school and system level
- Executive summary for school and system level
- Classroom observations

The review process for Jefferson City Schools will begin in February 2017 and conclude in by March.

More information about SACS standards may be found at: www.advanc-ed.org

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Guidance Counselors' Office: M Dugan addressed her observations that the Guidance Department needed additional support, such as another guidance counselor added to current staff better serve an increased student enrollment. Currently, two guidance counselors and one part time staff member serve the 2016-2017 enrollment of 1,075 students. M. Dugan said an additional counselor would enable the department to better serve individual students' needs in college preparation and career readiness, and continue to manage urgent or critical situations as they occur. M. Dugan said she has drafted a letter requesting consideration of another counselor for the 2017-2018 school year, which she will send to the Office of the Superintendent.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the new Jefferson City Schools' STEAM Center, located on the corner of Hoschton Street and Old Pendergrass Road (the former Jefferson library location).

The September JHS Council meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes recorded by M. Dugan.

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