

Jefferson Middle School Council Minutes
August 31, 2010

The Jefferson Middle School Council met in regular session on August 31, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Parent Representatives: Tammy Kelly, Chairperson
Margie Blackstock
Timberlie McEver
Angie Thompson

Business Representatives: Jeff Blair, First Commerce Bank
Steve Perry, Beef 'O' Brady's

School Representatives: Brandy Corbett, Principal
Annette Beckwith, Assistant Principal
Lindy Pals, Media Specialist
Carol Ann Knight, Math Teacher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA:

Tammy Kelly made a motion to accept the minutes from January 26, 2010, and Angie Thompson seconded the motion.

Election of Officers

Tammy Kelly was elected as Chairperson, Angie Thompson as Co-Chair, and Lindy Pals as Secretary.

OLD BUSINESS:

CRCT Test Scores/Results for 2009-2010

Brandy Corbett provided an overview of Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). JMS is one of seven systems that have made AYP seven years in a row. JMS exceeded expectations in both the RESA region as well as state. Other accomplishments included ranking first system in state for 7th grade math, science, and social studies.

Despite previous success, challenges lie ahead. The state bar in each subject is rising. Although our average scores are well above the bar, a few of our subgroup populations may be in danger.

JMS is studying this data and offering extra support to help all students meet or exceed expectations:

- Tutoring – JMS teachers are offering support in each content area every day (morning, lunch, or afternoon). [See tutoring schedule online]

- Carol Ann Knight and Melanie Stoudenmire continue to offer CRCT coaching classes to provide students with 50 minutes a day for previewing and reviewing content.
 - Increasing more reward days to motivate students for doing additional content work during the school day
 - Rewarding students monetarily for performance

JMS teachers are shifting in their approach to students. Despite high-workloads, teachers are becoming assertive in designating at-risk students before they fall behind. Example: Coach Cheatham, football coach, has created mandatory tutoring/studying for our football team.

Other recommendations include: mentoring program for at-risk students, assigning high-performing students to work with struggling students, and encouraging students from the different schools to support one another (high school to middle school).

NEW BUSINESS:

Staff Changes for the 2010-2011 School Year

Our new school leadership includes Brandy Corbett (Principal) and Annette Beckwith (Assistant Principal). JMS was not able to hire a full-time counselor, but Jim Synan will continue as part-time JMS counselor. JMS also experienced the loss of two Connections programs (Spanish and Health) and the loss of our accelerated programs in Language Arts and Math. Since the system-wide loss of approximately one million, JMS has shifted positions to provide programming. Examples: Matt Stephenson is teaching a keyboarding class and Mr. Calloway (JHS) is teaching an agriculture class.

JMS Enrollment and Number of New Students

See handout, Student Enrollment. JMS number of students continues to rise.

Title I Updates for 2010-2011

Our Free-and-Reduced lunch rate is now up to 40%. This has been a rapid change.

JMS Celebrate Student Success Program

JMS is pursuing a positive reinforcement program in efforts to increase academic achievement and decrease discipline referrals. A contract will go home Thursday to inform parents of the program and the grade-level requirements. The reward days will not impact instruction since they will take place on the Friday after quarterly exams.

Fundraising Proposal

JMS is proposing a Tailgating fundraiser for the October 22nd JCS home game. Since revenue has been low from the traditional school fundraisers, JMS is looking to promote family-friendly activities that will be low-cost and community-based. JMS will also rely on a student leadership committee to brainstorm ways to make the fundraiser appealing to students.

Technology Update

Ms. Pals reviewed technology purchases for the 2009-10 school year and previewed needs for 2010-11. Major challenges include meeting our yearly consumable budget (bulbs, toner) and

replacing decade-old student computers that no longer meet state inventory cut-off. All teacher computers have been upgraded and are now back on state inventory. Teachers have noticed increased speed.

Other Concerns

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

JMS School Council will meet again on, September 14th, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. if the school board approves the proposed fundraiser.

ADJOURNMENT:

Tammy Kelly made the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Angie Thompson. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.