

Jefferson Middle School Council Minutes
July 24, 2008

The Jefferson Middle School Council met in regular session on July 24, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairperson:	Gwen Finch
Principal:	Howard McGlennen
Teacher Representatives:	Carol Ann Knight and Lindy Pals
Business Representatives:	Jason Waddel
Parent Representatives:	Lori Bartek and Wayne Ansley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA:

Mr. McGlennen made a motion to accept the minutes from March 4, 2008, and Lori Bartek seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

JMS Technology Update: Lindy Pals, Library Media Specialist, reviewed the technology requests from the teacher Action Plans and school technology committee. JMS met the goal for the 2008-09 school year to provide all content area teachers with a projector, sound system, and current, fast computer. Although JMS did not have the funds to purchase 29 new desktop computers, Jason Downs and his crew assisted with rearranging the computers in the new wings with the older Dells in the classrooms. Downs also improved the older Dell computers with additional memory, and now all computers will be up-to-speed for the new ClassWorks software.

All six science instructors have received new AverMedia document projectors. JMS also received four interactive slates. Two slates will be used by Candace Simmons and Elaine Murphy. The other two will be used in the computer labs and by checkout. The office staff received a high output color printer which has already been used for parent registration information and test score data for staff.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. McGlennen shared the 2008-09 school year calendar and school map. With JMS's new Title I status, the next school council will have additional procedures including a mandatory open election with a ballot. During open house on Thursday from 3:30-6:30, JMS will ask for nominations. We have several members leaving the council due to graduations and business partner changes.

JMS New Employees includes:

- **Lee Roper** – 8th grade Mathematics and wrestling coach
- **Cedric Johnson** – 8th grade Special Education and coaching
- **Janie Sirmans** – 6th grade Language Arts
- **Melanie Stoudenmire** – CRCT Coaching Language Arts (Melanie came from Jefferson Academy). Melanie has been hired through Title I to focus on reading needs.

School Board Retreat requests update:

- JMS's "CRCT Prep" classes have changed names to "CRCT Coaching." Our focus has been on finding students in most need and supporting them with our most experienced teaching staff.

This year, we are allowing students to take both Language Arts and Math Coaching OR to take just one course. For example, if a student meets standards in Language Arts and not Math, the student will not have to take both courses. This will allow students to have coaching in the area of most need all year long without interruption.

- Title I status: JMS has earned Title I status through a 29% free and reduced lunch rate. We now qualify to be a “Target-Assisted School.” Title I is evaluated annually.
 - JMS received one additional teacher
 - Increased importance for students to complete Free & Reduced Lunch forms so added programs and instruction can be maintained
 - Title I will mean increased documentation and involvement from staff, parents, and students
- Language Arts Gifted Program – one of JMS’s 2008-09 goals is to move more students from “meets” to “exceeds.” While JMS asked for two additional teachers to support a gifted math and gifted language arts, Title I funding only provided for one. Gifted Language Arts will be taught by Jennifer Bray and will serve the top 25 students from both teams. Jennifer Bray will also serve part time as JMS’s Instructional Lead Teacher. This will allow for decreased class size in our Language Arts classes as well as instructional support for our teaching staff.

Mr. McGlennen and Mrs. Corbett discussed the 2008 CRCT scores. While JMS experienced some major successes, we are already facing new challenges with subgroup populations, moving more students from meeting to exceeding, and continuing to push students and staff to the next level.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Wayne Ansley asked how the gifted population is being served in our new schedule. Mrs. Corbett and Mr. McGlennen responded that gifted students will be served on their hallway through our new schedules, and our highest achieving students will be served with the new Gifted Language Arts program with Ms. Bray. Carol Ann Knight and Lindy Pals commented that the new schedules will better group students in their Science and Social Studies classes. This will allow regular education classrooms to move at a faster pace while meeting more student needs.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

JMS School Council will meet again on October 29 at 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. McGlennen made the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Lori Bartek. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.