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**JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**

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**SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The Jefferson Middle School Council met in regular session on September 8, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- **Parent Representatives**
  - Tammy Kelly, Chairperson**
  - Margie Blackstock**
  - Charles Chapeau**
  - Mary Dugan**
  - Cindy McMullan**
  - Marie Underwood**
  
- **Business Representatives**
  - Jeff Blair, First Commerce Bank**
  - Darrell Garner, Benjamin Franklin Plumbing (Absent)
  - Steve Perry, Beef O' Brady (Absent)
  - Niola and **Spencer Pruitt, Great Skates**
  
- **School Representatives**
  - Brandy Corbett, Principal**
  - Jason Wester, Assistant Principal**
  - Melissa Crane, School Counselor**
  - Lindy Pals, Media Specialist, Secretary**
  - Tim Nichols, Social Studies Teacher**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA:**

Tammy Kelly made a motion to accept the minutes from May 17, 2011 and the agenda for September 8, 2011, and Charles Chapeau seconded the motion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **CRCT Test Scores/Results for 2010-2011 – Brandy Corbett**

The council viewed a three-year overview of CRCT scores. JMS has achieved outstanding scores due to excellent staff and students. Only a small percentage of students did not meet expectations. JMS has also continued to increase the amount of students exceeding expectations.

According to the “No Child Left Behind Law,” all students are supposed to meet expectations by 2014. We have ten subgroups that the DOE has now defined. All subgroups must also meet rising expectations. One subgroup can cause a school not to meet AYP, and therefore an entire district. A subgroup is approximately 10% of population. Economically Disadvantaged and Students with Disability are JMS’s main concern.

Council Recommendation: Continue to support the transition between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Science and Social Studies are currently offered on a rotational basis at the Academy. Science and Social Studies at JMS are complete daily classes with additional responsibilities. As Science will become an AYP factor next year, we are looking closely at this transition. Another concern is when students arrive at JMS, they are expected to integrate basic skills and tackle higher-order-thinking projects. JMS's "Writing Across the Curriculum" initiative this year may help support students. Currently, staffing is an issue at JMS. While JA has support staff and paraprofessionals, many classes at JMS have 32 students to one adult.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Introduction of New Members**

Council member introductions.

- **Election of Officers - Tammy Kelly**

Margie Blackstock nominated as co-chair.  
Mary Dugan nominated secretary.

- **Introduction of New Staff Members at JMS – Brandy Corbett**

Introduction and background information on new staff: Assistant Principal Jason Wester, School Counselor Melissa Crane, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies - Billy Brunson, Band Director – Michael Pace, Computer Literacy – Wayne Wheeler, and curriculum director Tom Parker.

- **JMS Enrollment and Number of New Students - Jason Wester**

Current enrollment is 649 students. JMS reached base-sized school of 625, and out-of-district students now must pay tuition. JMS's class average is 27-28 per class, but many classes are now at 32. This can place a strain on teachers and students, and sometimes limit the variety of experiences (logistics). JMS's quality teaching staff is continuing to maximize experiences despite difficulty.

Suggestion: student support volunteers for "Writing Across the Curriculum" initiative.

- **Staff and Facility Updates**

The custodians have been short-staffed due to retirement and illness. Praise for Joan Turner and Totie Daniel for keeping up with building requests despite being half-staffed. A night custodian has been hired.

Because of space limitations, JMS is adding a building to the gymnasium that will hold the weight room. Completion is projected for November.

Afternoon student pick-up has gotten better. Suggestion: instead of bull-horn, purchase walkee-talkies.

- **PRIDE Program – Melissa Crane**

JMS meets with advisement group 1-2 times per month as an extra period. Teachers wear PRIDE shirts. Example of yesterday's PRIDE period: Importance of goal setting, recording progress report grades, and

planning ahead. JMS's PRIDE committee created an Excel spreadsheet transition plan for students. Along with a place to record progress report grades, the plan includes GA College 411 account information. GA 411 offers the following for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades: student assessments on career planning, interest inventories, information on colleges, certification needs, financial aid, applications, HOPE scholarship, and even transcript sending. Parents can also view student portfolios that are saved electronically. GA 411 helps students and parents see big picture. JMS is scheduling a parent night for training on GA 411.

JMS's Character Word for the Month – COMPASSION. JMS teachers fill out a business-sized card, and all students are entered into a drawing at the end of the month. This month students received a Great Skates certificate and Dairy Queen Blizzard.

JMS's PRIDE committee has done a superior job beginning this new program.

- **JMS Anti-Bullying Policy and Program – Melissa Crane**

This summer, JMS created a new bullying policy to follow GA law. During the first PRIDE period we discussed the bullying law and changes. Every student signed a bullying contract. Special notice: This year, if bullying happens at home or online (ex. Facebook), it can still be considered a school-related issue if it affects the school environment.

- **Title I Updates for the 2011-2012 School Year**

JMS is continuing to work on indentifying students to qualify.

- **Addition of Explorations in Problem Solving Connection Course**

Ms. Knight is directing a gifted/acceleration program for the first half of the school year. Students are working on a long-term project as well as a long-term competition program. Competitions include: Odyssey of the Mind, Destination Imagination, Future Cities, Stock Market, Georgia Student Media Festival, and others.

- **Technology Updates**

The UGA Educational Technology Training Center loaned (long-term) 65 newer desktop computers to JMS. We were able to refresh one entire computer lab and build a new CRCT-remediation lab for Knight and Stoudenmire. Other progress includes the following:

- JMS is using four high school students to help with technology troubleshooting. Students have already been a huge support.
- Teaching staff has begun to embrace Moodle as a content management system for the classroom. Praise for innovative and creative teachers at JMS.
- Teachers have begun to integrate student response systems (clickers) in the classroom.

Although JMS teachers have worked hard to integrate and support technology in the classroom, the council addressed the following concerns:

- Students have mentioned problems with computer labs being slow (old Dell machines).

- Some students have asked to complete computer assignments at home due to problems with slow computers/network and being blocked by filters and error messages.
  - Parents feel that despite the excellent education students at JCS receive, students are falling behind with technology.
  - Parents would like to see more information about how JCS is planning to improve and upgrade the infrastructure and network for the school system.
  - Parents would also like to see more technology support for teachers. Students mention the long amount of time items in the building are waiting for attention (example: Tim Nichols's new ELMO document projector waited over 3 weeks).
  - Technology support should include network expertise so the district can make cost-effective solutions for the future.
- **JMS Fall Tailgate Party – October 14, 2011 – 4:30–6:30 – Tammy Kelly**

Last year, JMS raised approximately \$7,000 for Celebrate Student Success last year. Activities included: rock-climbing, DJ – music, food, and various activities. The Tailgate Party was an event for the entire family and provided a way for teachers and students to have fun in a non-classroom environment. At the end of the event, students and teachers were bused to the game.

The council contacted businesses for donations for the event, and this covered the costs for the inflatables and supplies. JMS charged \$10 for admission (wrist-band) and sold spiritwear (socks and T-shirts).

Assignments:

Mary – Business Sponsorships

Lindy – Publicity

Tim Nichols and Jeff Blair – Clean-up

Melissa Crane – Food

Set-Up – Steve and Spencer

- **Goal Setting for the 2011-2012 School Year**

Email goals for the school council to Tammy. We would like to prepare for the next meeting by emailing all council members information in advance to maximize our meeting time.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:**

JMS School Council will meet again on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. to discuss the Tailgate Party. The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Tammy Kelly made the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Margie Blackstock. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.