

School Site Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 12/2/24

Attendees: Faculty/staff: Tony Garas (principal), Jennifer Tolleson (6th grade Science/secretary), Meaghan Miller (5th grade ELA/Reading), Kim Appelmans (SPED teacher), Patty Higgins (5th grade P.E. teacher)

Parents: Lisa Costa, Stacey Rivera, Katie Malone, Chris Harvey, Peter Palomaki, Kim Saxonis

- Welcome & introductions
- Mr. Garas passed out copies of the notes from the last meeting.
- We everyone reviewed the notes. A question was asked about spring sports and the fact that it was reinstituted, but there will be fees associated with it. There was a motion to approve the notes from last meeting. The motion was made and approved.
- Discussion of school safety and recent ALICE drill on Friday November 22, 2024. Mr. Garas explained the procedure for the drill to the council. Police and Fire departments were here to monitor the drill.
 - Mr. Garas shared feedback from the post drill survey with parents. The survey was filled out by teachers.
 - Students were prepared for the drill during our Advisory lesson on Wednesday 11/20/24.
 - Our previous SRO worked with the school in previous years and discussed the idea of having an unannounced ALICE drill at some point in the future.
 - Mrs. Malone spoke about the importance of practicing and not necessarily the “surprise” aspect being the most important. She is a certified trainer in emergency management in another district. Her district follows training from the [I love you guys foundation](#).
- One focus of the district is school safety and the practices of the district. The Superintendent formed a safety committee to look at procedures, etc.
- Discussion of Budget Categories for 2025 - 2026. A list of categories and a chart of the distribution of the money from last year’s budget was shared with council members.
 - At this point of the year about 40% of the budget has been spent. Much of it is spent in the summer before school starts.
 - Categories are provided from DESE.
 - We used to have a larger budget at the school level, but some of the “extra money” that is no longer in our school budget has been taken over at the district level.
 - Late buses weren’t paid at the school level, they were part of the transportation budget at the district level.
 - A question was asked by a parent about whether there is a protocol for teachers asking the parents for donations versus asking the principal for money from the budget to do certain activities. It also depends on whether an activity is run by a single teacher versus by all teachers in the grade level.
 - How can recommendations be given for how to adjust the budget for next year? How do we know what is truly needed?
 - A mention was made of the Wayfinder program we are using in Middle School this year, which was also funded by a grant.
 - Are there ways to search for more grant money?

- Mr. Garas shared a budget priority sheet.
 - One of the items, #2 additional intervention support (SE and tutoring) are staffing issues. We aren't a Title I school, but the Marshall is a Title I school, so they can benefit from special grants related to that program.
 - After school programs - subsidized by the fees paid by students/programs. Without late buses, only students who can be picked up can participate in the activities.
 - Could a question about late buses be added to a parent survey to get data to show the district for decision making purposes.
 - Will fundraising be done for spring sports to help offset costs of running the programs? This question was asked by a parent.
- Tony pointed out some documents that he put in a shared folder for our review.
 - Take a look at the DIP (District Improvement Plan) first.
 - Look at the SIP (School Improvement Plan) second.
- A suggestion was made to reduce paper copies and rely on digital copies that are shared in advance of the meeting.
- Next meeting is Monday January 6, 2025.
- Motion to adjourn was made and approved.