

**Faiss Middle School
School Organizational Team
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**

The Faiss Middle School Organizational Team (SOT) meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. on February 2, 2026, in the Faiss Middle School Library, with a simultaneous Google Meet option available.

Voting Members:

Lacy Sullivan, Parent	Roger West, Principal
Eric Schumacher, Parent	Nichole Brewer-Gentry, Teacher/Behavior Strategist (Google Meet)
Erica Romero, Parent	Terri Romaniello, Teacher/Learning Strategist
Tori Sadiki, Parent	Teuta Zeka, Teacher
Briana Jenkins, Parent (Absent)	Renaye Barnes, Support Professional/Office Manager

Non-voting Members:

Adalyn Cheney, Student Representatives
Audrina Quinones-Gancenía, Student Representatives
Kara Nielenad, Optional Community Member

Faiss Middle School Administration:

Roger West, Principal

Agenda Items

1.0 Welcome and Roll Call

SOT Chair Nichole Brewer-Gentry called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and conducted a roll call to confirm attendance. Members present included staff representatives, parent members, and administration. Community member Kara Nieland was present. Guests attending the meeting included Jeff Wells and Shannon McCormack. Student representatives Adalyn Cheney and Audrina Quinones-Gancenía were also acknowledged.

2.0 New Items

2.1 School Plan of Operation – Budget Presentation and Discussion

Principal Roger West presented the proposed 2026–2027 middle school budget and provided an overview of district funding conditions. Mr. West explained that although schools are projected to receive slightly more funding than last year, increased operational costs mean schools effectively have less purchasing power, resulting in staffing and structural adjustments. He noted that many middle schools in the district are facing significant budget challenges due to declining enrollment and rising costs.

Budget Overview

The budget is based on the Pupil Centered Funding Plan (PCFP), which distributes funding according to student enrollment. The district projects approximately 5,151 fewer students next year, which will affect school allocations.

Mr. West explained that the budget will be distributed through the state funding formula.

Funding is influenced by several components, including:

- Student enrollment
- At-risk funding based on Grad Score
- English learner funding
- District allocations
- Operational costs

Mr. West also noted that school autonomy remains in place, meaning schools still receive per-pupil funding and determine how those funds are allocated to meet school needs.

Schedule Change

A major structural change discussed was moving from the current A/B block schedule to a modified six-period schedule beginning in the 2026–2027 school year.

Under this model:

- Students will attend six classes daily
- Monday and Friday will include shorter instructional periods.
- Tuesday–Thursday will include longer block periods.
- Each class will be met four times per week.

Mr. West explained that this change will allow the school to maintain manageable class sizes and provide consistent instructional time while adapting to staffing and budget constraints.

Students will not lose elective opportunities under the new schedule.

Teachers will also have revised schedules to support collaboration and student support time, including weekly PLC (Professional Learning Community) time.

Staffing Adjustments

Mr. West shared projected staffing adjustments:

- Addition of one social studies teacher and one science teacher to support the new schedule.
- Reduction of one assistant principal position, moving from three assistant principals to two.
- Deletion of three licensed positions, which the school hopes to absorb through vacancies and program adjustments.

Mr. West emphasized that these decisions were not made lightly and are intended to protect classroom instruction and maintain positive student experiences.

Additional Budget Clarifications

SOT members raised questions about staffing allocations and operational positions.

Dr. McCormack asked about the SPTA positions included in the budget, noting that some positions are district-funded rather than school-funded.

Mr. Wells asked about the reduction in custodial staffing. Mr. West explained that a custodial position was converted to a six-hour position following a resignation.

Mr. Wells also asked about an \$80,000 allocation, and Mr. West clarified that the school had previously requested additional funds from the district and received approximately \$80,000 to support school operations.

Special Education Programs

Ms. Brewer-Gentry asked about changes to the SLD program and whether the school would lose a position.

Mr. West explained that the school will operate one SLD program instead of two, while also gaining two autism programs, resulting in a net adjustment in special education programming.

Budget Approval

Ms. Brewer-Gentry asked if members had additional questions or concerns before voting.

Motion: Terri Romaniello moved to approve the proposed 2026–2027 budget.

Second: Renaye Barnes seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Result: **The 2026–2027 Faiss Middle School budget was approved by the SOT.**

Mr. West thanked members for their thoughtful review and continued support.

3.0 General Discussion

3.1 School Updates

Principal Roger West provided updates on school activities and programs.

Student Activities and Athletics

- The Faiss Dance Team competed at Coronado High School and earned 1st place.
- A Faiss student will attend a luncheon recognizing participants in the State Spelling Bee.
- Faiss students participated in the Regional Amazing Shake competition, which expanded this year from 7 to 17 participating schools.

- Basketball season is concluding, with the final home game scheduled and recognition for 8th-grade athletes.
- Given current performance levels, the basketball program may move to Division 2 next year to support rebuilding efforts.
- Soccer intramurals have strong participation, with over 70 students involved.

Testing

- NAEP testing is scheduled for the following day. This national assessment randomly selects approximately 46 students.
- WIDA testing is ongoing for multilingual learners.

School Events

- Vista Night for incoming students is approaching.
- A Dine-Out Night fundraiser is scheduled for February 13.
- The school is recognizing National Counselor Week.

Campus Improvements

Mr. West provided updates on campus safety upgrades.

- The infrastructure for the new camera system has been installed.
- Cameras have not yet been installed due to procurement delays within the district.
- A security buzzer system will be installed in the front office.
- The school has implemented a tardy lockout procedure to monitor and address patterns of student tardiness.

Assessment Update

Ms. Romaniello shared that, beginning next year, the school will transition from MAP Growth testing to i-Ready diagnostics to monitor student growth and progress.

3.2 Agenda Planning

Members discussed possible topics for future meetings. Suggestions included continuing to highlight positive school updates and achievements.

3.3 Future Meetings

The next SOT meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

4.0 Information

No additional informational items were presented.

5.0 Public Comment Period

No public comments were made.

6.0 Adjourn

Motion: Teuta Zeka moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Eric Schumacher seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

The next SOT meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.