

James T. Alton Middle School SBDM Council Meeting  
Monthly Meeting  
October 18, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to Order - Ms. Cassady called the meeting to order at 4:00
2. Recognition of Visitors - Ms. Cassady recognized the newly elected student council officers:  
Daniel Late - President, Lucas Geesing - Vice President, and Jazmine Wright - Secretary
3. Opening Business
  - a. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Barger motioned to approve; it was seconded by Ms. Chaney; Motion carried by consensus.
  - b. Approval of September Minutes - Mr. Trueblood motioned to approve the September minutes; it was seconded by Mr. Barger; Motion carried by consensus.
  - c. Good News:
    - i. JTA had highest attendance of district middle schools on Sept. 13 (High Attendance Day)
    - ii. Trojan Store - Going very smoothly
    - iii. Tailgate Party - went very well. Lots of parent volunteers, and the students were well behaved.
    - iv. Aaron Powell featured in News Enterprise as Tuesday's Teen
    - v. Little Library got a facelift - Thank you Ms. Varela!
    - vi. Ms. Cline and Mr. Rowland trained in WhyTry Curriculum - This will replace 2nd Steps. WhyTry is a more targeted curriculum for students who are struggling with behavior as opposed to 2nd Steps, which is geared towards more whole-school implementation.
    - vii. Reading and Math teachers met w/ Discovery Ed. trainer
    - viii. Leadership Team met w/ Newtech Coach Jose Garcia - completed walkthroughs
      1. NTN Student and Staff Surveys - Student survey showed very positive results
    - ix. Ms. Edwards trained all homeroom teachers on Major Clarity - this is the program that will help students through the ILP process. This will help them pick their pathway later on when registering for high school.
    - x. Faculty Recognition Night at basketball game
    - xi. 7th and 8th Graders attended vaping assembly led by Baptist Health Hardin
    - xii. Student Council Elections - Mr. Rowland assisted in making this process a real experience for students. He has a lot of connections in the community and uses them to secure help from government officials.
    - xiii. Truancy Diversion Program up and running - Judge Blair, Beth McCubbins (CDW), Admin, and Ms. Oveson met with students and their parents about the importance of attendance and where continued unexcused absences may lead.
    - xiv. First successful Club Day of the year - This was very well organized. The students said it was successful.
    - xv. Saturday School - This is an academic intervention. Students who are failing 2 or more classes are invited to attend. The list is updated weekly. Our student council president suggested that other students be allowed to attend Saturday School if they wish to improve their grades. Ms. Cassady explained that we try to keep the student to teacher ratio small for this intervention because these

students need intensive help. However, other students may attend ESS on Tuesday and Thursdays.

xvi. Blue Oval - manufacturing lessons w/ 8th graders

d. Public Comments - The student council reported that they will be looking at ways to promote anti-bullying this month.

**4. Planning**

a. Red Ribbon Week is October 23 - 27 - Ms. Ovesen and Ms. Roberts are planning this. The focus will be on "A Healthy You."

b. Halloween in the Halls is October 30 - We are going to have a candy drive for a team of the year ribbon. The PTSA President has donated a pizza party to the homeroom who brings in the most candy.

c. Parent/Teacher Conferences and Chili Supper is Nov. 9 - Mr. Caldwell is volunteering to cook our chili that night. Parents can come from 4-7 and meet with teachers, then they can have chili.

d. Veteran's Day Breakfast and Assembly is Nov. 10

**5. Previous / Ongoing Business**

a. Council Bylaws - Ms. Ritter made a motion to accept the changes to the council bylaws; it was seconded by Mr. Crabtree; Motion carried by consensus

b. Impact KY Working Conditions Survey - Mr. Barger went facilitator training on 10/20. The survey window will open on Nov. 1, and it is open for any certified staff working at JTA. This is a working conditions survey.

**6. New Business**

a. Curriculum Policy Review and Discussion - There is a new paragraph that has been added about human sexuality curriculum. The council has asked for clarification on the wording of that paragraph's intent and purpose in regards to instruction. Ms. Cassidy will research that and possibly write a revision for next month's meeting.

b. Consultation Policy Review and Discussion - There were no changes to this policy. Mr. Crabtree made a motion to accept the policy as written. It was seconded by Ms. Eaton; Motion carried by consensus.

c. Principal Selection Policy Review and Discussion - There were no changes to this policy. Mr. Crabtree made a motion to accept the policy as written. It was seconded by Mr. Barger; Motion carried by consensus.

d. Review IReady data from the first diagnostic - The 6th grade scores are quite a bit higher than last year in both reading and math, which shows that that elementary schools are doing a great job. If you examine scores from cohort to cohort, there is good growth from one year to the next.

**7. Adjournment - Mr. Barger made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Ms. Trueblood. Motion carried by consensus. Meeting adjourned at 4:50**

Members Present:  
Danielle Cassidy - chairman  
Erin Ritter  
Lawson Barger  
Jamie Chaney  
Amanda Trueblood  
Morgan Crabtree  
leasha Eaton

Members Absent:  
Madison Howell

Next Meeting is scheduled for Nov. 8 @ 4:00

