

**James T. Alton Middle School SBDM Council Meeting  
Monthly Meeting  
Feb. 14, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

- 1. Call to Order: Ms. Cassady called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM**
- 2. Recognition of Visitors: Theresa Ovesen (FRYSC), Daniel Late (Stdt. Council Pres.), Regina Akers (PTSA VP)**
- 3. Opening Business**
  - a. Approval of Agenda - Ms. Ritter made a motion to approve the agenda; Ms. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried by consensus.**
  - b. Approval of December Minutes - There were no December minutes in the binder. Ms. Cassady did email those. She will send them out again and have them added to the binder for next month.**
  - c. Good News:**
    - i. Kohl's Christmas shopping trip**
    - ii. Staff had 2nd Newtech Training in January**
    - iii. EC3 Tours for 8th Grade**
    - iv. All emergency drills performed in January**
    - v. Mr. Sutton - Talked to 8th grade about Pathways**
    - vi. BETA Convention - Noah Dale- 3rd Place, State Beta Convention, Electronically Enhanced Photo; Hailey Caputo- 5th Place State Beta Convention Jewelry Junior;**
    - vii. New Custodian - AJ Smith**
    - viii. Snack Carts -raising money for PTSA and Trojan Store**
    - ix. Daniel's Class - Field Trips to KSP Station 4**
    - x. 8th grade transition meetings**
    - xi. 1:1 Scheduling for high school**
    - xii. PTSA - Candy Grams Sale**
    - xiii. District Learning Walks - PBL**
    - xiv. Wellness Week**
    - xv. PTSA General Meeting**
    - xvi. Guidance Counselor Appreciation Day**
    - xvii. FRYSC Appreciation Day**
    - xviii. Valentine's Dance**
    - xix. SuperBowl Tailgate for Staff**
    - xx. Invention Convention - Ms. Edwards**
    - xxi. Academic team - 3rd @ Regionals w/ several students and FPS going to state competition**
    - xxii. Ellie Leasor - Magnolia Bank Preparing for Success Scholarship**
    - xxiii. Isaac Johnson- All State Band, 2nd Chair Percussionist**
    - xxiv. Coleman's Mission Cancer Drive**
    - xxv. Lego Robotics Competition - Overall: 4th Place Lego Dino Riders; 8th Place The Baboons; Robotics Category: 5th Place Lego Dino Riders; 10th Place The Baboons; Project Category: 3rd Place The Baboons, 7th Place Strawberry Shortcakes; Teamwork Category: 5th Place Strawberry Shortcakes, 10th Place Lego Dino Riders**
    - xxvi. 3rd Region Swimming Competition - Savannah Grimm - 1st Place**

**xxvii. 8th Graders Gavin Spencer & Deyonte Robinson - 2023-24 HMSAC  
All-Tournament Team**

**d. Public Comments**

- i. Theresa Ovesen - FRYSC Coordinator, 2 year program - Ms. Ovesen reported to SBDM about the 2 year FRYSC program at JTA. She reported that the FRYSC hosts a Back to School Fest every year, and the other FRYSC coordinators help each other out. These fests help families get ready for the upcoming school year. Trojan Fest was hosted at North Hardin High School this year. The FRYSC also works with a local church for the Tools for Schools program, which sponsors needy students from every school. They can come and get supplies and 2 new school outfits. This year the HCFRYSCs administered a Youth Risk Behavior Survey. This survey asks students to anonymously comment about different risky behaviors such as drinking, drugs, vaping, etc. We will get the results for JTA once the district data has been disaggregated. We also did a vaping program this year for 7th and 8th graders. Next year it will be for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, and the following year it will be only for 6th graders. The JTA FRYSC also helps 12 JTA students with food insecurity through the backpack program where they send food for the weekend home with students. The Hope Collaborative works with the FRYSC to provide mentors. We currently have 2 mentors that come on Fridays and work with 6 6th graders. They will follow these 6th graders through middle school. The truancy diversion program is helping chronically absent students improve their attendance. We currently have 8 8th graders who go to VGE on Fridays and help 2nd graders with their reading. We just started a bike club through a grant that purchased 10 BMX bikes. The students had to build their own bikes, and Mr. Varela helped out with that. The FRYSC also coordinates counseling for students and helps parents to navigate counseling options for their children. There is currently a waiting list for school-based therapy. Ms. Ovesen then had to get the principal's signature on the report saying that it was presented to SBDM and she agrees to abide by the program's guidelines. Ms. Cassidy thanked Ms. Ovesen for all of the hard work that she does on behalf of JTA and our students. She said that what Ms. Ovesen reported is only a snapshot of the things she really does for the school. We are very lucky to have such a great FRYSC Coordinator.**
- ii. Daniel Late reported the the Student Council has implemented the suggestion box at lunch. So far the biggest suggestion has been to improve the seasoning at lunch by offering salt and pepper. He met with the cafeteria manager, Ms. Harris, and found that we aren't allowed to serve salt because of sodium guidelines, but we can start serving pepper. Mr. Crabtree commented that this would be a great opportunity for the student government to write their Federal Government about amending the health guidelines.**

**4. Planning**

- a. Feb. 16 - PL Day - Looking at school-wide data**
- b. Interviewing math and art teachers for next year. We have two math teachers coming in for interviews tomorrow and an art teacher coming in on Monday (possibly - she hasn't confirmed the time yet).**
- c. April - SBDM Elections - Ms. Cassidy said that according to our Bylaws, if there is a parent organization at the school, then that organization should run the parent SBDM elections. Last year we didn't have a PTSA, so a parent member of SBDM ran the elections. This year our PTSA will run it. We are not allowed to offer guidance on that,**

but Ms. Cassady suggested that Ms. Akers talk to Esther about the best way to run a parent election. She also said that she thought it would be a good idea to time the election around an event that would get parents into the building. That way they can vote while they are here. Ms. Ritter also suggested handing out ballots in the car rider line. Ms. Cassady said that we are required to have a minority on the council. If the parents do not elect a minority, then the teachers have to. If neither entity elects a minority, then we have to hold a special election to elect a minority. In that case, both the parents and the teachers would have to hold special minority elections.

**5. Previous / Ongoing Business**

- a. **Impact KY Working Conditions Survey - Mr. Barger reported on the IMPACT survey teachers took in November. We were one of two middle schools that had enough participation for the survey to count. He stated the results indicate that staff has good confidence in their own abilities to educate all students, and they have confidence that everyone has the best interest of students in mind. The biggest areas for improvement are in resources, Professional Learning, and Emotional Well-Being. Results and anecdotal data both indicate that repairs need to be made to the building and teachers feel like they are spending too much of their own money on supplies. They are also concerned about each other and the stress level of the job, especially considering student behavior is not improving. Teachers are frustrated with not being able to choose their own professional development.**

**6. New Business**

- a. **Emergency Management Plan Policy - Ms. Cassady presented revisions to the Emergency Management Policy. There were several changes to what was required by law to be in the policy, specifically procedures for response to a cardiac emergency and the location of defibrillators being posted. Mr. Barger made a motion to adopt the changes to the policy. Ms. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried by consensus.**
- b. **Winter IReady Report - Ms. Cassady reported on the winter IReady results. The first report only shows growth based on students who are on grade level, which is misleading because we have a lot of students who are 2 or more grade levels behind. If that student comes up, but is still not on grade level, they don't count in the growth numbers. The second report shows the growth of students who are not on grade level. Those numbers show more growth.**

- 7. Adjournment - Ms. Ritter made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Ms. Eaton. Motion carried by consensus. Meeting adjourned at 5:30.**

Members Present:  
Danielle Cassady - chairman  
Erin Ritter  
Lawson Barger  
leasha Eaton  
Morgan Crabtree  
Madison Howell

Members Absent:  
Amanda Trueblood  
Jamie Chaney

Next Meeting is scheduled for Mar. 13 @ 4:00