

James T. Alton Middle School SBDM Council Meeting
Monthly Meeting
Mar. 13, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order - Ms. Cassady called the meeting to order at 4:16**
- 2. Recognition of Visitors: Lucas Geesing (stdt. Council VP) and Daniel Late (stdt. Council Pres.)**
- 3. Opening Business**
 - a. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Barger made a motion to approve the March agenda. Ms. Ritter seconded the motion. Motion was carried by consensus.**
 - b. Approval of February Minutes - Mr. Barger made a motion to approve the February minutes. Ms. Ritter seconded the motion. Motion was carried by consensus.**
 - c. Approval of December Minutes that were missing last month- Mr. Barger made a motion to approve the December minutes. Ms. Trueblood seconded the motion. Motion was carried by consensus.**
 - d. Good News:**
 - i. SRO Appreciation Day**
 - ii. Coleman's Mission**
 - iii. PL Day #3**
 - iv. End of Trimester 2**
 - v. End of Trimester Reward - Bingo. Daniel Late said that the Bingo was fun, but he felt that students should get more than a piece of candy for doing everything they were supposed to do for an entire trimester.**
 - vi. JTA Store**
 - vii. Snack Cart**
 - viii. Club Day**
 - ix. Peer Buddies - Field Trip to EPD station**
 - x. Newtech Leadership Summit - Mr. Barger said this was some of the most beneficial training he has received from Newtech. The focus was on adult learning and helping teachers to improve.**
 - xi. District Leadership Workshop**
 - xii. Kona Ice**
 - xiii. Blue Oval Welcoming Gift Presentation - Lego Mustang signed by Riley Najera and Isaac Johnson**
 - xiv. Isaac Johnson - Tuesday Teen**
 - xv. Several Legislative Pages: Naomi Coe, Madilyn Knapp, Kylie Wells, Karley McKinney, Chase Stump, Grace Russell**
 - xvi. Katlyn Eaton and Hailey Caputo: HC Conservation Awards Writing Contest Winners**
 - xvii. Mr. Rowland invited to the senate floor by Sen. Matt Deneen to honor him for all his hard work on behalf of JTA**
 - xviii. Mr. Clark's science class - field trip to Bernheim**
 - xix. Conrad music - 5th grade instruments**
 - xx. Reality Store - Ms. Howell said that she had her students do a reflection of what they learned from reality store, and the overlapping theme was that students felt that they should really wait to have children until they are financially secure because children are very expensive.**
 - e. Public Comments - Daniel Late and Lucas Geesing presented the student council ideas to SBDM. They feel strongly that we should have more fun things for students**

throughout the week and month as a reward for good grades and/or behavior. They recommended popcorn and a movie, a PJ day, and outside activities. Ms. Ritter said that the PBIS committee had been discussing many of these same things, and she liked the idea of tying these rewards to behavior. Ms. Howell suggested allowing students to wear PJs for good grades instead of tying it to behavior. Ms. Trueblood said that some students legitimately struggle with grades, and it isn't because they aren't trying. She would prefer these types of rewards not be tied to grades. The council suggested maybe doing rewards for both good grades and behavior. That way students can be recognized for the different good things they are doing. Ms. Howell suggested that we also do a reward for attendance and maybe the PJ day could be for that. The council was agreed that these are all great suggestions and will refer them to the PBIS committee for implementation.

4. Planning

- a. Interviewing teachers for next year - there will be another math teacher interview this Friday at 4 PM
- b. Master Schedule for next year - Ms. Cassady presented 2 drafts of the Master Schedule for next year to the staff on Monday to get feedback. Ms. Ritter said that she had been talking to staff about the two different versions, and they expressed concern over parent conferences being harder when all team members do not have common planning. Ms. Cassady said that the schedule was made so that all team members' planning periods were back-to-back so that conferences could be scheduled at the end of one and the beginning of the other. That way parents can still see all team members. Mr. Barger said that others expressed concern over the logistics of things like Snack Cart and being able to conference about student behavior with all team members. Ms. Cassady shared that those conversations are not long ones, and teams should be able to have those conversations either before or after school, or in the hallway in between classes. She also said that our schedule will say a lot about what we value, and while behavior is important, we have to start putting instruction as the main focus. Both schedules are good, but it is important to remember that when we get something, we often have to give up something. When we give up team planning (a time to discuss behavior and have an easier snack cart schedule), we get content planning, which will allow teachers to regularly collaborate with other teachers who teach the same thing they do. This can be a very powerful tool to increase student learning. Teachers will submit feedback to Ms. Cassady through email by Friday, March 22.
- c. Board meeting at JTA on March 21
- d. SBDM Elections in April - parents can seek re-election according to by-laws. The parent election will be on March 26. Mr. Barger said that he would contact Mr. Rowland about running the SBDM teacher elections again this year. The council was all in favor of this.

5. New Business

- a. CSIP
 - i. Section 6 - allocations. Ms. Cassady explained that while we did not lose any board allocations for staffing next year, we did take a 10% cut in Title I funding, and our PPA has also been cut from \$115/student to \$110/student. Because of this we can no longer afford to pay for 2 teacher positions out of Title I. The only logical decision was to cut an 8th grade science position. We are fortunate that our 7th grade class will be small next year and won't need as many sections of science, so we can actually split one teacher to teach both 7th and 8th grade science content. Mr. Barger said that he understands the

decision and agrees that it was the most logical thing to do. However, he expressed frustration with losing a science teacher and said that he hopes this is a stop gap measure. While 8th grade science is not an assessed area in middle school, it does serve a very valuable purpose, and that is to prepare students for high school science. Ms. Cassady agreed with this sentiment.

- ii. **Progress monitoring of CSIP -** Because the school improvement plan is a living document, we can still amend it. Ms. Cassady asked the council to consider adding social emotional learning and character education to section 5, objective 1: School Climate. This will allow us to use some Title I funds to purchase a curriculum to help students with their growing social emotional developmental needs. She looked at two programs: 2nd Steps and Character Strong. They are both researched based programs, but she is in favor of Character Strong because it is a little less expensive, and East Hardin is currently using it, and they like it. Mr. Barger made a motion to amend the CSIP to reflect this change. Ms. Trueblood seconded the motion. Motion carried by consensus.
- b. **New Hires -** We recently hired Samantha Trieschman as a 7th grade math teacher and Adam Clark as the 80th percentile teacher in RA.
- c. **Adjournment -** Mr. Barger made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Ms. Ritter. Motion carried by consensus. Meeting adjourned at 5:16.

Members Present:

Danielle Cassady - chairman
Erin Ritter
Lawson Barger
Amanda Trueblood
Morgan Crabtree
Madison Howell

Members Absent:

Iesha Eaton
Jamie Chaney

Next Meeting is scheduled for April 10 @ 4:00