

**School Community Council Meeting Minutes - January 9, 2024 3:00 PM**  
**PJHS Library**

**Parties Present:** Kevin Mecham, Katie Miller, Travis Young, Laura Wright, Zulma Pitman, Allison Booth, Stephanie Riggs, and Jen Gasser

**Parties Absent:** Tim Mendenhall and Tammy Halcrow

**Matters Discussed:**

- Pledge of Allegiance conducted by Laura Wright
- Discussion of the proposal for '24-'25
  - Mr. Mecham started the discussion by explaining that we will be going over this year's improvement plan and determining if we need to make any tweaks or changes. He explained that we have about \$160,000 to spend. He further explained that we usually make math and reading a part of the goal because the data is available to show growth or no growth.
  - The area of ELL still needs improvement but we are making some strides.
  - The question of "Is this where this money goes? Into math, reading, and ELL?" The response given is Yes. A discussion on how reading will affect everything in every class and it even affects behavior was conducted.
  - What are we doing right now? In English classes, students are taking a reading assessment called CAPTI. CAPTI is a diagnostic that assesses 5 areas of reading including word recognition, vocabulary, morphology, sentence processing, reading efficiency (fluency) and comprehension. The goal after assessing is to turn silent sustained reading into small group instruction based on the needs of individual students. Suzanne Kimball, Trent Mikesell, and Rachel Neeley are helping our teachers this year for small group instruction.
  - In regards to action item #3: Provide time and opportunity for collaborating and training the discussion was as follows:
    - Question: Is training teachers where the money goes to? Answer: Yes. We use money to pay any outside trainers that come in. We also will use this money for supplies when necessary.
    - The council was good with training as long as the training is provided by someone who knows what they are doing comes in and does the training rather than only collaborating with other grade-level teachers.
    - Question: How do we do small groups for math? Answer: We aren't sure. It is harder to do small groups for math than it is for reading and is something we would for sure need some training on.
  - The parents on the council wanted to let us know that make-up days in classes are largely unproductive-especially when done all on the same day right before a vacation like Christmas Break. A discussion about being able to move on because of semester classes and grading systems took place.

- In regards to action item #2: High quality digital learning and access to 21st instructional technology the discussion was as follows:
  - A general discussion about the Brutal Facts was conducted. We do Brutal Facts with the teachers at the end of every school year. During this discussion, we look at the school and have open and honest discussions about the changes necessary. This year, Brutal Facts decided that we would stay a one-to-one Chromebook school and we needed to keep enough money in the budget for new Chromebooks.
  - Question: What makes one-to-one better over having a class set? Answer: Management of the Chromebooks, time, and the ability to fix broken Chromebooks.
- Through this discussion, we realized that we needed to add an action plan for Capti on our School Improvement plan.
- In regards to action item #1: Improve student access to additional support particularly in ELL and SpEd classes the discussion was as follows:
  - Schools are allotted so many FTE's. FTE is a full time employee. With Trustland funds, we employ 2 extra FTE and an extra ELL technician.
  - We have added a new English class this year designed for new English Speakers. We are seeing progress with these students.
    - Question: Do we have parent support for this class? Answer: We have received no complaints about students being in this class and we have seen an increase in student academic success.
  - A discussion on how when a person knows their native language well, the better the person learns a new language. We offer a Heritage Class where students study their native language and transition to studying English.
- Mr. Mecham Proposes that we keep these same goals in next year's School Improvement Plan. The Council will discuss it further in our next meeting.
- The question about improving math came up again. Mr. Mecham explained that math teachers are very aware of their math scores. They have been attending district training on math instruction. We also discussed how math teachers are increasing their capacity as a team and that has moved the dial in a positive direction. We are focusing on students becoming mathematical thinkers versus doers and providing evidence of teachers guiding students versus doing it for them.
  - A question was asked if students are coming into Jr. High with low math scores. Answer: Yes. It is a trickle effect and if they are behind in any grade, it affects all grades.
  - SpEd math is seeing improvements. We have added a stretch math class for students who are SpEd but are almost to grade level.
- The Council was again advised that we will seek approval from them on the next School Improvement Plan down the road.

**Votes Taken:**

Motion to Adjourn: Laura Wright

Second to the motion: Stephanie Riggs

Next meeting will be February 13, 2024