

**Jefferson Middle School Council Minutes
October 29, 2008**

The Jefferson Middle School Council met in regular session on October 29, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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| Chairperson: | (TBA) |
| Principal: | Howard McGlennen |
| Teacher Representatives: | Carol Ann Knight and Lindy Pals |
| Business Representatives: | Jason Waddel (Martin Marietta) Jeff Blair (First Commerce Bank) |
| Parent Representatives: | Wayne Ansley, Marrista Weaver, Tammy Kelly, Rusty Wood, Kristy Eubanks, Angie Thompson, Paula Morgan |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA:

Mr. McGlennen made a motion to accept the minutes from October 29, 2008, and Lindy Pals seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Test Scores for 2007-08

JMS made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all three areas: test participation, academic performance, and 2nd indicator (attendance). All subgroups meet AYP as well. Areas of improvement: mathematics for students with disabilities and moving more students from meeting to exceeding expectations (numbers are static over 3 years). Points of success: Reading and Language Arts both well above the bar, attendance dropped from 5% last year to 2.5%, JMS ranked #1 system for 7th grade math and LA/Reading, and 2nd for 6th and 8th grade math. JMS was 25% above the state average in 8th grade mathematics. JMS is also one of the 13 schools of 180 that have made AYP every year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Training Session for New and Old Members

The JMS school board's overall emphasis is school improvement and student achievement. The board is an advisory committee; they advise but do not set policy. Our main focus for the 2008-09 school year is improvements in communication. Mr. McGlennen will assist by setting agendas, designating location and meeting times, and providing communication between the JMS board and the superintendent.

8th Grade Graduation Alternative

Mrs. Christy Potts, representing the 8th grade teachers, made a motion to change the 8th grade graduation procedures:

- Problems with 8th grade graduation:
 1. Due to our growth, we do not have a facility large enough to hold our students and their families. The new performing arts center left over 100 people standing (over capacity).
 2. Our system is continuing to grow, so this is a problem that we will continue to face each year.
 3. We would have to limit the number of people that could be in attendance due to fire codes—no more than 2 people per student.
 4. We are concerned that we are taking away from high school graduation.
 5. It was brought to our attention that both the elementary school and the academy are looking at not holding graduations this year. We would like to support their effort and make receiving a diploma the students' senior year more meaningful.

- Graduation alternative arrangements:
 1. In lieu of a graduation ceremony, the eighth grade team would like to have an honors ceremony and a dance.
 2. The honors ceremony would be held on the next-to-last day of school at 1:00 (May 21st).
 3. The ceremony would focus on academic honors as well as perfect attendance. We would also like to implement the Howard McGlennen Award of Excellence, voted on by the entire middle school faculty.
 4. An 8th grade only dance would be held the same evening as the Honors Ceremony in the JMS gym or cafeteria.

Election of Officers

- Tammy Kelly, co-president – nominated by Ansley, seconded by Thompson
- Kristy Eubanks, vice-president – nominated by Kelly, seconded by Ansley
- Lindy Pals, secretary – nominated by Kelly, seconded by Blair

Dates and Times for 2008-09 Meetings

- January 13th, 2009 – 8:00 a.m.
- March 10th, 2009 – 8:00 a.m.
- May 15th, 2009 – 8:00 a.m.

OTHER CONCERNS:

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

JMS School Council will meet again on January 13, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT:

Wayne Ansley made the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Tammy Kelly. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.