



**Mountain Ridge Junior High**  
School Community Council Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2017

**In Attendance:**

Mark Whitaker	Lisa Gallagher	Heather Morgan
Michelle Bagley	Amber Bonner	Ashley Berg
Sherry Kramer	Jaime Ward	Amber Gardiner
Marie Pavich	Jose Carrillo	Karen Rasmussen
Robyn Rhoton	Tiraje Earnshaw	Briawna Hugh

**Excused:** Ryan Nield, Misty Purser, Joyce Harrison

**Guests:** Jamie Wride

**Co-Chair Heather Morgan** conducted the meeting. She welcomed the new and returning committee members, asking each to speak briefly about themselves by way of introduction.

**Principal Mark Whitaker** led a short discussion on the duties and responsibilities of SCC members. Heather Morgan and Lisa Gallagher will continue this year to act as SCC co-chairs. Co-chair responsibilities include taking turns conducting the meetings, making sure the meetings run according to Robert's Rules of Order, creating agendas, working closely with administration analyzing and gathering data, etc. Heather Morgan and Principal Whitaker will attend a district training meeting in October.

The primary purpose of the SCC is to determine how Trustland funds allocated to MRJH from the State of Utah are spent. SCC members shall act as a cohesive team representing both parents and faculty/staff, as an advisory committee regarding school issues, and as community liaisons.

Members were asked to approve their contact information required by law to be posted online on our MRJH school website.

SCC parent member Kara Edwards no longer has a student at MRJH and has decided not to finish her final term on our SCC. We were unaware of her intention until after our SCC elections were held. Mr. Whitaker offered several possibilities for filling her vacant seat. The position could be filled by offering it to the candidate who had the next most votes from the election, by member recommendation and invitation, or by going back to community members to see if anyone is interested in serving. Amber Gardiner moved to offer the position to the next candidate with the most votes, Jonathan Keller. Marie

Pavich seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion was unanimously carried. Shelly May will email Jonathan Keller and offer him the seat vacated by Kara Edwards.

Marie Pavich made a motion that if Mr. Keller is unable or unwilling to serve, the position will be offered to the next candidate with the most votes. Amber Gardiner seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion was unanimously carried. Mr. Keller ultimately accepted the position and is now a member.

**Mr. Whitaker** asked the committee members when they wanted to hold this year's meetings. A brief discussion was held, and all members agreed that the third Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. was most convenient, with the exception of October's meeting. That meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> in the faculty room.

**Heather Morgan** made a motion for this year's SCC meetings to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, at 1:30 pm in the MRJH media center, with the exception of the Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in the faculty room. The motion was seconded by Robyn Rhoton, all were in favor and the motion was unanimously carried.

The meeting schedule was set, as follows.

Tuesday, October 24, 2017 (faculty room)  
Thursday, November 16, 2017 (faculty room)  
Thursday, January 18, 2018  
Thursday, February 15, 2018  
Thursday, March 15, 2018  
Thursday, April 19, 2018 (if necessary)

We do not yet have our Trustland funds projected allotment. Mr. Whitaker reviewed our school goals, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Our SCC has invested heavily in teacher FTE to decrease class sizes. We are proud to report that our class sizes are among the smallest in the district. Additional funding priorities include salaries for hourly student advocates and achievement center staff, technology, and professional development. Last year, our SCC determined that any additional money we may receive above our budgeted amount will go toward technology or additional certified teachers. A more detailed discussion of the budget was tabled until final allocation numbers are provided to us.

The floor was opened to receive community comments and concerns.

**SCC Member Amber Bonner** commented that it was difficult to attend back to school night at more than one school when they are all scheduled for the same night and/or time. This is good information to share at the next cluster meeting.

Community Guest Jamie Wride shared her concerns regarding standards based grading. This grading practice has been implemented over the past few years by some



MRJH teachers, primarily in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes. She is concerned that implementing standards based grading in 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes will negatively impact high school transcripts and future college scholarship/admission opportunities.

Traditional grading is based on a scale of 1-100 points which accrue and are converted to a letter grade. The grading scale is determined by each individual teacher.

Standards based grading is based on mastery of concepts and standards and is often measured on a scale of 1-4, with 3 representing mastery.

As a school, MRJH strives for authentic, relevant learning. Current traditional grading practices do not allow for this. Formative feedback and assessment is vital, and our three pillars of commitment are providing a positive climate, quality instruction, and strong student support and intervention. At issue is standards based grading (mastery of concepts) vs. traditional grading (point grabs).

The use of standards based grading is initiated by teachers and endorsed by Administration. It is not a school-wide policy and never will be as teachers are the decision makers when it comes to their grading practices. Though the SCC has no authority to change teacher grading, the SCC does have the power to discuss, advise, recommend, and gather feedback.

If implemented systemically, with parent input, standards based grading can be successful but there should be checks and balances in place so that students are not negatively impacted.

A Standards Based Grading Sub-Committee was formed to gather and present information at a future SCC meeting. Parent SCC members Briawna Hugh, Tiraje Earnshaw, and Heather Morgan, and community member Jamie Wride, would like to be a part of this sub-committee. Teacher SCC members Jose Carrillo, Karen Rasmussen, and Michelle Bagley are also interested. Mr. Whitaker will reach out to additional teachers to see if they would like to join in the discussion.

The members were thanked for their attendance and participation. Members who have items they wish added to next month's agenda, please email them to Mr. Whitaker, Heather Morgan, Lisa Gallagher, or Shelly May. With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled SCC meeting on **Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the Mountain Ridge Junior High faculty room.**

## **Proposed 2017-18 Trustlands Goals**

1. Math--We want to increase our SAGE test scores by 5% each year.
2. English--We also want to improve our SAGE general language arts & writing scores by 5% each year.
3. Reading—We want to identify our struggling 7<sup>th</sup> grade readers and ensure they are reading at grade level by the end of the year with a lexile score of 850 or higher.
4. General Academics—We want to Reduce the number of failing grades and increase the number of exceptional grades through continued emphasis on work completion and intervention for all levels of students. We would like fewer than 5% of our students to receive a failing grade each quarter and we would like 60% of our students to make the honor roll with a 3.7 or higher each quarter.