



Parents Council Meeting
December 6, 2017 • 4:00 PM - JWMS Library

MINUTES

In attendance: Bill Duffy, Susan Strecker, Sarah Rector, Kerry Smith, Abbi Rice

1. Calendar - Reviewed upcoming events in December on school calendar.
2. Courage to Speak Foundation - Reviewed CTSF student assembly and parent presentation on November 28th. Parents noted that the presentation was informative and asked for additional programming to learn more about local issues and efforts. Dr. Levy will be informed of this request.
3. News 8- News 8 was at JWMS on 12/6 for their series “What’s Right in Schools”. They interviewed Mr. Voitovich and Mr. Gostkiewicz, and filmed students who participate in The Farm activity. The program will air on News 8 on Thursday, December 14th, at 5:30 pm. It will also be available online at News 8 after that broadcast.
4. Cafe TV - Thank you to the Region 4 Education Foundation for providing a grant for JW to purchase a TV for the cafeteria. The TV will allow the cafeteria to become a larger classroom or meeting area, share information with students during breakfast and lunch times, and support district events.
5. CMEA Auditions - It was reported that 17 of JW’s 19 chorus students, who tried out for CT Music Education Association’s Southern Region Festival, were selected to participate. 3 students were recognized as ‘Top Vocals’ in their area, including one with a perfect score. Band tryouts were not public yet. Students chosen for the festival will participate along with other middle school students in the Southern Region performance in early March. Congratulations to all selected students.
6. Committees
 - a. Staff Appreciation - Teacher Appreciation Holiday Cookies, Dec. 18th
 - b. ICS (School contact: Peter Foxen) / Amy Petrone will chair this committee.
 - c. Cave Hill Picnic (School contact: Kathryn Ryan) / Susan Strecker will chair this committee.
 - d. 8th Grade Dance (School contacts: Carol Gates, Mary Jane Maltezos) / Linda Bronson and Vicki Harris will co-chair this committee.

7. Critical, Creative Problem Solving
 - a. Mr. Duffy shared information about the district's initiative to focus on Critical, Creative Problem Solving. Teachers are in the initial stages of determining criteria to be measured (Identifying a problem, determining potential solutions, selecting and attempting one of the potential solutions, reflecting on the process) and redesigning lessons to challenge students in this process. All schools in R4 have the same initiative to coordinate K-12.

8. Next Meeting: February 7th, 4:00