

**School Site Council
John Adams Middle School
Minutes October 26, 2023**

The meeting is called to order 4:04 pm

Attendance:

Katherine Newall (parent), Martha Chacon (Principal), Anne Watts (Classified), Nancy Gutierrez (Certified), Laurel Cohn (student), Jennifer Metcalfe (parent), and Gabrielle Hernandez (guest) - cannot vote. There will be an opportunity for discussion at the end of the meeting

Laurel Cohn, 8th grade student representative, is introduced to the team. She was elected yesterday by the student body.

We reviewed the bylaws to ensure that we can meet virtually. The statement below is from the state website.

May SSC meetings be held virtually?

Yes. SSC meetings may be conducted remotely via any virtual platform accessible on participants' mobile phones, tablets, and/or computers in any manner that complies with the requirements of Greene Act (EC Section 35147), which includes the flexibility of meeting either virtually or in person.

Will always keep a link.

We need a secretary for SSC. Katherine explains the role. Anytime we take a vote, approve minutes, propose a new action item. Laurel volunteers to be secretary. Katherine nominates Laurel Cohn for secretary and Jennifer Metcalfe seconds the vote. All members present elect Laurel.

Add to the next agenda about mental health supports specifically PTSA speaker/parent ed to support the community.

Minutes for September 28, 2023, are approved

Dr. Eure presents the JAMS School Safety Plan

Nancy Gutierrez joins the meeting at 4:24 pm.

Dr. Eure presents the highlights of the safety plan. Child abuse, disaster, suspensions, a lot of policies and procedures, discrimination and harassment.

Jennifer Metcalfe asks what is the dress code. Dr. Eure gives the history and evolution of the dress code at JAMS. It is no longer called a Dress Code instead it is called a Dress Attire Guidelines. The rules have shifted and there is awareness of inequities in Dress Codes. This shift was student-led. I share that we've worked with our staff and students to create dress attire guidelines.

How adults speak to students about dress code is a concern. Student voice regarding inconsistency in enforcing rules. There is a huge change from period 1 which is relaxed about all rules to period 2 teacher which is super strict. Some teachers pick up the phone in the middle of class. Staff are working on discipline to move away from punitive to restorative practices.

Zakiya joins the meeting at 4:35 pm.

How do we create a safe environment and create spaces where children are well? Mental Health supports. Many of the underlying issues that lead to violence and unsafe situations are a result of mental health issues.

- Counselors (individual check-ins; student groups)
- Mental Health Counselor
- School Counseling Interns
- Social Work Interns
- SEWI supported by LACOE
- St. John's counseling group
- Parenting groups
- Family Services of Santa Monica (1st year they are participating on campus); will also be doing a parenting group online and a Spanish parenting group
- Wellness Lounge
- Beat the Odds 7th grade group mentoring WRMC 5th graders; healing drum circles; Katherine shares her experience with drum circles; Zakiya shares that PTSA did a wellness event for our students in September. Drums were donated by Ping Ho and donated by one former JAMS family.
- LACOE – provided \$30K to provide mental health/wellness spaces for students
- Student Affinity Groups: (Asian Student Union, Black ESTEAM, LGBTQIA+)
- Hazel Health (telehealth)
- NCS3

Katherine asks questions about safety. Derogatory speech – what is the conversation around hate speech? Teaching children how to speak to one another and being mindful that we might disagree. Hate speech and microaggressions. Zakiya chimes in on a personal experience on microaggressions and how it affect various aspects of someone's life. How are we intentional at JAMS about addressing hate speech and microaggressions?

Laurel chimes in and states that middle school students are insecure but they are. Sometimes something is said and they will take it the wrong way. Katherine shares that the results of the pandemic have affected kids. Not in person has affected how students interpret body language. Jennifer – words have an impact; what you say and how you say it. Dr. Eure shares about the impact of language and the impact it has on kids. Laurel shares that she is half-Asian and had a verbal encounter with a former friend who commented on her race.

Homeless and foster youth organization. Parent is surprised that we have a population.

Ms. Chacon shares about the current intervention programs. Writing, reading, math, EL and discusses schedule changes.

AM PE – not meeting instructional minutes
Laurel shares her ideal schedule – hybrid.

The goal is to poll students and get parent input. Laurel suggests having flex on Friday are engaged. Zakiya asks questions regarding the hybrid schedule. Parents prefer the early outs. The article is being written on late start vs. early release and it was evenly split.

Future dates: November 16, December 14, January 25, February 22, March 14, April 25, May 30.

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.