

Douglas County School District
Douglas Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Jacks Valley Elementary School
701 Jacks Valley Road, Carson City, NV 89705
Monday, December 4, 2017
5:30 PM

APPROVED

Minutes

1/22/2018

Minutes

Present:

Trustees:

Carey Kangas, School Board Member

Personnel:

Rommy Cronin-Mack, Executive Director – Area 3

Marty Swisher, AAHS/JHS/ADULT Principal

Pam Gilmartin, JVES Principal

Blaine Spires, JVES/GES Vice-Principal

Bob Been, CVMS Principal

Susan McNeall, SES Principal

Parent Representatives:

Amy Carter, CVMS Parent

Sophia Roussakis, MES Parent

Cassie Prouty, MES Parent

Dawn Wood-Muscott, JVES Parent

Stephanie Alvarado, CCMES/AAHS Parent

Amy Roby, CCMES Parent

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Cronin-Mack called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

2. Public Comment

Mrs. Cronin-Mack called for public comment. None was given.

3. Approve Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the May 1, 2017 meeting and the minutes for the October 2, 2017 meeting were both approved.

4. Work Session

Mrs. Cronin-Mack welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Parent Involvement Highlights from JVES

Mrs. Pam Gilmartin, JVES principal, and Dawn Wood-Muscott, JVES PTSO president, presented an overview of family engagement efforts at JVES. Mrs. Gilmartin stated that JVES is good at providing many family activities at the school. These activities provide community building and establish the school as welcoming and inviting to parents. The activities highlighted were:

- Holiday Fair
- Ice Cream Social
- Family Breakfast
- Fall Festival
- Halloween Parade
- ESL Family Nights
- STEM Night
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Sock Hop
- Food for Thought Nights – Grade Level Specific
 - Growth Mindset
 - Read Aloud
- Band Concert/Art Fair
- Academic Award Ceremony

Additionally, JVES has a Block E program, in which students earn points by attending the family events and being involved in their community.

Grading – What more do we want to know?

- Mrs. Cronin-Mack led the review and discussion of current Nevada law, DCSD policy, and DCSD administrative regulation related to grading.
- Bob Been, principal from CVMS, reported that at his school he studied the grades assigned at his school and found that there seemed to be a disconnect with the grades students are earning and how they perform on standardized tests.
- The discussion then was that classroom assignments and classroom assessments should be related to standardized tests.
- Some expressed that they felt grades should reflect what students know and can do.
- AR 513 was reviewed in detail:
 - On page 1, the Grading of K-2 was discussed. Parents shared that the number system is confusing especially because most parents grew up receiving A, B, C, D, and F, so many translate the numbers to reflect these more typical letter grades.
 - Parents interpret a “0”, which should mean “not assessed”, as an “F”.
 - It was also shared that the “2” was confusing because parents were not sure if the content would be retaught to their students.
 - When discussing the Grading of 3-6 on page 1, it was noted that there remains confusion about the “W” and that since Infinite Campus does not record the W, when students transfer to other schools, this information does not easily transfer with them.

- On page 2, Mrs. Cronin-Mack shared how the weighted grades work for the bonus points on grade point averages and explained to the committee the Jump Start program.
- Finally, it was noted that the language in the Administrative Regulation that provides guidance on how teachers should grade is very general. It is found in the middle of the page on page 2.
- Committee members requested that more specific language be developed that will create more consistency amongst teachers who are teaching the same subject and content.
- The committee asked Mrs. Cronin-Mack to research what other districts provide with regards to guidance around grading for teachers. She stated she would gather that information and send it out for review prior to the next meeting on January 22, 2018.
- Mrs. Cronin-Mack reminded the committee members that the next meeting would be held at 5:30 PM at Gardnerville Elementary School.

5. Public Comment #2

Mrs. Cronin-Mack called for public comment. None was given.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.