

***Mercer County Senior High
SBDM Council
Special Called Meeting
March 27th, 2023***

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tatum at 4:02 p.m. in the conference room. The following members of the council were in attendance:

Present : Spencer Tatum, Principal Ekambaram Elumalai, Teacher Andrew Ashford, Teacher Kendra Rowland, Teacher Rep John Huffman, Parent Rep Patrick Branam, Parent Rep Mike Floro, SBDM Secretary	Absent:
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Agenda Approval

Motion to accept: K. Rowland, second by J. Huffman
Motion was approved by consensus.

New Business

- Mr. Tatum presented the first item of new business about reduction in staffing allocation for the 23-24 SY. He revisited the numbers from March regular SBDM meeting which brought about the staffing allocation recommendation to cut 1 English and 1 Social Studies Certified position for the 23-24 SY.
- The floor was open for discussion on this matter
- Mr. Huffman asked the council how the allocation numbers were given to SBDM from the BOE.
- Mr. Tatum explained that each projected grade enrollment is divided by 31, based on KRS 157.360. He also explained that each total 4 grade projected enrollment is divided by 51. He explained that our projected enrollment is 766 for 2023-24. That number divided by 31 and 51 respectively, gives a projected certified staffing allocation of 24.71 and 15.02. That give MCSHS a projected allocation of 40 certified + 1 principal.
- Mr. Branam expressed concern that classes would be too big by cutting two certified positions. He said he would not vote on cutting 2 positions. He said that is the Board of Education's problem to figure out how to keep these 2 positions. Mr. Branam emphasized that he would hate to cut a position and then say later, need to hire more teachers, when there is a teaching shortage. He recommended that our SBDM go to the next BOE meeting and ask for no cuts. He further added that we've cut a lot for our kids, school psychologists, social workers, special education consultants, etc. He said he has a job to represent the students and parents. He feels these 2 cuts would directly relate to a decrease in performance and safety. He concluded that if our school district continues down the path it is on, we will end up with class sizes of 31-32 students, tons of new sports facilities, and a small number of teachers to educate our children. He said as the voice of the parents and community, I will not budge on my decision. The bare minimum is not enough for our students and I will go to the BOE and voice my concerns. He said it is a proven fact that smaller class sizes do better. He asked, has anyone ever went to the board and said no, we are not abiding by your allocation? He said by simply agreeing and pushing a recommendation from the BOE on staffing allocation through, we lose our voice.
- Mr. Huffman said he wanted to make it known that he disagrees with the recommendation as well.
- Mr. Branam said he would rather see an assistant principal cut than a teacher.

- Mr. Tatum explained that we are given allocations by the BOE based on KRS statute and it was the job of the council to figure out the best way to meet the recommended allocation.
- After discussion Mrs. Rowland made a motion to accept the recommendation of reducing 1 Social Studies teacher and 1 English Teacher. Mr. Ashford seconded the motion. However, there was not consensus on the motion.
- Mr. Tatum said that the SBDM would dismiss until he could get further clarification on how to proceed if there was not consensus.
- The second item on new business “2023-24 Master Schedule” was not visited because it was contingent on the staffing allocation being passed.

Public Comments

-none

The next regular monthly meeting will be in the conference room on April 17th at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Tatum said he would notify council when the next special called meeting would be held after he gets clarification from KASC on how to handle the issue of not having “consensus”. The SBDM council was adjourned at 4:44 p.m. The motion was made by J. Huffman and seconded by P. Branam. Motion was approved by consensus.

Submitted by Mike Floro, recording secretary