

***Mercer County Senior High
SBDM Council
Special Called Meeting
March 29th, 2023***

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tatum at 4:01 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: Dr. Eka, second by A. Ashford
Motion was approved by consensus.

New Business

- Mr. Tatum brought up the new business item of staffing allocations for the 23-24 SY.
- Mr. Tatum said that he contacted KASC and asked, How is consensus defined? He also said he revisited MCSHS SBDM bylaws from the BOE. He said KASC told him if a SBDM cannot reach consensus (all in agreement), that the motion goes to a majority vote, and majority of the voting members of council will carry the motion.
- Mr. Tatum presented to council the current year (2022-23 SY) course master schedule with class size figures written in by each course. He then presented the proposed next year (2023-23 SY) master schedule with class size figures written in by each course. He pointed out that by cutting two certified positions, there would only be 3 courses out of over 100 with a projected enrollment of over 30 students. Most courses were in the 24-28 student range.
- Mr. Branam asked the council again what is the impact of cutting an assistant principal versus cutting a certified teacher.
- Mr. Tatum went through the roles of what each of the 3 Assistant Principals do at MCSHS.
- Mr. Branam explained that he has talked with a lot of people today in the community that had feelings of not being supported. He said we are not where we need to be. He said we need to invest more money into education. He said he feels we need to give up the idea of getting rid of a teacher and get rid of an administrator.
- There were several discussions by council about the situation and again not following the BOE's recommendation. Mr. Tatum told members of council that they are more than welcome to move forward on presenting their argument about declining the recommendation of cutting two staff certified staff members.
- Kendra Rowland made the motion again to follow Mr. Tatum's recommendation to reduce certified staff by 1 Social Studies teacher and 1 English teacher. Dr. Eka seconded that motion. Mr. Branam and Mr. Huffman both said they were opposed to the motion. Dr. Eka, A. Ashford, and K. Rowland said they were in agreement with the motion. Without consensus, the council voted 3-2 in favor of following the recommendation to cut 1 Social Studies and 1 English Position.
- Mr. Tatum proceeded to the second item on the new business list, 2023-24 Master Schedule. Mr. Tatum handed out to council a spreadsheet with proposed classes and the number of sections

needed for the 23-24 SY. He said that with the staffing allocation met for the 23-24 SY, the council needed to pass the proposed master schedule so counselors could start scheduling students. K. Rowland was the 1st on the motion and J. Huffman was the second on the motion. Motion passed by consensus.

Public Comments

-Joe Smith addressed the question asked by P. Branam earlier in the meeting about the impact of cutting an assistant principal versus cutting a teacher. Mr. Smith said that if you have 1 student causing a behavior problem, it can ruin it for the entire class, regardless of whether that class has 10 students in it or 32 students in it. He said under our current model of operating with 3 assistant principals, whenever he calls for an administrator, it is seconds, not minutes, before a principal arrives at his classroom. That saves his entire class from losing a period of instruction.

The next regular monthly meeting will be in the conference room on April 17th at 4:00 p.m. The SBDM council was adjourned at 5:05 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