



MINUTES

Harney Middle School

School Organization Team Meeting

Meeting in person: HMS Room 602

February 3, 3:00 PM

Start 3:03 PM – End 4:06 PM

HMS SOT Google Meet Link:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/wjr-qeuo-hkg>

Or dial: (US) +1 646-653-9436 PIN: 484 937 310#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/wjr-qeuo-hkg?pin=3741430469990>

Jessica Cox, Parent member

Bertha Luna, Parent member

Ashlee Merback, Parent member

Darrell Shakespear, Parent member

Tara Bunker, Teacher

Tod Young, Teacher

Kathy Banegas, Support Professional

Eli Merback, Student

Phongsavanh Skvarek, Principal

The agenda for this meeting is posted publicly on the school website at harneymms.org.

The School Organization Team may rearrange agenda items, combine two or more agenda items for consideration, and remove an agenda item or delay discussion related to agenda items at any time.

Speakers wishing to speak during the public comment period for this meeting may call 702-799-3240 or register in person immediately prior to the start of the meeting. Speakers will be called in the order in which they registered. No one may register for another person or give up their time to another person. Generally, a person wishing to speak during the comment period will be allowed two (2) minutes to address the School Organization Team. Speakers may also submit additional comments in writing.

Speakers are asked to be respectful of each other, team members, the principal, and school district staff. Speakers who are disruptive will be asked to leave the meeting.

1.0 Welcome

1.1 Member attendance: Present – Phongsavanh Skvarek, Sue Thurman, Julie Brown, Shira Wise, Darrell Shakespear, Cody Pritchett, Tara Bunker, Jessica Cox (attended via internet), Megan Farnsworth, Ashlee Merback, Eli Merback, Kathy Banegas, Tod Young

2.0 Previous Meeting

2.1 Approval of minutes for January 18, 2026 – Minutes Approved

2.2 Follow-up on action/outstanding items - None

3.0 New Items

3.1 Plan of Operations (Skvarek)

- 2026-2027 Budget Review and member vote – Presentation by Ms. Skvarek regarding year over year comparison of the 2025-2026 Budget, which is \$14,595,598.16. The 2026-2027 Proposed Budget is \$10,294,463.87. We have also had a reduction in Title 1 Funding for the 2026-2027 School Year. In prior years, Title 1 Funding has been a source of funding to reduce class size. Our class size will increase with in the 2026-2027 school year. To achieve new budget proposed numbers, 16 positions will be eliminated. All Secretarial positions will drop from an 8-hour work day, to a 7-hour work day. Those in 11 month paid positions will drop to 10 month paid positions. Harney M.S. will go to a 6 period day, from a 7 period day -- giving students only one elective. As part of the 2026-2027 Budget, there was a group discussion regarding the proposed teacher/classroom/subject cuts. The primary concern is that elective classes (Band, Orchestra, Choir, Mariachi, STUCO) often keep students involved in the school and coming to school. It is

noted, Band, Orchestra, Choir and Mariachi will not be cut. At this time, STUCO is undecided. Parents, Megan Farnsworth, and Ashley Merback, noted the importance of STUCO, and student, Eli Merback, also gave information as to the importance of student involvement and belonging, for students in STUCO. Parents also brought up the importance of consideration for clubs and activities, as pieces to involve students and keep students in school. Ms. Skvarek and Ms. Thurman also reported on a proposed start and stop time for the 2026-2027 school year. There was a call for approval of the 2026-2027 Budget Proposal as outlined by Ms. Skvarek, the vote to approve was unanimous.

3.2 Staffing Updates (Skvarek)

We welcome Ms. Michelle Ballinger in our Special Education Instructional Facilitator (SEIF) for our current school year. Regarding the 2026-2027 school year, the following 16 positions will be eliminated: ELL Teacher (2); PE Teacher (1); SSIF (3); CSM (1); IA (3); OSII (1); SBT (2); SPTA (2); Art (1). Note: There was an Administration position that was eliminated in October 2025, in anticipation of budget deficit for the 2026-2027 school year, and in anticipation of student reduction to 1,209 students for the 2026-2027 school year, in comparison to the 2025-2026 budget that was set projecting 1,350 students. Each student's education expenditure is budgeted at \$5,400 per student.

3.3 Facilities (Brown) – Nothing at this time.

3.4 Athletics (Brown) – Winding down Girls and Boys Basketball (today 2/3/26 last games). Spring sports will start this week.

3.5 Communications (Wise) – Nothing at this time

3.6 Testing (Wise) – Finishing up WIDA testing. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Testing for 50th Grade students will take place on February 25, 2026. Ms. Thurman and Ms. Skvarek noted that we are demonstrating tightening the gap of ELA and Math testing scores.

3.7 Activities (Wise) – Nothing at this time.

3.8 Curriculum/Title I Parent Engagement/SEL (Thurman) – Proposed curriculum/class changes for 2026-2027 school year. The following classes will be eliminated: STUCO (still under discussion), Heroes in History, Introduction to Theater. Robotics will move from 3 sessions to 2 sessions. Mariachi will move from 7 sessions to 5 sessions. Band will combine Drum Line to a regular band class. We will keep WIDA Boot Camp to support our WIDA Students.

3.9 SSC initiatives/Discipline Updates (Coronado) – Ms. Skvarek noted our improvement for fewer African-American student suspensions and expulsions; we are currently off of the District's watch list. This is due to all areas of discipline and SEL staff working together to support all students.

4.0 Information

4.1 Next meeting: Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 Time: 3:00 p.m.

5.0 Public Comment Period (2 minutes allocated per person) – No other public comments at this time.