



MINUTES

Harney Middle School

School Organization Team Meeting

Meeting in person: HMS Room 602

August 20, 2026, 2:30 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 (Present)

Bertha Luna, Parent member

Ashlee Merback, Parent member (Present)

Darrell Shakespear, Parent member (Present)

Tara Bunker, Teacher (Present)

Tod Young, Teacher (Present)

Kathy Banegas, Support Professional (Present)

Eli Merback, Student (Present)

Phongsavanh Skvarek, Principal (Present)

Also Present: Kathleen Coronado, Shira Wise, Sue Thurman, Julie Brown

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 – Meeting called to order at 2:37 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

1.1 Member attendance (See Above for Member Attendance)

2.0 Previous Meeting

2.1 Approval of minutes for **May 2026 (Minutes unanimously approved)**

2.2 Follow-up on action/outstanding items (No outstanding items for follow-up)

3.0 New Items

3.1 Plan of Operations – Budget (Skvarek)

Enrollment is slightly under goal of 1,209. Our current enrollment is 1,170 which will put us at \$210,000 short of our current budget. There is a possibility of two licensed staff positions that may be cut. When we look at class size, we are still low due to our use of Title 1 money for classroom reduction (next Friday, August 28, 2026) is the official count day. Also, as of now, all double dippers (PERS Retirees who are also teaching) have no seniority in regards to position cuts. Our final budget is due September 18, 2026.

3.2 Staffing Updates (Skvarek)

Every position is filled. We are waiting for final approval of one IA for a one-on-one position for an IEP student.

3.3 Facilities (Brown)

We are in pretty good shape; still having some issues with A/C. When there is an A/C issue, our Office Manager, Kathy Benegas, fills out a Google Form regarding the mitigation of the A/C issue, and reports if it is resolved. The campus landscaping looks fantastic due to our on-site custodial staff. The District has 30 landscape technicians for the entire region and our custodial staff took it on themselves to help us look great for 6th Grade Orientation and Open House.

3.4 Athletics (Brown)

Flag Football is in place as well as girls and boys Cross Country. Our Table Tennis coaches and personnel are ready. Cross Country and Table Tennis are “no-cut” opportunities for students, meaning all who want to participate may participate (as long as grades and behaviors support their team inclusion).

3.5 Communications (Wise)

Working on Parent Square and our new website (we are with a new website provider). iReady is coming along. There was a meeting on August 19, 2026 for the 21st Century Grant, which will allow after school clubs and organizations that are curriculum/educational based. Note: Ms. Thurman wrote the Grant for these programs and obtained the Grant Funding.

3.6 Testing (Wise)

SBAC data preliminary data is loaded in Admin program, other detailed information will be available in September. There was a discussion regarding iReady and the need for the students to get use to the program and involved with it. Eli Merbeck (Student member of SOT) stated that he feels like MAP testing is faster and not as wordy as iReady. Note: iReady is adaptive and the questions get harder as the students answers the questions correctly.

3.7 Activities (Wise)

Are currently in the planning stage and will be adapted around the 21st Century Grant after school programs.

3.8 Curriculum/Title I Parent Engagement/SEL (Thurman)

Students came back with good attitudes. Title 1 was presented in May. During 6th Grade Orientation and Open House, parents signed the Title 1 forms, and the 21st Century Grant Forms. At least 100 families had to sign up and we have well over 100 families. We are hoping to incorporate some combined fine art/academic enrichment programs into the after school Grant clubs and programs. Parent engagement needs to be updated and we need to have 4 Family Engagement events for the Grant. Our Fine Arts programs bring parent support. The one period cut (from 7 periods a day to 6 periods a day) hurt Fine Arts because the students had to choose one elective and not two.

3.9 SSC initiatives/Discipline Updates (Coronado)

Tightening up on student phones on campus – it is working. Dress Code is going well. Behavior is better throughout the school and duty stations are covered. Administration is spending more time in the classrooms. We are having difficulties with buses, and Mr. Shakespear is dialed in and instructing parents to contact transportation if a bus is late picking up a student.

4.0 Information

4.1 Next meeting: Date: September 17, 2026 Time: 2:30 p.m.

5.0 Public Comment Period (2 minutes allocated per person)

There were no public comments