



Hamilton Middle School

SDMC Meeting Minutes

Date: September 17, 2026

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: Hamilton Middle School – Library

Welcome, Introductions, & Campus Identity

The Shared Decision-Making Committee (SDMC) meeting opened with introductions from campus leadership, staff, parent representatives, and community business partners. Mrs. Hawkins, a 19-year veteran GT coordinator emphasized the importance of preserving Hamilton's unique community rapport and keeping the campus as a "sweet pocket" and safe space where former students frequently return to give back, including high school alumni who recently established a thriving campus soccer club. Parent representative Angel (mother of 8th grader) commended the faculty for providing a firm, supportive safe haven for students. She advocated for expanding wraparound services and coordinating clothing donations, such as ties and dress clothes, for student-athletes required to dress up on game days. Parent Pandoria Hardeway (mother of incoming 6th grader Cordell) praised the school's proactive parent communication across various digital channels. Amy Downey, a local financial services business partner with a 19-year history connected to the school, highlighted the campus's strong culture and urged stronger partnerships with surrounding neighborhood businesses. Parent Mrs. Guerrero (mother of 8th grade SPED student) shared how her daughter has thrived under the supportive environment, applauding Principal Agnew and Assistant Principal Hawkins for building trust, open communication, and a family-like atmosphere.

Governance Role & Fiscal Realities

Principal Agnew clarified that the SDMC operates as an advisory body where stakeholders bring their voices to guide campus priorities, Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) reviews, budget allocations, staffing, curriculum, and overall organizational strategies. Regarding financial management, Principal Agnew noted that the school operates under strict fiscal constraints and has returned surplus funds to the district twice in recent cycles. To maximize resources, leadership maintains a hyper-focused approach to spending, ensuring funds directly support students and staff rather than redundant items, such as an unused \$700 paper roll stand. Committee members discussed asset tracking regulations, noting that district policy prohibits the campus from independently selling or liquidating surplus equipment; any reallocated or surplus inventory must return to the central HISD warehouse or incinerator without funds returning directly to Hamilton's budget.

State of the Campus & Academic Data Review

Principal Agnew presented the state of the campus, noting that Hamilton currently holds a strong B-rating with a score of 89, with clear strategies in place to reclaim an A-rating by mitigating student testing fatigue toward the end of the academic year. Academic celebrations included Hamilton ranking in the top 5 across the entire district for daily Demonstration of Learning (DOL) exit tickets across all four core content areas. Furthermore, the campus saw its district Educational Diagnostic Instruction (EDI) walkthrough score rise from 11.0 last year to 12.7 on its initial visit. STAAR performance showed outstanding results in Science and ELA, with inclusive co-teaching classes generating higher performance data than Gifted and Talented (GT) sections in select subjects. Key academic growth areas focus on reaching an 80% pass rate in STAAR Math (up from approximately 76%) alongside gains in Social Studies. To support academic rigor, leadership highlighted a critical technology deficit of approximately \$90,000 to replace outdated Chromebooks (\$633 per device), proposing a targeted PTA fundraising drive focused specifically on student technology needs.

Campus Operations, Extracurriculars, & Parent Communication

The committee reviewed campus logistics, noting that the back-lot car-rider pickup system operates efficiently, consistently clearing student pickup lines between 4:11 PM and 4:20 PM. Addressing neighborhood cleanliness concerns near crosswalk vendor spots, leadership emphasized reinforcing student campus pride and coordinating with local vendors to provide trash bags. In student activities, the committee celebrated existing parent-led initiatives, including the Gardening Club co-facilitated by Coach Malkowski and the Mahjong Club. Parent Angel proposed establishing a parent-supported Culinary Club to teach practical home cooking skills, which received enthusiastic support from committee members and leadership. The committee engaged in an extended discussion regarding parent communication platforms, comparing ParentSquare and Instagram. To resolve parent confusion regarding app features and direct teacher contact, the committee agreed to host a Parent Information/App Orientation Night, potentially formatted as a breakout session during the upcoming October 1 Hispanic Heritage Event or general PTA meeting.

Student Attendance Strategies & CIP Priorities

Addressing student attendance, Principal Agnew reported that Hamilton currently leads its cohort with a 97% attendance rate, aiming to reach 98%. To prevent the typical attendance decline that occurs in October and avoid strict district credit recovery penalties—which require 5 hours of make-up work per missed course credit—the committee approved progressive attendance incentives. Winning grade levels with the highest attendance will earn Friday privileges to wear sweatpants and hoodies. Finally, the committee reviewed the five core pillars of the Campus Improvement Plan (CIP): (1) Quality of Instruction across core content, (2) Leadership Capacity development, (3) Special Education (SPED) and inclusive co-teaching support, (4) Targeted Scaffolds for Emerging Bilingual (ESL) students, and (5) Proactive Staff and Student Attendance Management.

Action Items & Meeting Adjournment

The meeting concluded with a call for committee members to submit ongoing priority focus areas via a QR code feedback form to guide agenda planning for the next SDMC meeting, which is scheduled for November 19.