



AGENDA



Harney Middle School

School Organization Team Meeting

Meeting in person: HMS Room 602

September 17, 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
- ☐ Eli Merback, Student (present)
- ☐ Phongsavanh Skvarek, Principal (present)

Also in Attendance: Sue Thurman, Julie Brown, Kathleen Coronado, Shira Wise

The agenda for this meeting is posted publicly on the school website at harneymys.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: Start Time: 2:25 p.m., End Time: 3:41 p.m.

1.1 Member attendance (please see above)

2.0 Previous Meeting

2.1 Approval of minutes for **August 20, 2026 (minutes unanimously approved)**

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

3.0 New Items

3.1 Plan of Operations – Budget (Skvarek) “When we opened the budget 2-weeks ago, we were \$723,000 in the hole. However, within that deficit were three positions that were eliminated in the Spring (2026) that remained on the books from the District. After the three were eliminated from the expenses, we remained \$200,000 over budget, thus, we have had to make additional cuts to staff. At this time, besides licensed staff cuts, we also eliminated the Choir Assistant, which was an additional savings of \$50,000. It is important to note that we have more Resource (Special Education) Students who enrolled this year which created the need for an extra Resource position. This position was filled with Ms. Castro, who was in a Math position we eliminated. Other eliminated positions also include an Explorations Teacher who was teaching ELA, and he decided to leave. We have also eliminated a School Counselor position from our SEL Team. To finalize the deficit to bring it into the positive, we will cut our Art Program (1-teacher position) – Note: This position may be a re-hirable position after 1-year. After all of the cuts, on the books, we will be \$284,000 in the black in the General Funds. By way of explanation, all of these cuts were not brought to my attention until after school started. We were in a principals meeting, in the Spring, we were told to only be concerned with positive and negative student enrollment, everything else was ‘fine.’ In fact, Budget was not on the Principal Meeting agenda. There was a budget discussion after School Principals were bringing up questions, and

again, we were told it was 'fine.' As a precaution, our administration did look at expenses and we cut prep buyout due to Block ELA requirements and we condensed ELA classes. We were projected to open the school year with 1,209 students, and on Count Day, student enrollment was 1,166. After the entire District student number were released, we were then told the school is now responsible for \$35,000 per teacher from school funds. (Note): Our teacher/student ratio is still below District requirement of 36. Eliminated teaching positions will stay filled by current teachers until November 20, 2026.

3.2 Staffing Updates (Skvarek) Please see above – Plan of Operations, Budget, and Staffing Updates were consolidated.

3.3 Facilities (Brown) No updates for facilities at this time. The custodial staff will be getting extra chairs and desks to the proper classrooms for our three computer labs. There was a discussion on water fountain costs (already installed) and the custodial staff is painting several doors/doorways green.

3.4 Athletics (Brown) Table tennis equipment has been ordered. There are 12 students running on our Cross Country team.

3.5 Communications (Wise) We have four parents for next year's SOT committee. The District will end the contract with our current website hosting company in December. Our new site migration will also start in December. The District will pay for the installation of the new website host to get it up and running. Parent Square is up and running and gives easy school information.

3.6 Testing (Wise) PSAT 8th Grade is October 14, this is a legislative mandated test. iReady test diagnostics are all done.

3.7 Activities (Wise) Fall Festival is Friday, October 2, 2026 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Fine Arts Students will be performing, and clubs and organizations will be represented. STUCO sponsored a blood drive and according to student, Eli Marback, the event was very successful and there is talk of STUCO sponsoring a second blood drive later in the year.

3.8 Curriculum/Title I Parent Engagement/SEL (Thurman) Family Engagement – Title 1 Requirement. We have 218 students on Title 1. We are continuously putting programs and opportunities together for families to engage with their students and the school. 21st Century Grant gives us more engagement night opportunities. Important: students participating in after-school activities, last year we had 50 students signed up via parent filled out forms, thus far this year, we have 155 parents who have filled out forms for their students to participate. At this time, we have 65 students who are continuously participating in after-school Supper, and attending the 21st Century after school classes. The students are also stating they feel safer on campus this year, and, the students are engaging with each other, at lunchtime on the field and blacktop. Opening up the field allows the students to feel greater freedom and play in larger groups. Also, Mr. Wynn is hosting early morning tutoring at 6:40 a.m., in his room to assist students with their current and missing work.

3.9 SSC initiatives/Discipline Updates (Coronado) Reporting good news, as of our meeting date there have been ZERO on-campus fights. Discipline is going well, referrals are down, student cell phone issues are down, and, student badges have been handed out. If students arrive to school without a badge, they will turn in their phone for a pass. Make up pictures are on September 24, 2026

4.0 Information

4.1 Next meeting: Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026 Time: 2:30 p.m.

5.0 Public Comment Period (2 minutes allocated per person) There were no Public comments.