

**Ortiz Middle School
SDMC Meeting
January 23, 2019**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Present</u>
Arvizu, Myriam	School-based staff	Y
Benitez, Amanda	Non-instructional staff	
Booher, Rewa	School-based staff	Y
Boze', Lisa	School-based staff	Y
Brown, Jesseye	Teacher	Y
Davis, Jasmine	Teacher	Y
Espindola, Jennifer	Parent	
Garcia, Tina	Chairperson	Y
Hart, Evelyn	Teacher	Y

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Present</u>
Johnson, Dorothy	Teacher	Y
Johnson, Michael	Teacher	
Johnson, Natasha	Parent	Y
Ortiz, Gabriel	Business Member	
Reyes, Rudy	Community Member	Y
Shewcraft, Maryah	Teacher	Y
Soto III, Benito	Interim Principal	Y
Canales, Azucena	Non-Member	Y

Ms. T. Garcia opened the meeting at 4:08 p.m. and welcomed the members to the meeting.

Welcome

Reading/Approval of Minutes

Ms. T. Garcia read the minutes from the September 19, 2018 meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

Assessment Calendar

T. Garcia reviewed the assessment calendar provided by Ms. Arvizu. Ms. Davis provided dates for performing arts and Field Day.

- 2/8 – Asian New Year
- 2/28 – Black History Program, day and evening (6 pm)
- 3/6 – Talent Show
- 4/4 – Dance Showcase, day and evening (6 pm)
- 4/17 – Band Spring Concert, evening (6 pm)
- 4/25 – Noche Latina, day and evening (6 pm)
- 5/22 – Theater Spring Show
- 5/23 – Field Day

When asked about the day performances, a mention of the Golden Ticket was made. Ms. Natasha Johnson asked for clarification about the Golden Ticket and how they were disseminated to students. The grade level APs were given 150 tickets and gave the tickets to students at their discretion. Ms. N. Johnson asked for clarification on the system in which tickets were issued to students. Issues brought forth included allowing students who may not have the grades but who are very interested/inspired by the performing arts; having the same students attend the performances (how are we preventing this from happening?); logistics of having students missing instructional time. Ms. Canales interjected that the PBIS committee is working on incorporating the Golden Tickets into an incentive program. It was decided by the committee that the PBIS committee will examine the procedures for giving the Golden Tickets to students for day performances as part of their development of a schoolwide incentive program.

Instructional Focus

Ms. T. Garcia stated that two of our primary instructional focus areas are writing and implementation of the IB program.

Writing – Ms. Arvizu stated we are restructuring 7th grade ELA; two days reading, two days writing every week. She further stated that we have created materials and resources, with input from teachers, and that differentiation is included in the resources (sentence stems, color-coded, other strategies). We are continuing to utilize the Chunk method; however, how to

teach this method has been streamlined so that it makes better sense to teachers. The model does seem formulaic, but it has room for creativity.

Ms. Hart will model teach in one classroom tomorrow while all other ELA teachers observe, then they will teach it in their own classes, using resources that they can tweak to their own styles. Ms. N. Johnson asked about the availability of the resources to parents. Ms. Booher clarified that the resources will be in the classroom, so that students will have the instruction from one person (teacher) but did state that parents are always welcome to sit in and observe any classroom at any time. Mr. Soto stated that ABYDOS is a company that we may use to help us further with writing. Mr. Soto also provided @HISD_OrtizMS the Twitter address for all to share to showcase the happenings at our school.

Ms. Hart stated that the essays students will create are connected to IB in that the summative assessment for each unit will be a writing assignment. Ms. N. Johnson asked for data about where we currently are in Writing. Ms. Hart stated we were at 40%. Mr. Soto stated that we are right at the district level. Mr. Reyes asked if the data/information is available somewhere like the website. Ms. Arvizu stated that letters were sent home to each students' parent, informing them of their student's progress by assessment. The suggestion was made to post some kind of generic information on the website with an explanation so that parents can relate that to the letters they receive.

Ms. Johnson further stated that parents want to see more on the website and suggested a count down to STAAR every day with what is expected, what parents can do to help prepare their children. The focus is making a better school-home connection. "Intervention" is a scary word for parents. Maybe we should change it to a different word to make it more positive. Ms. T. Garcia suggested STAAR Academy. It was also suggested that we give students rubber bracelets for attending/incentive.

Mr. Soto asked how writing has been incorporated into all subject areas. Ms. T Garcia explained that all teachers were provided training in the CHUNK method by subject group with the expectation that they would use the method to incorporate writing in their classrooms. Some teachers are using it consistently, but not all. Ms. Hart will send Mr. Soto a graphic to tweet out so that parents are aware of the method so that they can help their child at home. Ms. Arvizu stated that her plan for the Dept. Chair meetings will include topics with upcoming items to address with teachers and parents.

IB Update – Ms. T Garcia stated that our IB program is in various stages of implementation in the classrooms. Work is continuous and is being done through PLCs and staff development. Ms. Garcia mentioned that the PD that was scheduled for early release day last Friday included a session to review IB summative assessments. The need to better promote the campus was also discussed. Several committee members commented on the community service projects completed by 8th graders and 6th grade.

Magnet Update

Ms. T. Garcia gave an update on the Magnet program. Almost 200 students were here for auditions last Saturday. Ms. Davis mentioned that our biggest competition is Pershing and Meyerland. We need to work to get our name out there. We want Ortiz to be the first choice, not the "if I don't get in" choice.

Discipline (PBIS Training)

Ms. T. Garcia explained what PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies) is, its purpose, and our goals. We're a pilot middle school for the district. Ms. Boze mentioned that PBIS includes data, identifying the infractions that occur most often, where, and at what time. PBIS is very detailed with discipline data and makes it available to teachers. The goal is to streamline some things we currently do, and make sure everyone knows and uses the system. Our goal is that discipline referrals will go down. The PBIS committee will work to have procedures in place for the upcoming school year.

Other Issues/Concerns

Mr. Reyes brought forth the issue of the need to give our school the recognition it deserves, and with the help of the community. Suggested the idea of developing a PTO. It has many positives and would benefit our school. Mr. Reyes offered to organize the people to come to school to help us establish a PTO. Mr. Soto gave his approval, and Mr. Reyes and Ms. N. Johnson said they would help.

Ms. N. Johnson asked about Family Nights. We have had them in the past and should re-examine the possibility of having them again.

Ms. D. Johnson asked about Spring Break Camp, wondering if we were still going to have it. We did not have it last year but have had it on the Monday and Tuesday of spring break, from 9:00 – 12:00. The students are targeted, letters are sent home for parent commitment, and attendance is good. Mr. Soto stated that it will be discussed during admin meeting.

It was announced that our next meeting will be during the third quarter, February, March, April.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.