

## DPMS School Community Council Minutes

**Date:** 04/01/2026

**Location:** Room 1426 - Purple Hall

**Time:** 3:00pm

### School Community Council Members

#### Parent Members

Janene Day  
Jennie Stratton  
Nancy Nichols  
Kathryn Dahlin  
Jessica Smith  
Megan Gutierrez


#### Staff Members

Dr. Chip Watts (Principal)  
Gretchen Givone  
Memory Aviles  
Nate Ricks

#### Excused:

Sonnet Arlander  
Angie Stallings  
Kim Oldroyd

#### Business Items:

1. Welcome & Introductions Chip Watts
  - a. Intent to Return for 26-27
    - i. Janene Day: First Year - Interested in returning
    - ii. Angie Stallings: Second Year - Interested in returning
    - iii. Jennie Stratton: First Year - Interested in returning
    - iv. Nancy Nichols: Second Year - Interested in returning - will need to run
    - v. Kathryn Dahlin: Second Year - Interest in returning - will need to run
    - vi. Jessica Smith: Second Year - Not Interested in returning
    - vii. Megan Gutierrez: First Year - Interested in returning
    - viii. Sonnet Arlander: First Year - Interested in returning
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes Janene Day
  - a.  SCC 03\_11 Minutes DRAFT.pdf
  - b. Minutes unanimously approved
3. TSSP and Land Trust Chip Watts
  - a. Need signatures for TSSP and Land Trust from Nancy and Megan. Dr Watts requested that they sign before spring break.

#### Discussion Items:

1. School Discussion: Update on hiring

- a. New French Teacher hired for 7/8th DLI
  - b. Mrs. Sweeten is retiring (health) and Jean Leonard will replace her
  - c. Mrs Risen is retiring (PE) and a new hire will teach PE
  - d. Abby Black coming from Quail Hollow to teach 6th grade math
  - e. Abby Spears will be coming for ½ time Art
  - f. Interviewing for ½ time reading position
2. School Dance
- a. Reports that the dance went really well and that the teachers enjoyed it as well
3. Intramural Sports
- a. Open to anybody
  - b. Fall: Cross Country with 2 Cross Country Meets, Chess with a Chess Tournament,
  - c. Spring: 3 on 3 Basketball with tournament - our school got 5 trophies this year, Soccer will start after Spring Break 5 person team with a tournament
  - d. Next Year - Volleyball will be added. Not sure if this will fall or spring
  - e. Nancy suggested that it is advertised more and that we have a mascot
    - i. Dr. Watts shared that the information will be in the newsletter, email and communication to parents
    - ii. Nancy suggested we advertise that students come and support their friends
4. Math Curriculum & Technology
- a. Jessica said she does not want math online next year and no online math homework
  - b. Jessica reports that there is a lot of research showing math online is bad
    - i. She reported that research is showing are students are doing worse than before chromebooks were added to school
  - c. Legislation recently passed [The Balance Act](#)
    - i. Jessica reported that this can be tailored to your school
  - d. Jessica stated that what we have been doing is not working and encouraged change. Chromebooks are not a benefit for our students and we are still pushing Chromebooks. She wants to see us be an analog school
  - e. Nancy reported that her student's Chromebook was taken away and she feels that the Chromebooks are easier for the teachers
  - f. Megan stated that there is a balance of technology in the classroom. She feels that students need to be prepared for technology in the workforce. She feels that adaptive learning can be beneficial for the students. She also stated that technology can be helpful for teachers and students.
  - g. Jennie noted that managing multiple applications for incoming 6th graders presents some challenges. Specifically, keeping track of different submission methods like Skyward, Canvas, Make Music, etc. and written homework, as well as navigating duplicated work between formats.
  - h. Kathryn stated that it is a fact that test scores have gone down and is wondering from teachers what are the positives that can outweigh the lower test scores or what are the things that hold you back from getting rid of technology

- i. Givone stated that she has found Canvas to be helpful for when students are on vacation or absent from her class. She reports that she can go without Canvas. She also stated that the games she can put on Canvas can support the learning and are helpful and fun for the students
- ii. Givone reports using [wevideo.com](http://wevideo.com) has been amazing for showing students videos and the interaction it supports has been helpful
- iii. Memory stated that she gives students test pages for written work and that her students are not on the homework much except for homework. She has felt that [Derivata](#) has really helped her students learn - because of the immediate feedback. She stated that there is not a lot of flexibility in lessons and they have to go at a certain pace - so they are not behind for next year. She stated that having technology for subs is helpful and she can still teach when she is not here. She reports she is really tough on her students when on Chromebooks.
  1. Nancy asked for a Derivata class - she stated her husband had trouble helping her student enter the correct answer in Derivata
- iv. Nate stated that he has the luxury of not being a subject that is tested. He attended a conference about using technology. He uses technology now to build skills like creating presentations and supporting learning. He shared that his students haven't used Chromebooks at all this week. Some weeks are more tech intensive - like when they build a bot to chat with a mountain man. He feels like a lot of teachers are trying to use balanced technology with familiarity of what tech can do and model safe and productive use of technology.
- v. Watts stated that technology should be a support and he has done a lot of observing of teachers and he does not see a lot of Chromebooks for instruction or for teaching. He stated this is not an "online school". He encouraged SCC members to stop by and visit classrooms and see what's happening in classrooms.
- vi. Memory stated that scores dropping is not just because of technology.
- vii. Memory stated that there are a lot of absences in this school.
- viii. Jessica stated that what was discussed during today's meeting is appropriate use of technology.

There was a motion to cancel May's meeting unless district AI presentation can take place. Motion passed unanimously. Stay tuned.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

SCC Meetings are held the Second Wednesday of every month in Room 1426 in the Purple Hall at 3:00pm: May 13th - Canceled unless district AI presentation can take place.