



# Millcreek Junior High School

Community Council Agenda for January 26, 2017

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## Community Council Members

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Jason Steenblik – Chair, Shellee Kariuki – Vice Chair, Cathleen Gilbert-Member, Angela Cummings – Member, Suzette Garrison – Member, Jamie Christensen – Member, Julie Fleming – Member, Ryan Barker – Member, Randy Bremner – Member, Matthew Bird – Member, Julie Millard – Member, Heather Murri – Member, Rhonda Perkes – PTA Rep, Brock Jackman – Principal, Amberly Cox – Counselor/JSSC Rep, Geoff Bovey – Teacher, Doug Hammerschmidt-Assistant Principal

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## Agenda Items

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### Welcome

### PTA News

- Student Recognition held today.
- Feb. 10-Valentine Dance (FREE)
- Envelope Fundraiser in February.
- Collect Box Tops each month.

### Counselor's Corner

- December Sub for Santa: We raised more than \$6,000 and helped 60 people with Christmas.
- Registration: Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade-Feb. 22, Incoming 8<sup>th</sup>-March 3, Incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-March 2

### School Business:

#### Block Schedule Discussion

- We have great programs and want kids to have the opportunity to take many different electives.
- Digital Literacy is a new required course that can be taken in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Block schedule requires great teaching and teacher's need to revamp lessons to fit an 80-minute schedule.
- 2/3 of our students take a full 1.0 elective class
- ¼ of our students take two full 1.0 elective classes- this will not work with the implementation of Digital Literacy for either our 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grades depending on when Digital Literacy is taken.
- Pros:
  - Increased options for electives
    - Solves Digital Literacy's impact
    - Makes it easier for students to fulfil Regents Scholarship requirements
  - More time for in depth lessons that promote deeper learning
  - Teacher prep time 80 minutes per day-more prep time for teachers is good for learning

"Focus on Learning"



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- Teachers able to teach a productivity period while still having preparation time every other day –this helps meet the needs of the school for making the master schedule
- Less stress for kids with fewer classes per day and more time to complete homework.
- Better attendance
- Research shows no negative impact on learning
  
- Cons:
  - Class size (Average case load would be 36 kids/class. On a 7 period schedule it would be 31 kids per class.)
  - Case load (On a 7 period schedule 186 kids and 8 period schedule 216 kids.)
  - Would lose 5 min. of class time a day – teachers feel this would be mitigated by increasing efficiencies-less transition time (set up/take down) etc.
  - Professional development may be needed to help teachers with the transition.

Teachers have reviewed this issue and have voted in favor of moving to a Block Schedule by a margin of 30:4

Other

Superintendent Meet and Greet

Next Meeting: February 9, at 3:45 PM