

## BLT Meeting Notes

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### 8:00 Updates

- Vacation policy was finalized and approved by the BLT
- Math in Focus materials purchase was put on hold due to the order coinciding with the district adoption. Dedy will be meeting with the math teachers to determine the support needed for the team going forward.
- Finalized technology plan was finalized (plan available for review at JSIS office)
- The greenhouse will now be converted to a classroom space for ELL/SPED. The plant sale will still be able to use some of the space in the spring
- Teachers will be surveyed and will communicate professional development needs to BLT
- We have become a level 5 school again! This means that we have met all of our targets on the MSP. It does not effect our funding

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### 8:15 Art program / Global Education (Lucie Campbell)

Parents have expressed that there is a “fuzzy” idea of what global education means. The following questions/ reflections were discussed:

- Is there a way to give parents more clarity about this?
- Is this a problem of communication or with a clear vision of a global education pathway?
- In the past, the definition for a global education pathway was that by the time your child has matriculated JSIS, they would have touched every continent. This year, North America is the focus continent
- Music and PE provide some global education integration
- Teachers attempt to imbed global perspective wherever we can. We are also working as a staff to define what global perspective means in social studies. However, the lack of social studies curriculum in the lower grades makes this more challenging

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- Could we provide more information/ communication about this to parents?
- With the immersion program and Common Core, global perspective will have to be integrated, rather than treated as a separate

The question was raised regarding how visual arts are taught at JSIS. Here are the questions/reflections that were discussed:

- Visual arts is integrated into classroom instruction
- There are some classes that get more visual arts interaction because their teacher is more skilled in this area or they have a parent in the class who can teach it
- In January, PTSA is also providing artists in residence to teach ceramics and visual arts. Hopefully, we can provide more next year
- Some teachers are grading visual arts and some are not— what does this communicate to parents
- JSIS is a music school so art does not need to be graded. Dedy and the staff will come up with a consistent grading policy for visual arts
- As with global perspective, fitting visual arts into our already impacted schedule as a separate subject would be difficult

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## 8:45 Annual Fund Update

Stephen Hodges put forth the question regarding whether IAs and interns are interchangeable. Here are the points which were discussed:

- Maria B suggested that the math teachers meet and discuss this because it does depend on a number of factors
- It is far more expensive to employ IAs than it is to fund interns
- If there is room to have more interns rather than IAs then the annual fund can have more money for other needs. What would the top 2-3 needs be if there were extra funds? Technology?
- Families that have interns in the classroom are pleased with how much their children are speaking Spanish and Japanese
- How many hours are teachers spending mentoring interns?

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- Are the needs for an IA more critical by grade level?
  - Rationale should come from the teachers so that there is a fund raising strategy
  - What would the implications be when we have more heritage speakers in the classroom?
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