

# Benton Middle School Advisory Council

2024-2025

October 14, 2024

6:00 - Zoom

## Meeting Notes

### **PAC Members in attendance:**

Ashia Brooks (Parent Representative), Casey Hadsall (Parent Representative), Kathy Erickson (Benton Assistant Principal), Kelly Carson (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Teacher), Stacy Blake (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher), Jerri Piacesi (Benton Principal), Claudia Smith (Parent Representative), Kristin Rojas (Benton Assistant Principal), Sally Holland (Benton Executive Assistant), Karen Edwards (ELL Teacher), and Vanessa Olson (Parent Representative).

### **Administrative Business**

**Mrs. Erickson**

Mrs. Erickson opened the zoom meeting at 6:00pm thanking participants for their time and dedication in participating as members of the 24/25 Principal Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Erickson announced how the meeting format will change this year. A parent committee member will run the meeting, and two Benton students will be joining the committee. The following were in attendance Ashia Brooks, Riverbend HOA (who is this?), Kathy Erickson, Kelly Carson, Stacy Blake, Jerri Piacesi, Claudia Smith, Kristin Rojas, Sally Holland, Karen Edwards, vanessa Olson.

### **Principal's Report**

**Mrs. Piacesi**

CIP (Continuous Improvement Plan)

Jerri Piacesi introduced and reviewed Benton's Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). She noted that this is the inaugural year of the new Student Voice committee (chairs Maria Clark and Donna Myers). This Student Voice committee is tasked to come up with ways to make Benton better. Mrs. Piacesi noted that tonight's meeting date was changed to tonight to accommodate Benton's invitation to play football at Hilton HS on Tuesday, 10/15/24.

Mrs. Piacesi explained the CIP's three areas of focus: Student Learning, School Climate, and Family Engagement. She explained Benton's gains in ELL students test passage rates. She noted that Benton attendance continues to be exceptional (8.9% vs. the district of 11%). She shared Math and Reading, and Science SOL patterns and trends for Benton.

She noted that the areas of growth continue to be with our ELL students, economically disadvantaged students, and special education students. She spotlighted Benton's growth in the area of special education students test passage rates. She continued to explain how teachers will work to meet and support our ELL, economically disadvantaged, and special education student population by implementing the 7 Steps Program strategies that were started during the 23/24 school year. Mrs. Piacesi responded to committee member questions, and then wrapped up the CIP highlights outlining upcoming events.

#### **Superintendent's Advisory Report          Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Olson**

Claudia Smith provided highlights from Thursday, 10/10/24 Superintendent Advisory meeting SACI. She noted that the district's individual school PAC meetings requirements are being met by Benton through its existing Principal's Advisory Committee format. Mrs. Smith assured the committee members that she would be forwarding her notes from the SACI meeting to all PAC committee members. Mrs. Smith turned the meeting over to Mrs. Olson who explained that the SACI meeting topics are being formulated for future meetings. She also took the opportunity to stress the importance of responding to the 25/26 School Year Calendar input email.

#### **Round Table                                  Mrs. Erickson**

Mrs. Erickson opened the meeting to topics to share. Mrs. Olson praised the Bread Baking program from King Arthur Flour company that 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students were able to participate in. Mrs. Smith praised the smooth opening of the 24/25 school year. Mrs. Blake noted that the Social Studies department is working to position middle school students to be ready to successfully earn high school credit hours beginning with their freshman year. Dr. Rojas noted that the spiral review approach in classes will continue and has been a solid resource for students to reinforce necessary skills. Mrs. Brooks noted that she will be certain to respond to the PWCS calendar options and spread the news within her community about also responding by the deadline.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm

**Next Meeting Date: November 19, 2023 – at 6pm via zoom.**