

Support Staff Council Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2015

The *Support Council* met on January 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Central Office conference room. Council members present were: Ed Eary, Michelle Hollingsworth, Amy Steppe, Michael Dunaway, Tammy Taylor, Jennifer Maynard, Jo Willis, Lisa Sieberkrob, Robin Sontag, Lisa Evans and Richard Harden.

Welcome:

Mr. Harden welcomed all Support Council members and called the meeting to order. Mr. Harden explained that the Support Council is a communication tool for support staff and it is not a policy making body. Each council member was given the opportunity to introduce her/himself.

Communications:

The communication section centered on the following:

- **Retirement Systems:** The Kentucky Teachers Retirement System (KTRS) and the County Employee Retirement System (CERS) are facing serious financial crises. The Kentucky Legislature is currently in session, and at the present time has adjourned for committee work. A bill presented for consideration to sell bonds may provide an intermediate solution for the KTRS; however this legislation will not address any of the issues confronting the CERS. Please contact your legislator to voice any suggestions or concerns you have regarding these retirement systems.
- **Proposed Reduction in 2015-16 Instructional Days:** The proposed calendar for the 2015-16 school year includes 175 instructional days (for students) which is a reduction from previous years in the number of student days. At 175 instructional days, the District will still meet the State-required 1062 instructional hours that must be completed within a state minimum of at least 170 instructional days. At the present time there are no plans to reduce the number of employee workdays. However this could change should there be a reduction in the funding available for the School District, or should required employee expenditures increase. Because approximately 80% of the System's budget is used for employee pay and benefits, the number of people employed and what they are paid are the most significant factors involved in developing the School District's budget.
- **Minimum Wage:** A proposal has been presented to increase the Federal Minimum Wage. This should have no effect on the salaries paid to the employees of the Jessamine County School system, since, by the time the projected minimum wage increase would take effect, the District will already be paying above the proposed Federal Minimum Wage rate.
- **Jessamine County Schools Is A Growing District:** We are thankful we are a growing school district. Projections are for the growth to continue.

Other:

- If there are questions or issues that need to be discussed at the next *Support Council* meeting, please email those to Richard Harden in advance at: richard.harden@jessamine.kyschools.us.

The next meeting of the *Support Council* will be **Thursday, February 26 at 9:00 a.m.**