West Point Middle School
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West Point Middle School SAC
OPEN (Public) MEETING
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2026/4:00 – 5:2 P.M. / WPMS Library

Meeting called to order: 4:05 P.M.

SAC Members in Attendance: Katharine Terry, Courtney Neubecker, Robert Catten, Theron Gertz, and Pamela Granger

Other Attendees: Hillary Murphy (parent), Megan Johnston (parent), Andrew Johnston (parent), Ms. Irani-Tehrani (parent), Carin Mogavero (School Liaison Officer)

1. Welcome/Meeting Norms

2. Presentation of Agenda

3. Reports:
    - SAC Chair: Focus Areas
        - Communication
        - Partnership
    - Principal: School Focus Goals
        - Celebrations/Climate
        - Data-informed decisions
        - Discourse
        - Differentiation
        - Formative Assessment
    - Data-Informed decisions in detail
        - Continuous School Improvement
        - Student Support Team
        - Focused Collaboration Teams
        - Advanced Academic Program and Services
    - Discourse in detail
        - Student to student
        - Student to teacher
        - TD2 Teacher facilitates whole-class discussions
        - TD6 Students share their thinking or with their peers
        - SD2 Students say a second sentence to extend their reasoning
        - SD6 Students critique each other's thinking/reasoning

- Important Dates (SOS, Summative Testing, etc.)

4. Old Business:

a. School platforms – Aspen, Google Classroom, online books
   i. People are saying that they are getting better information from the school. SAC can send out a survey to parents to gather updated information. We may collaborate with the SLO and PTO. The SLO said that she could send out information to new parents in the welcome letter. The SAC Chair said that she would put a survey together and get it sent out. Parents said that it would be nice to have an information meeting on how to access Aspen and Google Classroom. Ms. Granger suggested a survey question asking for feedback about the Facebook page and how it can be improved. Ms. Johnston suggested putting key events on the page, including sports games, happening at the school.

b. Dress code
   i. Mr. Catten sent out information on the dress code to the school community, reminding them of expectations.

c. Attendance
   i. Students come in after 7:25 are the biggest share of absences, so he sent a reminder to be here by 7:25.

d. Technology use and AI

e. New Business:

   i. School AI Policy, Ms. Irani-Tehrani informed the school that students were abusing AI to do their work for them, and she wanted to know what the school rules are. ChatGTP has been blocked since then, so she said that was a good move. Mr. Johnston said that the SecDef is pushing AI use in the military, so he said that there is a role for AI in learning, but not when it is used to cheat. Ms. Irani-Tehrani said that Chrome has an AI pop-up that encourages them to use AI. Mr. and Ms. Johnston are pro-AI in the classroom. There is no official DoDEA AI policy. Teachers can set their own AI policies in their classes. SAC Chair said that we should take a vote to put it on the agenda IA next week. 3 of 4 voting members said yes.
   ii. Communication on poor academic performance - Students have a huge amount of homework, and academic performance has suffered, according to the SAC Chair. She said that communication for missing work is inadequate and hard to navigate in Aspen. She asked for proactive communication from the teachers to help her child stay up to date.
   iii. Laptops and gaming - She also said that gaming in class is a problem for students. She asked if the Tech person could figure out a way to address this concern. Ms. Irani-Tehrani asked if a detailed report could be sent to parents showing their browsing history for the week, to highlight if they

are gaming or doing things they shouldn't. Mr. Catten said he would refer that to the Tech person.

iv. Digital curriculum – Science is 100 percent digital, and math and ELA will be completely digital next year. Ms. Irani-Tehrani said that it is difficult for some students to use the digital resources. It is missing explanations and samples which has created a gap that is being filled with AI because students are having trouble with the online resources. Are there other resources that are aligned with the curriculum? Mr. Johnston said that he would like more resources, especially in math, so he can help his daughter in math. Ms. Granger said that she tries to discourage their use of AI by asking them to justify their answers. She also includes the answer keys to help parents. There are things that the teachers are providing so that students and parents have access. Ms. Murphy said that Ms. Granger is an outstanding teacher, but other teachers are not providing as much support. Ms. Johnston said that their should be testing for placement to see where new students are, because some of them are significantly behind when they come from other school systems. She also said that there should be clear grade-level expectations for homework, because it varies from teacher to teacher. Mr. Johnston said that the mathia platform can be problematic and it can be difficult to submit assignments, etc.

v. Early release and snow days. Voted to ask for coordination with the garrison on school closure.

5. Open Forum

i. Mr. Johnston asked if there could be more support for students using the digital platforms and curriculum, similar to what Ms. Granger offers in her classroom. Mr. Catten said that what we can do as a school is encouraging teachers to be more intentional in their planning, to break things down for students who struggle. Mr. Johnston asked if teachers can have detailed syllabi from each class so that parents can work ahead to help their child.

6. Closing – thank you for coming and sharing your ideas.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:20 P.M.

a. Next Meeting: April 30th, 2026

Submitted by: David Gertz