

Faiss Middle School

School Organizational Team

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

The Faiss Middle School Organizational Team (SOT) meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. on October 13, 2025, in the Faiss Middle School Library, with a simultaneous Google Meet option available.

Voting Members:

Lacy Sullivan, Parent
Kara Nieland, Community Member (non-voting, pending formal selection)
Eric Schumacher, Parent
Erica Romero, Parent
Tori Sadiki, Parent
Roger West, Principal

Briana Jenkins, Parent (Google Meet)
Nichole Brewer-Gentry, Teacher/Behavior Strategist (Google Meet)
Terri Romaniello, Teacher/Learning Strategist
Teuta Zeka, Teacher
Renaye Barnes, Support Professional/Office Manager

Non-voting Members:

Faiss Middle School Administration:

Roger West, Principal
Amanda Skrogstad, Assistant Principal

Agenda Items

1.0 Welcome and Roll Call

Principal Roger West called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and welcomed members to the first SOT meeting of the 2025–2026 school year.

Rather than a formal roll call, members introduced themselves, sharing their role at Faiss Middle School and their connection to the school:

Mr. West noted this is his 10th year as principal at Faiss and that he is also a parent of an 8th-grade student. He provided a brief history of the SOT, explaining that SOTs were established when the legislature decentralized certain decisions within the Clark County School District, and that each school now operates as its own “precinct” with a School Organizational Team. Staff members (Ms. Barnes, Ms. Zeka, Ms. Romaniello, Ms. Brewer-Gentry, and Ms. Skrogstad) introduced themselves, described their roles, and shared their years of service at Faiss.

Parent members (Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Schumacher, Ms. Romero, Ms. Sadiki, and Ms. Jenkins) introduced themselves. They noted the grades and activities of their children (e.g., cheer, football, student body president, spelling bee).

Community member Ms. Kara Nieland shared that all five of her children attended Faiss and that she continues to support the school even though they are now in high school.

Student representative Adalyn Cheney introduced herself as a 6th-grade student.

Mr. West emphasized that, although some SOTs keep discussions very limited, he prefers a “more is more” approach and encourages the team to raise questions and topics of interest related to the school.

2.0 New Items

2.1 Overview of SOT Functions and Responsibilities.

Mr. West reviewed the primary functions of the School Organizational Team:

School Plan of Operation:

Provide assistance and advice to the principal regarding the School Plan of Operation, which includes the School Performance Plan (SPP) and the budget that supports the SPP goals.

Review goals, benchmarks, and required state components, and provide input rather than simply receiving information.

Principal Selection (if needed):

In the event of a principal vacancy, the SOT assists in identifying the desired characteristics of a new principal and participates in the interview process alongside the school associate superintendent and region superintendent.

Input on Principal Performance:

Provide input about the principal’s performance to district leadership, especially if there are significant concerns about school operations.

Mr. West also reviewed limitations to SOT authority, including:

The SOT cannot act as the custodian of records or respond to public records requests.

The SOT cannot release information protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The SOT cannot unilaterally change district contracts or services (e.g., landscaping contracts). He explained that the SOT will have checkpoints throughout the year, tied to assessment data, particularly after MAP Growth testing and state assessments. Additionally, he noted that budget development for the 2026–2027 school year will begin in January. On months without required decisions, the SOT may use meeting time to learn more about specific school initiatives or policies.

No questions were raised regarding the SOT’s legal role and responsibilities.

2.2 Selection of SOT Chair

Mr. West facilitated the selection of officers, noting that this was the one meeting he was required to chair before the team elected its own chair.

Nomination: Ms. Nichole Brewer-Gentry was nominated to serve as SOT Chair.

Second: The nomination was seconded by Ms. Lacy Sullivan.

Discussion: Members expressed appreciation for Ms. Brewer-Gentry’s experience and long-term service on the SOT.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Result: Nichole Brewer-Gentry will serve as SOT Chair for the 2025–2026 school year.

2.3 Selection of SOT Vice Chair

Nomination: Ms. Tori Sadiki was nominated to serve as SOT Vice Chair.

Second: The nomination was seconded by Mr. Eric Schumacher.

Discussion: Ms. Sadiki shared that she is committed to promoting Faiss, supporting students, and “spreading the word” about the school to attract families and increase involvement.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Result: Tori Sadiki will serve as SOT Vice Chair for the 2025–2026 school year.

2.4 Selection of Community Member

Nomination: Mr. West nominated Ms. Kara Nieland to serve as a community member on the SOT, noting her decade of involvement, her history as an SOT member, and her support in organizing events such as dine-out nights.

Discussion: Members agreed that Ms. Nieland’s ongoing involvement, even after her children have moved on to high school, is valuable to the school community.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Result: Kara Nieland will continue serving as a community member on the SOT.

Mr. West noted that the team may consider additional community members in the future. Any candidate must not already be eligible to serve in another SOT category (e.g., an unsuccessful parent or teacher candidate in the election); however, they are always welcome to attend as members of the public.

2.5 Selection of Minutes Recorder

Volunteer: Ms. Teuta Zeka volunteered to record minutes for the SOT.

Second: Her offer was seconded by Ms. Terri Romaniello.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Result: Teuta Zeka will serve as the minutes recorder.

2.6 Agenda Preparation

Mr. West explained that, in practice, the chair typically collaborates with the principal to create the agenda. Still, the principal usually drafts and distributes it to make the process easier for the chair. Future agendas will continue to follow the district’s SOT structure and Robert’s Rules of Order. No formal action was taken; members agreed with this process.

3.0 General Discussion

3.1 Meeting Schedule-

The team reviewed the meeting schedule for the 2025–2026 period.

Historically, SOT meetings have been held on the second Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the Faiss Library, with a virtual option available.

Members discussed potential conflicts and transportation needs.

Outcome: The team agreed to continue meeting on the second Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m., with both in-person and Google Meet options available.

Mr. West will send Google Calendar invites to all members and will typically share the agenda on Thursday or Friday before each meeting. He noted that adjustments may be necessary around holidays, professional development days, and budget timelines.

3.2 Team Norms and Expectations

The team discussed norms for participation and communication:

Participation & Engagement:

Members should be welcoming and ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak, including online participants.

Members are encouraged to ask questions, request clarification, and actively engage in discussion.

Use of Devices:

Members will minimize distractions from phones and other devices during meetings.

Avoiding Acronyms:

Mr. West shared a past example of a parent feeling frustrated by unexplained educational jargon.

Members agreed to limit the use of acronyms or to explain them to parents and community members clearly.

Addressing Disagreement:

The team affirmed the expectation of respectful dialogue and decorum.

Members may disagree about decisions, but should remain focused on what is best for students and the school as a whole.

Consensus Building:

If members feel they lack sufficient information to make an informed decision, they should express this.

Items may be tabled and revisited after additional information is provided.

Member Needs:

Mr. West noted that, when possible, light snacks and drinks will be available to acknowledge the long day and support attendance.

No formal vote was taken; these norms were accepted by consensus.

3.3 Agenda Planning and Future Topics

Mr. West previewed topics for upcoming meetings:

November Meeting:

Review the School Performance Plan (SPP) and School Plan of Operation, including the roadmap to School Success and aligned budget.

Future Topics:

School-wide fundraiser planning and participation strategies.

Communication systems with families and follow-up on two-way communication goals.

Additional school initiatives that members may request to learn more about.

Members may email agenda suggestions to Mr. West or the SOT Chair.

3.4 Future Meetings

The team confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Faiss Library, with a Google Meet option available.

4.0 Information – School Updates

Mr. West and Ms. Skrogstad provided several informational updates:

Facility Modernization and Safety Upgrades:

Faiss MS has been selected as one of eight middle schools in the next phase of a districtwide facility modernization program.

The school will receive approximately \$800,000 in upgrades, primarily focused on safety and security, including:

A new and expanded camera system.

Perimeter fencing and electronic infrastructure improvements.

Work is expected to begin in November and may continue into January or February.

Academic and Enrichment Programs:

An 8th-grade student from Faiss Middle School will represent the school at the district spelling bee, having previously competed as a 6th grader. Last year, a Faiss student advanced to the finals of the spelling bee.

Both flag football teams are on track for the playoffs.

The cheer team has been selected and is practicing.

A recent book fair was successful and will generate additional funds for the library.

Upcoming professional learning includes department visits and trainings at other schools, with Faiss hosting the social studies department from across the area.

Scheduling Updates:

Due to budget-driven staffing changes, student schedules were updated.

Administration reprinted and distributed new schedules for all students to ensure clarity.

Ms. Skrogstad reported that the process went smoothly and students generally knew where to go; questions were resolved throughout the day.

Assessment:

All 8th-grade students will take the PSAT on Tuesday, October 21, 2025.

Report Card Lunch and Fundraising:

Report Card Lunch will be held on Wednesday, allowing families to bring lunch and eat with their students on campus. This schedule was adjusted because Friday is a staff development day and Thursday is the Student of the Month event.

The school will also launch a school-wide online fundraiser, with an ambitious goal to support school programs.

Previous community fundraisers (e.g., restaurant dine-out nights) have been successful and will continue as part of fundraising efforts.

5.0 Public Comment Period

During public comment:

Parent Comment:

A parent commended the administration and staff for the effective communication of recent budget-related schedule changes to students.

She shared that her child was initially concerned about teachers not returning, but ultimately understood the situation after school staff explained the changes in age-appropriate terms. She thanked the team for their clear communication.

Principal Response:

Mr. West described his efforts to visit classes affected by staff changes, clarify that teachers were not being fired, and explain how enrollment projections and per-pupil funding influenced staffing decisions.

He noted the emotional difficulty of losing long-time staff members and expressed hope that affected teachers may be rehired if funding and enrollment allow.

Mr. West also acknowledged district-level work by the new superintendent and chief financial officer (CFO) to make per-pupil funding more consistent and transparent moving forward.

No additional public comments were made.

6.0 Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Lacy Sullivan and seconded by Tori Sadiki. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

The next SOT meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Faiss Middle School Library, with a Google Meet option available.