

Dean Rusk School Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday – May 14, 2019

Time: 4:30 to 6:00 PM

Location: Dean Rusk Front Office Conference Room

In Attendance:

Dawn Weinbaum – Principal

Elizabeth Castrillon – Certified Teacher

Melissa Christensen – Certified Teacher

Susan Whitfield – Parent Representative

Jenna Cavin – Parent Representative

Terri Jacomine – Parent Representative

Diane Ellicott – Parent Representative/Business Person – Absent

Larry Blase – Parent Representative/Business Person - Absent

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Weinbaum, and she welcomed the members. The Agenda was distributed. Ms. Weinbaum also thanked Sue Whitfield and Diane Ellicott for their service on the Council the past two years.

Rising 6th Grade Parent Meeting

The rising 6th grade parent meeting is on May14, 2019.

Georgia Milestones EOG and EOC Assessments and Scores

Ms. Weinbaum stated that the preliminary scores are coming in for the Milestones, but no scores are set in stone at this time. However, so far Ms. Weinbaum has been pleased with the results. Student scores will arrive in mid-July and parents will receive their students final scores in the fall.

Course Placements

Ms. Weinbaum discussed course placements that went home in March with report cards. The administration and counselors are still working through parent requests, but for the most part, students are in the appropriate classes for next year. Ms. Weinbaum reiterated that advanced classes need to be truly for advanced students.

High School Credit Meeting for Rising 8th Graders

Ms. Weinbaum stated that the high school credit meeting went well, and she received positive feedback from parents stating that the meeting was beneficial.

End of Year Dates

MS. Weinbaum reviewed the end of the year dates. She also sent an eblast to all parents regarding important end of year dates, including field day, awards day, and final exam schedule. If a student received an award, the parents should have been contacted by the teacher. Also, schools are required by the county to give a final exam the last day of school. On the last day, students will be released early at 12:45. Ms. Weinbaum stated that if a parent checks a student out on Wednesday, he/she will have to check them out the usual way. There will not be tables set up to sign students out. Ms. Weinbaum also discussed the 8th grade walk. Parents do not have to attend the 8th grade awards ceremony to attend the walk. Students will walk from DRMS to SHS Football field. An email was sent to all 8th grade parents regarding the walk and procedures. The walk is on May 29th at 11:10, and students will receive Class of 2023 t-shirts.

Student Survey of Staff

A parent asked if students take exit surveys of the teachers and school, and Ms. Weinbaum stated that currently, students do not. She explained that in the past, students did take a survey regarding teachers, but a few years ago the state eliminated it. However, students do take a climate survey, which is a general survey, and they also take a Panorama survey at the beginning of the year that is more specific and asks questions regarding the social, emotional, and academic climate of student and school. The district has asked to give a follow-up SEL Panorama survey at the end of the year. Ms. Weinbaum stated that it will be interesting to see if the results are different from the beginning of the year. A parent asked if it was an anonymous survey, and Ms. Weinbaum stated that it was not since the students use their log in password. As far as teacher surveys, Ms. Weinbaum mentioned that many teachers give their own surveys at the end of the year, but it is not required. It was also discussed that it would be beneficial to give the exiting 8th graders a survey since they are the first class to graduate from DRMS and have been at the new building all three years. Ms. Weinbaum will move forward with an exit survey for 8th grade students for the end of this school year. Ms. Weinbaum also mentioned that in the future it would be beneficial to have a student council that would periodically meet with Ms. Weinbaum to discuss the school and school climate.

Attendance Reports

Ms. Weinbaum addressed a parent's question regarding attendance. Parents need to send in a note when a student is checked out early for the student to receive an excused absence from classes. Once a student is absent from a class 7 times, parents must send in an excuse from a doctor. A parent asked if procedures could be simplified. Ms. Weinbaum said that she would investigate the current checkout and absentee procedures.

Canvas Updates

Ms. Weinbaum discussed potential new programs for teachers to use for student assessments since the school is no longer using USA Test Prep. Sue Whitfield stated that she has been making notes about adjustments that would make CANVAS more user friendly and would allow parents to access attendance reports, etc. She will send a list of ideas to Ms. Weinbaum.

Walk Through Dates

Walk through dates for the 2019-2020 school year are July 30th from 9:00-11:00 for 6th graders and 1:30-3:30 for 7th and 8th graders.

Technology Repairs and Cafeteria Charges

Ms. Weinbaum discussed the cost to repair computers. She addressed the fact that DRMS is a 1:1 school, which is such an academic benefit to the students. However, it is costly to repair the computers. Parents signed a contract regarding repair fees. To replace the screen it is approximately \$327, and the base is approximately \$67. Ms. Castrillon mentioned the possibility of offering insurance for parents to purchase. It was also discussed the possibility of charging a technology fee to cover the costs to maintain the computers. Ms. Weinbaum reiterated that DRMS is fortunate to be a 1:1 school – not all schools in the county have this benefit. In addition to computer costs, the school is trying to recover cafeteria fees that are owed.

Superintendent's Proposed Budget

Ms. Weinbaum shared the good news that teachers and counselors will receive a \$3000/year increase in pay, as well as an increase for applicable classified personnel.

School Zone Signage

A parent asked about the school zone signage and if it could be marked more clearly. A CCSD officer took pictures of the various signs, and it was determined that the signage is okay, and no changes are needed at this time.

School Safety

The council discussed school safety. Ms. Weinbaum shared that all doors are securely locked and checked each day and throughout the day by administration. Furthermore, Officer Dames, the school police officer, is at the school. Also, visitors cannot access classrooms because of the locked doors between the front lobby and classrooms.

Ms. Weinbaum thanked all council members for their participation and closed the meeting. This is the last meeting of the school year.