Cherokee County School District

MINUTES FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Mill Creek Middle School - School Council
April 18, 2023

1. Call to Order- 8:07 call to order

2. Pledge of Allegiance- Matthew May led the School Council in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes- Minutes from February meeting were read by Brian Hohla.

   -Christina Ritzman started a discussion about the CTAE, and connections, classes at MCMS. She mentioned that choosing the CTAE/Connections courses seemed very rushed in the lower grade levels. She suggested that there be more parental involvement in the decision-making process. Mr. May commented that this was a good idea, but also mentioned the counselors gave a presentation to the students on the programs and online info could be found on the school website. Middle School connections can at least give the students an idea of what the students might like to do OR what they definitely do not want to do.

5. Presentation to School Council- None

6. Report of the Principal

   - Update on Master Schedule- Mr. May reported that MCMS had rolled out course requests to students and parents. The school's goal is for students to continue to challenge themselves. Courses allow students to move up or down in levels of classes (On level, Honors, Ap, etc.). Although, more challenging courses may have different outcomes (B's and C's instead of A's students are used to. Faculty just need to make sure to have that conversation with the parents. Some students thrive in a new setting, while others may struggle. Administration is currently reviewing the course requests from the students, as well as teacher requests to teach different subjects and grades levels. Christina Ritzman mentioned that her children had a great experience at MCMS because of this. Janna Giles commented that her two children, who are five years apart, had completely different experiences, but her youngest has a great experience, like Ms. Ritzman's children.

- Update on Hiring- Mr. May reported that MCMS had 3 teachers retire, 2 resigned, and lost one to promotion to county office. He has hired a new teacher from Rhinehardt College to fill a 6th grade ELA position, as well as several new SPED teachers. We are still looking to fill one more SPED position. He also announced that we will be losing our EBD classrooms to another school, but we will be gaining a class for Autistic students.

- 5th Grade Night- The committee discussed this new program that Mrs. Daugherty is pioneering for rising 6th grade families. This evening is teacher run, and it allows the families of students moving up from elementary school to meet staff, see the school, and get an idea of clubs and sports. This event would allow parents and students to explore at their own pace and is a wonderful transition activity for upcoming students.

- Update on COGNIA STEM Certification- STEM drives classes in all grades and content areas, not just the STEM connection class. MCMS submitted all its documentation to Cognia on March 1. We were then given a one-hour time window with Cognia to defend our application and discuss our supporting evidence. Mr. May has had positive reviews of our application so far, and we should know by the end of the year. This process has raised involvement of the students in all classrooms. WE can see this with projects like rocket building in 8th grade and making podcasts in 6th. This program is not a one and done certification. MCMS will need to reaccredit every 5 years.

- End of Year Calendar Review- The committee had a look at the end-of-year calendar today before it is sent out to all families. It contained all testing dates, finals, award ceremonies and the field trip. It is a one look document for students and parents to know what is happening every day until the end of the year.

- Thank you to members with expiring terms- Today the committee says goodbye to three members whose tenure is at an end. Christina Ritzman, Brian Hohla, and Samantha Daugherty.

7. Old Business- None

8. New Business- Janna Giles brought up the topic of the Centrix Drill, and how it set off a drill at River Ridge High School as well. The practice drill went well here at MCMS, but the link between our two schools is being addressed now that we know. It should have only alerted the Admin at RRHS. Mr. May discussed that we are always continuing to review safety procedures here at MCMS. All the improvements the school made this year are excellent steps to ensuring our students' safety, but we will be working on setting stricter rules to building access throughout the day. Continuous

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implementation of little improvements never hurts when it comes to student safety. We have put a lot of good things in place, but can we do more?

9. Adjournment- The meeting adjourned at 8:50.

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Matthew May, Principal