

Sequoyah HS School Council Meeting

Date: 10/13/2023

Time (called to order): 7:35am

Location: SHS Student Center

Meeting called by: Bob Van Alstyne, Principal (BVA)

Attendees: Inga Clark (IC), Stephanie Judkins (SJ), Paige Sims (PS), Chanda Schwab (CS), Cora Hodgins (CH), Kevin Maher (KM)

Other attendees/observers: none

Absent council members: none

Presentation(s):

- Qualities of a Principal – homework for council members
 - CCSD requirement; council members supply ideas to Council Chairperson, who compiles leadership qualities of a principal; this list is used as a guideline in the event of the need to choose a new principal (to determine if a candidate aligns with the Council's and community's preferences for a principal)
 - Each subtopic reviewed, some wording clarified and consolidated
 - Once approved, will be shared with CCSD/Superintendent's Office (before the end of October)

Report from the Principal: (BVA presents)

- Graduation Rate – 2023 cohort: 94.1% (down 0.8% from 2022 cohort, which equates to about 7 students)
 - 5-year cohort graduation rate: 96.3%, up by 4% from previous (equates to about 20 students) – directly the result of Carey Blalock's (Student Success Coach) work
 - Students at SHS more than 5 years do not “count” in graduation statistics, even if they ultimately graduate
 - “Dropout” calculations from state include students who achieve GED (still achieved equivalency degree)
 - Student with parent permission can drop out at age 16; can without parent permission at age 18; until age 16, school social worker works with at-risk students; after age 16, Carey Blalock works with those students and helps them explore options (including Mountain Ed – “night school”)
 - Mountain Education Charter School lost state funding, now back under CCSD umbrella
- ACT/SAT data – SHS highest SAT average in district (1112); highest average in English (571); highest average in Math (541)
 - SHS 2023 23.9 composite ACT score, highest average in district (one point above CCSD average) – ACT covers core 4 academic areas
 - SHS offers SAT (reduced cost) for nontraditional test-takers during PSAT Day in 2022 – a little over 50 students took the test (still #1 in the district); 2023 about 45 students took the opportunity
 - SAT and ACT scores factor more into scholarship requirements than college admissions since COVID
- PSAT Day: Wednesday, October 11, 2023
 - State pays for 10th graders to take
 - CCSD pays for 9th graders to take
 - Data (particularly for 9th graders) used at SHS for “AP potential” (outlines academic strengths) – this feeds directly into the SHS SIP goal of increasing amount of AP course takers
 - 10th (and some 11th) graders can qualify for scholarship opportunities based on scores
 - Some issues at SHS – due to Bluebook (College Board) issues, not SHS technology; issues developed across the country due to bandwidth
 - The College Board technology issues led to late starts, which then snowballed into late releases, leading to gridlock at pickup

Old Business: Qualities of a Principal (see above)

New Business:

- KM: reports positive aspects of ROTC program at SHS from his experience this year with the program; suggests area for ropes course, etc to increase draw; SHS has limited space
 - BVA: SHS program is Air Force affiliated, which asks for about 100 students to participate; SHS currently has 70+ students (COVID, staff turnover may have affected SHS numbers); newer staff members anticipate increasing involvement
- KM: Skills USA construction competitions – suggested offering opportunities to students despite SHS not offering a construction pathway
 - SHS does participate in pathway-related competitions
 - CH will take KM's information to CTAE department, administration

Next meeting date: November 10, 2023, SHS Student Center

Adjournment: 8:49am