

Sequoyah HS School Council Meeting

Date: 3/7/2024

Time (called to order): 7:34am

Location: SHS Student Center

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

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

Other attendees/ observers: Heather Mitchell (Assistant Principal), Jason Meade (Assistant Principal), Carey Blalock (Student Success Coach), Andy Oberlies (AP Department Head), Brandon Grummer (CTAE Department Head)

Absent council members: Kevin Maher (KM)

Presentation(s):

- Master Schedule Build, presented by Heather Mitchell (HM)
 - Begins in fall
 - This year's process began earlier because of the planned switch from Aspen to Synergy (CCSD pushed back this transition in February, but SHS had already completed a lot of the work for next year's schedule)
 - Rising 9th graders are placed based on a rubric (includes current placement, scores); elective fair and team visits to help students understand available electives
 - Student registration and teacher allotments both play the largest roles in determining the master schedule
 - When students receive their requested classes there will be more than 6 classes listed ("extra" classes listed are alternates)
- AP Program Update, presented by Andy Oberlies (AO)
 - Current AP courses will be offered next year (number of sections may change)
 - Every course that has approved digital AP tests will be given at SHS this year
 - College Board has determined that beginning next year, all AP tests will be digital
 - Enhanced Advanced Algebra and AP Calculus with Connections - new state course in Math (Enhanced Advanced Algebra = Algebra 2); select students/parents invited to meeting based on Algebra 1 scores to explain the new course; allows a mix of algebra and calculus rather than those skills being in separate units or courses; course is a one year commitment because there is really no other class for the student to change to if they decide it is not a good fit for them
 - Mostly a sophomore year course; will allow better identify students for advanced courses in junior/senior years
 - Pre-Calc and AP Pre-Calc will still be offered; Honors Pre-Calc will no longer be offered
 - Adding 2 sections of Honors Algebra 1 next year (for highest-performing rising 9th graders)
- CTAE Programs, presented by Brandon Grummer (BG)/Jason Meade (JM)
 - 10 career pathways offered at SHS
 - Career Pathway: 3 yearlong courses (students decide on their chosen pathway in freshman year, take the remaining courses in sophomore and junior years, then can go into Work-Based Learning in their senior year)
 - Potential for certifications that can impact students' job prospects post-high school
 - (JM) Scheduling challenges: teachers teach 5 class periods, which would mean 2 first year, 2 second year, 1 third year, but pathway numbers support a 2nd third year course which would require the teachers to go to "extended day," adding another class period to their teaching schedule (removing a planning period) -

- that requires additional funding
- In the state there is no 4-year pathway, but there are options at SHS for another course in the pathway, Work-Based Learning internship, mentorship to younger students, other unique opportunities for students who want to continue in their pathway
- Student Success Coach, presented by Carey Blalock (CB)
 - CB has built relationships with students to give students a chance to graduate
 - Has had immense success to help students who are behind in credits, need help in various ways
 - Has facilitated “Night School” for students who need tutoring or a quiet place to work
 - Has facilitated course recovery (during lunch, which allows students to complete courses and not lose an elective class in their schedule)
 - Positive impacts the graduation rate
 - Keeps up with SHS students currently at Mountain Ed (new requirement there: show progress or attendance is mandatory)
 - ACE liaison for students transitioning back to SHS, coaching students to ensure progress
 - Federal funding for this position has been discontinued; all high schools very much want to keep this position

Report from the Principal: (BVA presents)

- Staffing/Loss of allotments
 - Loss of ARP (federally funded) positions (4 teachers + Student Success position); all 6 high schools are losing these same positions
 - 2 positions have been absorbed by attrition (teachers transferring, retiring)
 - 2 positions must be reduced (this means 10 sections of students that must be combined in the master schedule); class sizes must increase
 - This is the first year of BVA’s tenure as principal that positions have not been added; instead they are being subtracted
 - SHS is projected to be the third-largest high school next year (1. Cherokee, 2. Etowah)
 - SHS will get an additional counselor and an additional assistant principal next year
- Superintendent visit
 - Visited SHS on Thursday, 3/8
 - 30 minute visit included coffee shop, CTAE hallway
 - Plans to visit every school by the end of the month
 - Plans to return to meet teachers and community members
- New band director
 - Chad Smith
 - Campbell HS, Los Angeles, Illinois
 - Formal introduction to band community the week after he is confirmed at the board meeting
 - Has already guest conducted with band students

Old Business: None

New Business:

- “Campus Connect Skybridge” – tour with some CCSD members and architects to look into connecting SHS Main and East
- Wrestling building flooded (pipe burst), the rebuild of which may lead to more improvements on SHS’s wish list

Next meeting date: April 12, 2024, SHS Student Center

Adjournment: 9:01am