

Sequoyah HS School Council Meeting

Date: 10/9/2024

Time (called to order): 7:33am

Location: SHS Student Center

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

Attendees: Stephanie Judkins (SJ), Brandon Grummer (BG), Paige Sims (PS), Chanda Schwab (CS), Tim Chapman (TC)

Other attendees/observers: Jason Meade (JM), Assistant Principal; Andrew Oberlies (AO), AP Department Head

Absent committee members: None

Approval of Agenda: 6-0 (unanimous)

Approval of Minutes: 6-0 (unanimous)

Presentation(s):

- Preliminary SIP Goals: Increase number of students taking Honors/AP classes at SHS; increase number of students completing Career Pathways
 - BG presents career pathways information: all CTAE pathways are 3 classes (years) that lead to opportunity for career certifications
 - 2023: 164 out of 187 students received certifications
 - Graduation rate of students who complete career pathways is nearly 98%
 - JM adds information:
 - Ideally, teachers would teach 6 pathway classes (2 intro, 2 intermediate, 2 final)
 - CCSD teachers only teach 5 classes each day – this would end up either reducing the amount of students who can take a pathway or reduces the amount of students who can complete their pathway
 - Solution: 5 of the SHS CTAE teachers are currently teaching extended day (teaching 6 of 7 classes rather than 5 of 7)
 - Number of pathway completers has essentially doubled from 2023
 - The hope is that in the 4th year, pathway completers move into a work-based learning environment
 - Career pathway/pathway completion is applicable to both college-bound and workforce-bound students
 - AP Goals (AO presents):
 - Research shows that the more AP classes/tests students take, the better prepared they are for college
 - SIP goal targets not just traditional AP/Honors students, but every student
 - Before SIP goal implemented, AP classes did not accurately represent the diverse makeup of the whole SHS population (SIP goal has helped remedy that issue)
 - In the past 8 years, number of students taking AP exams has more than doubled, with scores on average staying the same
 - College Board now offers a nationwide school recognition program (AP Honor Roll): 2023 SHS was at the Bronze level, 2024 SHS was at the Silver level
 - Teacher support and encouragement has been key in giving students the confidence to move to the Honors/AP level; teachers have one-on-one meetings with students to start the conversation about moving to a higher level; counselors then meet with students and offer meetings with parents to explain the process and move the student in the scheduling system

Report from the Principal: (BVA presents)

- School Day SAT (10/16)
 - 11th grade students; in-school; over 100 students will take the SAT that day (business as usual for the rest of the SHS population) – SAT-takers will return to class as soon as test is concluded

- This is the first time SHS is offering this option because SAT is now solely an online test (offering to only CCSD students allows for easier registration and fewer technology issues)
- Second in-school day just before Spring Break for 10th and 11th
- PSAT Day (10/30): all 9th and 10th graders present will take PSAT (can leave after the test)
 - 11th graders who are eligible for National Merit Scholarship will also take it
 - 11th and 12th graders will have a digital day
 - Buses will not run early but SHS has an early dismissal system set up for that day
 - Work will be posted on Canvas for all students (including 9th and 10th graders)

Presentation from School Council

- Qualities of a Principal: finalized; approved 6-0

Old Business: None

New Business:

- SJ suggests using sign-ups to encourage more volunteers and donations for SHS in general; council members agree this is something that can be explored further.
- SHS foundation is in the beginning steps; would be zone-centered (not just school-centered)
- New app forthcoming with all SHS extracurricular information

Next meeting date: TBD – Second semester

Adjournment: 8:59am