Cherokee County School District

MINUTES FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Mill Creek Middle School - School Council
January 17, 2025

1. Call to Order – The Mill Creek MS School Council meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM. The council members who were present at the meeting were Theresa Haywood, Kelli Frye, Scott Steinbrenner, Matthew Kling, Jason Quinn, Jim Elder, Susanne O'Brien, Justin Sanderson, and Phillip Crane.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda – Mr. Sanderson reviewed the agenda with the School Council. Susan O'Brien motioned to approve the agenda, which Jana Giles seconded.

4. Approval of Minutes – Jim Elder reviewed the previous minutes with the School Council from 11/1/24, located on the MCMS Website. All minutes were on the website and accessible to the council and the public. The hard copy of the minutes is available in the school's front office should anyone request to review them.

5. Presentation to the School Council

    - No formal presentation to the school council

6. Old Business

    - None

7. New Business

    - Rotary Youth Exchange

        i. Mr. Sanderson talked extensively about his experience with the Rotary Youth Exchange. He talked about how middle school students may not be inclined to travel overseas for an exchange program. Mr. Sanderson expressed the desire to build a relationship with the Rotary Club for some type of partnership.

    - Budget

        i. CCSD Budget

1. $50 Million decrease over the next 3 years.
2. An informational sheet was shared that shows the brake down what items are locally funded (by the county without state funding)
    a. Transportation, Facilities, Salaries
3. Options for the school board
    a. Utilize a one-time Opt-Out Mechanism
    b. Permanently reduce/eliminate services and supports
    c. Replace the revenue lost by the homestead exemption by increasing the maintenance and operations millage rate
4. Discussed how Cobb County's budget will and can affect Cherokee County in regards to possibly being a more attractive district for teachers, support staff, and other essential personnel that would negatively affect our schools if those individuals chose to move counties.
5. The council discussed making budgetary issues more accessible to CCSD residents.
6. Mr. Sanderson has requested to share the informational sheet through Parent Square

- Students bringing coats into school
    i. Discussion of how to keep up with coats or jackets during the school day
    ii. Students always have the option to request a hallway locker
    iii. Mr. Crane discussed that if students need coats, the counseling department works with identified students to obtain coats and necessary clothing.
- CTAE and Connections Options for rising 8th and 9th grade
    i. Presented the CTAE handbook that was developed by the county

ii. Mill Creek Middle School offers several high school credit courses for 8th graders

1. Intro to healthcare, Food Science, Marketing and Principles, Intro to theater, Visual arts, Band, Orchestra, and Chorus, Spanish, math, science

a. Availability is limited based on class size.

i. Student's milestone scores help identify which students are qualified

ii. The application process is also utilized to identify students

iii. Students will have one high school credit course with a non-high school credit; students will not have two high school credits.

iv. Scheduling becomes another factor in who may be accepted into high school credit courses

v. Students are only able to enter the class within six days of beginning, and students may only drop the course at the end of the quarter

iii. These courses align with River Ridge Career Pathway Options

iv. CCSD budget upcoming struggles may affect the availability of high school credit courses in the future

v. Each high school credit course at Mill Creek allows students to start River Ridge with 4 credits

vi. Mr. Sanderson sent information regarding these courses for rising 8th graders through Parent Square.

1. Mr. Crane presented that the counselors will present these different options to the students this semester

2. There could be a parent night to discuss options for rising 9th graders if the interest is presented

vii. 8th grade students were given the Career Pathway Option handbook to discuss with parents

viii. If there is a pathway that is not offered by River Ridge but is offered by another county high school, students are eligible to transfer to the school that offers the desired pathway

1. There are also options through the virtual school

- Upcoming Registration for rising 9th grade students
  i. Informational night for rising 9th-grade students on January 27th, 2025, for electives and pathways
- PTSA Chair position
  i. Open positions for the 2025-2026 school year
  ii. Several positions available for the upcoming years
- Color Battles
  i. February 3 to February 14
  ii. Projected $30,000-$40,000
  iii. Using funds to purchase more technology items (Chromebooks), facility maintenance, and other areas of need for the school
  iv. Apex company is the director of the event
    1. Heavily cell phone driven
    2. The culminating event is on the last day during connection block, where students will be covering each other with colors
    3. Faculty meeting on January 28th will discuss expectations for the event
  v. Community members are essential to the success of the fundraiser
  vi. CCSD middle schools will only be doing this fundraiser
  vii. If a student raises $30, then they may participate in the culminating events
  viii. Volunteer opportunities are available for February 14th

Cherokee County School District

- Open Discussion

    i. Concern of students coming home hungry due to lunchtimes being early

        1. Discussed students can bring snacks to curb hunger

8. Adjournment – A motion was made by Mr. Sanderson to adjourn the meeting at 9:15a and was seconded by Jim Elder.

Mill Creek Middle School - School Council
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Justin Sanderson, Principal