Cherokee County School District
School Council
Meeting Minutes Notes

Indian Knoll Elementary School
School Council

DATE: 9.30.25 MEETING TIME: 7:00 am MEETING LOCATION: IKES Conference Room

MEETING CALLED BY	Erica Morrie
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Meeting
PRINCIPAL	Erica Morrie
NOTE TAKER	Peggy Rein
BOARD ATTENDEES	Erica Morrie, Jennifer Stebbins, Peggy Rein, Heather Towery, Kristine Fletcher, Melanie Muhlfelder
GUEST ATTENDESS	

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TOPIC: Presentation to School Council PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION	Mrs. Morrie presented the School Council Training Presentation, which provided valuable insight into the purpose and responsibilities of the council. This session fostered a thoughtful discussion among members about the importance of collaborative leadership and the role the council plays in supporting our school community. We were pleased to see enthusiastic participation as volunteers stepped forward to serve in key leadership roles. We are proud to announce Kristine Fletcher as our Chair, Jenn Stebbins as our Vice Chair. Their commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive school environment is deeply appreciated. Peggy Rein also volunteered to be secretary and take notes for our meetings. We look forward to a productive year ahead, working together to support our students, staff, and families. In addition to our council leadership appointments, we revisited the leadership qualities identified for a school principal—an important reflection carried over from last year's discussions. Mrs. Morrie emphasized that her guiding principle remains steadfast: putting kids first. This student-centered approach continues to shape her leadership and decision-making, ensuring that every initiative and conversation is rooted in what's best for our learners. Her commitment to fostering a nurturing, inclusive, and academically enriching environment sets a strong foundation for collaboration between staff, families, and the School Council. We're excited to support this vision and work together to make a meaningful impact.
DISCUSSION	

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TOPIC: IKES Updates PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION	Staff Updates: Ms. Kristin Towns will be retiring this December after a long and distinguished career in education. Her dedication, wisdom, and warmth have left a lasting impact on countless students and colleagues. We look forward to honoring her contributions in the months ahead and celebrating the legacy she leaves behind. In addition, we are currently seeking a full-time SI paraprofessional to join our team. This opening follows Ms. Jamie Simms's recent move into one of our REACH classrooms, where she continues to support IKES students. Student Advisory Panel/Superintendent Advisory Panel: Mrs. Morrie is excited to be launching a Student Advisory Panel with our 5th grade students at IKES. This initiative is designed to give students a meaningful voice in their school experience, inviting their feedback on topics such as available resources and the overall learning environment. By engaging students in open dialogue, we aim to foster a culture of collaboration, empowerment, and continuous improvement.
DISCUSSION	We're also proud to share that Tyler Dunn, a 5th grade student at IKES, has been selected to represent our school on the Superintendent Advisory Panel. Tyler will join peers from across the district to share student perspectives and contribute to district-wide conversations. Mentorship Program: We're excited to share that IKES is in the early stages of launching a mentorship program designed to strengthen connections between students, staff, and our broader community. This initiative will pair students with caring adult mentors—both educators and community members—who can offer guidance, encouragement, and support throughout the school year. We're especially grateful for the outreach from the local Optimist Club, whose members have expressed interest in partnering with us to help make this program a success.

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TOPIC: IKES Updates PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION	Positive Behavior Framework/Birdhouse Shirts: Our Positive Behavior Framework (PBF) is off to a strong and inspiring start this school year! One exciting update is the shift in how we use Class Dojo—points are now awarded by class, encouraging teamwork and collective responsibility rather than individual competition. This change has already begun to foster a greater sense of unity and shared purpose among students. Our school-wide motto, "We Rise", met with the enthusiastic student response "We Fly!", has become a powerful daily affirmation that reflects our commitment to growth, resilience, and community. There's a noticeable increase in consistency across classrooms, and the energy around positive behavior is truly uplifting. To celebrate our Birdhouse spirit, Birdhouse shirts will be sent home in October, with the goal of having them in students' hands before our upcoming House Meeting on October 10, 2025. We're excited to continue building momentum and reinforcing the values that help our students soar. Administration is not a part of one individual house – their shirts will represent all houses.
DISCUSSION	Honor Roll Breakfast: We're proud to recognize the academic achievements of our 4th and 5th grade students through a special Honor Roll Celebration. Students who have earned all As will be invited to a celebratory breakfast in the cafeteria, where they'll be honored with a certificate in recognition of their outstanding performance. Students who have achieved all As and Bs will also be acknowledged for their hard work and dedication with a certificate of achievement. Thanksgiving Lunch: We're looking forward to celebrating the season of gratitude with our annual Thanksgiving Lunch! Dates will be announced soon, and we're excited to share a few important updates: This year, we will host Thanksgiving Lunch over two days, rather than three as in previous years. Each student may invite up to two guests to join them for this special meal. In accordance with county guidelines, the cost for guest meals will be $8.00.

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TOPIC: IKES Updates PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION	Tardies/Absences: During our meeting, we reviewed the updated attendance guidelines and discussed their impact on student engagement and school culture. Mrs. Morrie shared encouraging news—daily tardies have been steadily decreasing, reflecting a positive shift in punctuality and responsibility among our students. For those interested in learning more about the attendance policies and supports available, please visit the Georgia Department of Education's Whole Child Supports Attendance page. It offers detailed information on expectations, resources, and strategies to promote consistent school attendance across the state.
DISCUSSION	

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TOPIC: Curriculum/Data Updates PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION	Curriculum Night: Curriculum Night at IKES saw a modest turnout this year, but it provided a valuable opportunity to share key academic and strategic priorities with those in attendance. IKES SIP: We briefly reviewed the School Improvement Plan (SIP) goals for Math, English Language Arts (ELA), and Attendance, highlighting our focus areas for student growth and engagement. We look forward to diving deeper into these topics at our next School Council meeting, where we'll continue the conversation and explore ways to support these initiatives collaboratively.

TOPIC: PTA News PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION	We have a festive and fun-filled season ahead, and we're thrilled to share a few upcoming highlights: Cherrydale Fundraiser: Our annual fundraiser is kicking off soon! Be on the lookout for Cherrydale information coming home with your student. Your support helps fund important programs and activities at IKES. IKES Boo Bash – October 24, 2025: Mark your calendars for a spooktacular evening of fun! Details will be sent home soon, so keep an eye out for more information on how to join the celebration. Holiday Shop – December: We're bringing back the beloved Holiday Shop, where students can purchase thoughtful gifts for their families. It's a wonderful way for children to experience the joy of giving. We'll be looking for volunteers to help make this event a success—watch for a sign-up form as the holiday season approaches.

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AJOURNMENT CALLED BY	Erica Morrie
TIME	8:00 am
NEXT MEETING	12/16/25