

School Council Agenda
October 24, 2025
Southeast Bulloch Middle School

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Vision: SEBMS is a supportive learning environment where respect is shown, strong relationships are built, and successful students are developed.

Mission: The mission of SEBMS is to inspire and empower students to thrive academically and socially through a positive learning community based on respectful relationships.

Motto: "SEBMS - A Place of Possibility"

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Dr. Veland @ 10:00.

Veland shared that he typically does not preside over the School Council meetings. However, due to the fact that none of the officers from last school term were in attendance at the start of the meeting he would preside. New members stated they were fine with that.

Attendance

Present: Adrian Peterson, Alyssa Mackelprang, Todd Veland, Shantell Henry, Haley Carwile, Zhan Chen, Brent Connor, Kimberly Neville, Kimberly Sharpe, Catina Thompson

Absent: Phil Oliver (Chairperson), Monica Walden Everett, Hal Wilson, Brandon Poole and Charity Wilbon

Introduction of Members

- **Current:** Phil Oliver (Chairperson), Adrian Peterson, Alyssa Mackelprang, Monica Walden Everett, Hal Wilson

*Faculty and Staff Members: Todd Veland, Brandon Poole, Shantell Henry (Secretary)

- **New:** Haley Carwile, Zhan Chen, Brent Connor, Kimberly Neville, Kimberly Sharpe, Catina Thompson and Charity Wilbon

*Faculty and Staff Members: Todd Veland, Brandon Poole, Shantell Henry

Guests: Kathryn Hodges, Lacy Conley

Overview of School Council Purpose and Terms

- Purpose/Mission of School Councils: to bring the community and the school closer together, improve academic achievement, support for teachers, and to get parents involved in the decision making process.

- How will mission be attained: providing recommendations to Principal, Superintendent and local Board of Education
- Expectations for School Council Members:
 - Maintain school wide perspective
 - Attend every meeting (4 per year).
 - Participate in information and training programs
 - Act as a link between school and community
 - Work to improve student achievement and performance
- Term of Council Members
 - Members serve a 2 year term. Term begins July 1 and ends June 30.

Data Review/ School Improvement Plan

- SIP/Periodic Review
 - *Dr. Veland shared that during School Council meetings we would discuss our SIP and look at various data points throughout the year.

Educator Hall of Fame

- HOF Program

** Dr. Veland:*

It was started last year, the committee came up with the nomination process, after nominations are received the committee selects the recipients. The 2025 Recipients were Jannie Ruth Smith and Marie Woodward and their pictures are located in HOF display area. This award is open to anyone who has worked at SEBMS and made an impact, not just teachers.

What's Been Happening/New Initiatives

** Dr. Veland:*

- Current Enrollment
 - 896 total students (6th grade 313, 7th grade 296, 8th grade 287)
Highest 6th grade group that we have ever had
- Parent Involvement Night
 - Tuesday, August 26, 2025. 33 families attended (79 people). Dinner was provided by FCCLA.
 - This was also Title 1 Night.
 - Looking forward to a lot of great things in the spring such as Breakfast with Veland, Getting ready for GMAS testing and other ways to get families involved.

- PLC Learning Lab (*Professional Learning Community)
 - Weekly Content Area have PLCs
 - Monday Morning Meetings- meetings with paras, new hires to SEBMS, SPED etc to help assist them in the classroom setting.
 - The Big Questions during PLCs: What are students learning, how are we ensuring that they are learning, what do we do when students are not learning
 - Teachers are given one full day of planning
 - ELA has new standards this year. The focus is on multi-mode learning/different ways for students to get information from a variety of sources. Because of new standards ELA teachers will get 4 full days of planning.
 - Other content subjects will have 3 full days of planning throughout the year.

- Improved PTO Involvement
 - New PTO Officers, they attend our Communications meetings on Friday. They are doing things for faculty and staff each month in addition to planning things for the students. They are getting ready for Pickles and Popcorn.

- Continued Measures of Communication
 - Parent, Student and Faculty & Staff Newsletters, Sunday Night Callouts, Social Media, and the Student NewsTeam Broadcast the news live every morning.
 - Meet every Friday @ 8:30 to review communication needs for the upcoming week.
 - PTO and Athletic Director are involved in this discussion.
 - Working to improve parent newsletter so that it is just one week

- Monday Message with Veland
 - Character Word of the week shared with students every Monday through the Student News
 - New State Law leads back to Character Word being shared with students. These Monday Messages will also share with students ways to be responsible on Social Media - we are working on how to implement this.
 - Consistently encouraging students to protect passwords on chromebook/email. Lightspeed picks up previous years and deleted files. Students were shown how to change their password. School can share steps for how to change passwords and shared on parent newsletter
 - Human review is now attached to Lightschool to weed our 'class projects'

- Leadership Lunch Council with Veland
 - Will meet with students who signed up to be a part of the Leadership Lunch Council to discuss ways to improve our school
 - Students are able to sign up with Veland to have a Lead lunch on Fridays to discuss ways to improve the school. Volleyball was established from Lead lunch Council.
 - Eighth grade is no longer on Team, this is the Jr. High model- this idea was created by the Lead Lunch Council.
 - New items on the lunch menu because of Lead Lunch Council feedback.

- Student Council
 - Student leadership jobs around the school. Each Student Council representative has a specific role that he/she does around the school
 - Bus Drivers Appreciation- Socks given this year.

- Expectation Talks
 - Grade Level Admins have Expectation Talks with each grade level after breaks.
 - Talk with students about “major violations” such as an altercation with injuries.
 - Students now have access to Anonymous Reporting

- Afternoon Dismissal Procedures
 - Changes to now buses are announced at the end of the day, but we are also starting to implement bus changes on Promethean Boards in the classroom. Verbal and visual for the students. This idea came from our new Tech Liaison

- Safety
 - SRO and Dog
Beans is a Safe-dog. The SRO and Beans are on campus daily. The dog goes to training every Tuesday
 - Lightspeed-tracks inappropriate comments, images, etc on school devices and school email accounts.

- Anti-Vaping Classroom Guidance Lessons
 - State Law requires
Students are shown Anti-Vaping lessons. These presentations are shown to students during Classroom Guidance. The presentations were created by Debbie Sarratt (Director of Health and PE) and the Safety Team. Every

middle school student in Bulloch County will be shown the same presentation. 6th grade has one presentation, and 7th & 8th will both be shown the same presentation.

-Some vapes that have been found on students are testing Positive

- **8th Grade visits to SEBHS**

- 8th Graders will visit SEBHS November 6 & 7. They will have hands-on exploration opportunities in the CTAE Pathway Courses and with Fine Arts (visual arts, band, chorus)
- Data and research shows that students who complete CTAE pathways are more than likely to graduate with a 98% graduation rate.

- **Field Trips**

- 8th Graders: CTAE field trip (RISE in Savannah) - students were chosen based on YouScience Data
- 7th Graders: STEM field trip (GSU) - students were selected based on Observations in their Science Classroom
- All 6th and 7th Graders will go on the Junior Achievement Biztown field trip (Savannah)- Financial literacy

Points of Pride

- WTOC Top Teacher- Amber Tapley (Nov 12th). Other teachers have won Top Teachers in previous years
- Fall Sports: Softball, Volleyball, Tennis, Cross Country, Cheerleading and Football
 - All teams had a great season. First year for Volleyball, looking forward to continuing Volleyball in the years to come
 - Competition Cheer won several Competitions this season! Have earned 4 trophies so far!
 - Tennis is gearing up for their Championship Game this Friday vs Richmond Hill.
- Winter Sports:
 - Gearing up for Girls and Boys Basketball. Tryouts just ended for both.
 - Schedule flip-flop (1st and 6th period) to help alleviate from missing the same club
- Jr. Beta Club Induction

- 7th Grade students were inducted into Jr. Beta Club. New Jr. Beta Club Officers were also chosen.
 - BETA club school of Distinction (47 students)
- AG has been doing a lot of great things throughout the County and State such as Meat judging competitions, AG Animal Shows.
- Science Olympiad and Chess have also started with their club practices
This is a region competition instead of a State Competition
- DEAR every Wednesday during Jacket Time
30 mins of reading every Wednesday. This improves Lexile when you practice your reading. Veland visits classrooms
- Art Exhibits
 - Some students who are in the Art Club showcased their projects this year at the Fair. There were 58 pieces of art displayed — and 31 of them placed! Our students brought home a total of \$457 in cash prizes for 1st (14 students), 2nd (13 students), 3rd (3 students), and even an Honorable Mention all in several different categories!
 - Brooklet Kiwanis will have Gonzales as a Guest Speaker this year. They sponsored the Art Gala last year. Looking forward to doing it again this year.

Open Floor Discussion:

- What would we like for School Council to continue?
-Educator Hall of Fame
- Areas of Improvement for SEBMS
-(Chen) Math Team suggestion: look at other Math Team Competition opportunities such as: AMCA Math Competition. This is a Nation wide tournament that has 3 competitions based on age.
- Community Concerns
-(Veland)SPLOST is in November. If this passes, then the New High School can be started. There will also be the Brooklet Voting on sewage plans.
-(Mackelprang) Bulloch County schools has purchased Sweet Potatoes from a local grown farm to serve during Holiday meals.
- (Peterson) Book Club- could we have a Book Club opportunity at SEBMS over the SUMmer

-(Mackelprang) SEBMS does a great job with communicating

SEBMS School Council:

-School Council meetings will be held 4x per school year.

- Typically once per 9 weeks
- Dates TBD until after new officers are chosen.

-Thank you to Former Members for serving on School Council

Mackelprang presided over opening the vote for new officers.

-Voting for New Officers for 2025-2027

- Chairperson: Sharpe (nomination accepted by Committee members and seconded by Peterson)
- Vice Chairperson: Thompson (nomination accepted by Committee members and seconded by Sharpe)
- Secretary: Neville (nomination accepted by Committee members and seconded by Mackelprang)

-Current members are also invited to attend all meetings, especially the next meeting to continue the discussion about the Educator Hall of Fame.

-Mackelprang would like to continue serving on School Council for her 2nd year.

-The new Chairperson will meet with Veland to set up the School Council meeting dates for the year.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by Sharpe @ 10:44

Neville seconded the adjournment.