

Sequoyah HS School Council Meeting

Date: 11/14/2025

Time (called to order): 7:33am

Location: SHS Student Center

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

Attendees: Stephanie Judkins (SJ), Paige Sims (PS), Chanda Schwab (CS), Brandon Grummer (BG), Audrey Thornley (AT), Tim Chapman (TC) – via Teams

Other attendees/observers: Jason Meade (JM)

Absent committee members: none

Approval of Agenda: 6-0 (unanimous)

Presentation(s):

- Semester Final Exam Schedule (JM presents)
 - Some adjustments made to this year's schedule
 - Exam schedule reflects the success of this year's PSAT plan as well as to capture review time for the next day's exam
 - Tuesday 12/16: 1st, 3rd exams; 2nd, 4th periods for review
 - Wednesday 12/17: 2nd, 4th exams; 7th, 5th periods for review
 - Thursday 12/18: 7th, 5th exams; 1st, 6th periods for review
 - Friday 12/19: 6th exam, lunch, 12:00 bus dismissal
 - 9th & 12th pickup at Main (no matter what/where the student's classes are)
 - 10th & 11th pickup at East (no matter what/where the student's classes are)
 - No new content will be introduced during review periods; made for review and extra help
 - This is the plan going forward, though order of periods may change in future exam weeks
 - Construction is still ongoing on campus, so if more students stay for review and ride buses, traffic will be eased those days as well
 - All county high schools are shifting to this model
 - Student drivers will be allowed a 5-7 minute "head start" after exams
 - Open parking will be available (no parking passes required/no assigned parking on these days ONLY)
- Facility Improvements Update (JM presents)
 - Aux gym is progressing (hoping to have roof/outer walls installed before weather changes)
 - Football facility has broken ground (planning to move 6000 cubic yards of dirt before Christmas)
 - Concession stand is progressing as well (concrete has been poured)
 - Instruction has not been impacted as of yet; some impact is anticipated (for example, half of the courtyard was closed one day during lunch periods; some student parking has been relocated)
 - This year, no parking will be available for 10th graders (SHS is the only CCSD high school that had parking available for 10th graders) – those spaces have been used for those relocated parking spots
 - Waiting for revised timeline (construction is finding unexpected obstacles such as blue granite that is making certain jobs take longer than anticipated)
- PSAT/SAT day recap (JM/BVA)
 - Pickup was seamless; therefore, exam pickups will reflect the same plan
 - Student drivers were allowed a 5-7 minute "head start" after the test (once PSAT/SAT was done, student drivers were dismissed first)
 - Open parking was successful (no parking passes required/no assigned parking on these days ONLY)
 - Having multiple pickup points prevented Hickory Road from backing up like it did in the past
 - About 800 students took the PSAT; approx. 120 students took the SAT (SHS has 2000 students total)

- Number of students taking PSAT in school is diminishing; exploring the idea of moving PSAT/National Merit qualification testing to a Saturday so as not to lose instructional time (especially with many colleges and universities not requiring SAT/ACT scores to apply)
- PSAT 8/9 could be moved to 8th grade and scores/data could be used for scheduling once the students get to high school

Report from the Principal: (BVA presents)

- CCRPI 2025
 - State evaluation instrument used to rank schools (publicly available via GaDOE)
 - SHS overall “grade” has steadily increased; post-Covid, content mastery rate and graduation rate have also steadily increased (direct correlation to having a graduation coach in the school)
 - Demographics show that SHS is becoming much more diverse
 - Economically disadvantaged rate has grown significantly (hovering near 30% just for SHS)
 - Data proves that no matter what demographics SHS has, the content mastery and graduation rates have continued to increase – every student who attends SHS has the opportunity to succeed
 - SHS using data to ensure students have the supports they need
 - 70% of SHS students are taking a college-level course (via AP or dual enrollment) – directly related to SIP goal
 - Almost 41% of SHS students have completed a CTAE pathway
 - 6 SHS CTAE programs have teachers working extended day in order to allow students to complete their pathway
 - this completion percentage is significantly higher than at other high-performing high schools
 - Almost 28% of students have completed a third year of foreign language
 - 20% have completed a fine arts pathway

Old Business: None

New Business:

- AT questions vaping – how significant of a problem is it at SHS?
- BVA: admin are as visible as possible
 - difficult to “police” what is happening *inside* a restroom stall
 - we need students to report (can be done anonymously via Safe Schools) what they see in order to help reduce the problem
 - CCSD school board policy is zero tolerance, so when students are caught, they will be expelled (immediately for THC vape, on second offense for nicotine vape) – plan of consequences is followed but administration needs help by being informed about what is happening in school
 - Other school systems do not have such a hardline stance
 - There are shops in the community (nearby to SHS) that sell vapes to minors, which is illegal – no one of high school age should legally be able to obtain a vape – legal age is 21
 - These establishments can be reported anonymously as well
 - There is no data yet on the exact negative medical consequences of vaping; it is one of the most addictive substances available
 - SHS has metal-detector wands available when there is probable cause to search a student
 - The problem is everywhere, not just SHS
 - Safe Schools is **truly** anonymous (per school police)

Next meeting date: February 13, 2026, 7:30am, Student Center

Adjournment: 9:24am