Cherokee County School District

Little River Elementary
School Council Meeting Minutes

DATE	Tuesday, December 9, 2025
TIME	7:15am
LOCATION	Little River Conference Room
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS	Dr. Joni Adams, Principal Christina Behne, Teacher Candida McClairen, Teacher Meghan Benson, Parent (Chair) Jamal Winfield, Parent (Vice Chair) Lizzie Baker, Parent (Secretary) Meredith Combs, Parent Betsy Davis, Parent

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Dr. Joni Adams at 7:17am.
Motion to approve last meeting's minutes approved by Meredith Combs.

AGENDA

1. **Superintendent's Vision: Focus on Learning**
    a. What events are important, intentional and valuable and what can we start reworking to minimize interruptions in the classroom?
        i. **Holiday Shop:** Looking into alternatives that still prioritize giving back to the community. Ex. Giving Tree, Holiday Helping Hands SignUpGenius
            1. Bring all gifts out on display during sing-a-long so kids can feel a sense of pride in seeing what their school has donated to kids in need? (May need to be earlier, so families can get their gifts. During the news one morning?)
            2. Do parents even know that the current event is a fundraiser?
        ii. **Grandparents' Day:** 2026 event will look different. No longer multiple mornings, but one evening event tied to the book fair.
        iii. **Pastries with Parents**: How can we reimagine this?
    b. 2026 Goal: Two weeks in October with no planned in-class interruptions.
2. **Fundraiser Update**
    a. Funds from Activate Fun Run: TBD on technology purchases. When a piece of tech is purchased through CCSD, when it reaches "end of life" then the county replaces it. If the school/PTA purchases it, then it is defunct once it reaches "end of life". How can we be more strategic about technology purchases outside of the county?

Cherokee County School District

b. Fundraising Idea from Meredith: Sell the 5th grade graduation signs to line the roadway leading up to the school.

3. **CCRPI (College and Career Ready Performance Index)**
    a. LRE's 2024 Score: 84
    b. LRE's 2025 Score: 89.7
        i. Performance improved in every category, even during a year when teachers had no resources. (Categories: content mastery, progress, closing gaps, readiness)
    c. Note from Superintendent: 2026-2027 focus will be on sub-groups
    d. Available for anyone to view HERE.
4. **EXP (Expansion Program)**
    a. Write Score purchased using $34K (money can only be used for EXP) and will start in January 2026.
    b. The curriculum aligns with Georgia Milestones and LRE currently has access for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. If successful, can potentially expand to other grades.
    c. Students are not currently exposed to the stamina needed for lengthy writing, which becomes more important in middle school.
    d. Students have to be recommended for the program, one of the biggest pieces of criteria is the student willingness.
5. **Open Agenda**
    a. How do we move these meetings into more of a conversation rather than mainly updates from Dr. Adams? Send real-time comments, questions, concerns to Meghan Benson to compile for the next meeting.
    b. How can we make parents feel empowered as partners in their child's education, specifically in regards to being in the building?
        i. Work with PTA / Room Moms to figure out how to best communicate volunteer opportunities to parents. i.e. Hospitality can always use help, but it can feel intimidating to "break into" PTA. How can we make it more approachable? Discuss at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS
All school council members to email agenda items to Meghan Benson as they come up.

NEXT MEETING
Tuesday, February 10, 2025 at 7:15am in the Little River Conference Room

ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned by Dr. Joni Adams at 8:09am.