

BHMS Governance Team Meeting

(12/16/25)

The BHMS Governance Team Meeting covered several key updates and decisions. The cell phone policy was revised to place more responsibility on students, with a prescribed punishment of two days in ISS. The primary and elementary schools need plans for securing devices, as required by Georgia law. The gym floor will be completed by February 1, and the front sign will be pressure washed and painted. Miss Queenie is retiring, and 12 applicants are being interviewed for her position. Attendance issues were discussed, with suggestions to shorten homeroom and involve parents more. Upcoming events include a pep rally, a conference championship game, and a staff celebration.

Action Items

- ☐ Coordinate and ensure the front sign is pressure-washed and repainted (coordinate with Debbie and Miss Bracewell; work to be completed over the holiday break)
- ☐ Arrange and oversee painting of damaged classroom wall (Miss Grims/Turner) and repair/paint area by the rotunda bathrooms
- ☐ Conduct interviews for the front-office vacancy (interview 10 of 12 applicants over the next few days) and hire the selected candidate
- ☐ Meet with Jaquita and Mr. Hunt to provide ideas and feedback to support and stabilize the after-school program staffing and student recruitment (meeting scheduled for tomorrow)
- ☐ Create a plan for securing student devices at the primary and elementary schools to comply with Georgia law (develop and document plan)
- ☐ Coordinate implementation of attendance consequences (proposal: remove Fun Friday privileges) with Reverend Curtis to improve student punctuality/attendance
- ☐ Log the meeting sign-in sheet and record attendance data from today's meeting
- ☐ Distribute the meeting transcript/notes to the governance team and to teachers once the transcript is received
- ☐ Provide an update to the governance team in the spring regarding staff and related matters
- ☐ Provide the meeting recording/transcript (the recorder confirmed they are recording; send transcript to Speaker 0)

Outline

Cell Phone Policy Update

- Speaker 1 discusses the cell phone policy update.
- The policy now places more responsibility on the student, with the teacher collecting the phone, and a prescribed punishment is included.
- Speaker 1 praises Martellis Curtis for his fair and consistent approach to discipline, which is appreciated.
- The policy is not yet included in the handbook, which has already been approved by the Board of Education, and it is recommended to wait until the next meeting with principals to discuss it.

Primary and Elementary School Device Security

- Speaker 1 mentions the need for primary and elementary schools to have a plan for securing devices, as required by Georgia law.
- There are issues with students having phones, even in elementary school, and some students are exposed to inappropriate content.
- The school feels like the "cell phone police" for many families, especially with Christmas gifts.
- Speaker 3 humorously suggests a swinging medallion approach to phone usage.

Gym Floor and Facility Updates

- Speaker 1 shares that the gym floor will be completed by February 1, thanks to a grant.
- The gym floor has been torn out and leveled, and the bleachers have been cleaned.
- The front sign of Ben Hill Middle School will be pressure washed and painted over the holiday break.
- Miss Grimsley Turner, has damage on her wall that needs to be repainted, and there is also damage near the rotunda bathrooms.

Staff Updates and After School Program

- Speaker 1 announces that Miss Queenie is retiring, and there are 12 applicants for her position, with 10 to be interviewed.
- The after school program is doing well but needs more reliable students and teachers, especially as most teachers are tired by the end of the day.
- Speaker 4 shares a personal experience of almost walking out due to discipline issues during after school hours.
- Speaker 1 emphasizes the need for teachers to feel supported and for the program to be enjoyable for both students and teachers.

Targeted School Updates and Attendance Issues

- Speaker 1 seeks feedback from the community on how to improve attendance, especially for hurricane time interventions.
- There is a concern that moving hurricane time later in the day does not help, as students are still missing academic instruction.
- Speaker 3 suggests shortening homeroom in the morning and lengthening it in the afternoon, but Speaker 1 notes that students are usually complacent in the morning.
- Speaker 1 shares an example of a student who was frequently in ISS for tardies, highlighting the ineffectiveness of ISS as a punishment.

Upcoming Events and New Business

- Speaker 1 lists upcoming events, including a pep rally, a conference championship game, a factory Christmas party, and a staff celebration.
- Speaker 1 asks if there is any new business to bring to the team's attention, and no one has anything to add.
- Speaker 1 thanks the team and mentions that the sign-in sheet will be logged and the transcript will be sent out to the team.
- Speaker 1 reiterates the importance of the governance team for accountability and updates the team on potential staff turnover.