Meeting Minutes 9/30/25

In attendance: D. Weinbaum, M. Calabrese, J. Tansy, A. Prater, D. Lewis, M. Hyatt, V. Teska, and T. Carranza

Welcome and Introductions: Present members introduced themselves. D. Weinbaum introduced herself and gave her educational and personal background.

Officer Nominations and selection:

Chairperson- Dawn Lewis (1st nomination – D. Lewis; 2nd – D. Weinbaum)

Vice-Chairperson – Angela Prater (1st nomination – D. Weinbaum; 2nd – V. Teska)

Secretary – Mindee Calabrese (1st nomination – D. Weinbaum; 2nd – J. Tansy)

School Advisory Council Training

Presented the school council training information to the board. Topics included: what is a school council, code of ethics, who serves, roles and responsibilities of the council, scope of responsibility, how to be an effective council, election process and terms, and roles and responsibilities.

Supportive Accountability Governance Model:

Core Beliefs: What the school board believes are important priorities for a high achieving school district.

Core Policies: Cohesive System of Teaching and Learning and Accountability and Support

Student Achievement Goals: Grade level baseline and goal percentages for Reading, English Language Arts, and Mathematics.

Superintendent Key Priorities

Elevating the Excellence in academics/achievement

Elevate the Excellence in effective School Board-Superintendent Governance

Elevate the Excellence in district coordination and alignment of goals, systems, and processes.

Elevate the Excellence by embracing a pervasive high-quality school environment.

Our students should learn more, grow more and achieve more on our watch.

Beginning of School Year

ParentVue – beginning of the year paperwork for students.

Georgia Senate Bill 123 (School and Attendance Requirements)

Canvas – Parent Toolbox

Transportation – kinks worked out as always in the beginning.

School Improvement Plan

Goals: DRMS Instructional Focus Timeline

- CRISS and Kagan Strategies
- Class Discussion (accountable talk)
- Vocabulary Programs
- Outlining/Summarizing (including annotating text)

SIP goals will be developed:
* Attendance goals
* Action steps for ELA and Math
* High Impact Strategies * At Risk Students

Milestone data reviewed. Reminder that the students from SY 23-24 and SY 24-25 were different groups of students.

Chief Culture

DRMS Initiative for building school community:

- Accountability (Acceptance of responsibility)
- Compassion (Regard of others' worth)
- Respect (Empathy in action)

Proactive strategies – Chief Belief (student recognition)
Counselors go into classrooms for guidance lessons
Mini lessons from teachers during CARES lessons

Safety and Security

ID checks when people come in the building and compared against student allowed check out list.
Badge readers for staff to get in secured doors.
Classroom doors are locked and closed at all times. Teachers have keys.
School Police Officer on campus.
Cameras in buildings for security – cameras are now accessible to Cherokee County Sheriff
More discussion about safety and security.

Basketball

The only school sports at middle school level are boys/girls basketball and cheerleading. Other sports are run through boosters at the high school and are "Jr. Chiefs" programs.

Leadership Qualities of a Principal

Refer to Leadership Qualities of a Principal – Dean Rusk Middle School

Questions

A. Prater – How can parents see their child's attendance record? D. Weinbaum answered there used to be a notification about an absence. She will check with the county to see where they are in the process of working on sending the notification.

A. Prater – Who decides what classifies an excused or unexcused absence? D. Weinbaum answered that the criteria are outlined in the Cherokee County Student and Parent Handbook.

T. Carranza – What is the phone policy for the school bus? D. Weinbaum answered that it is up to each individual bus driver. She also explained the new cell phone law that goes into effect for the 26-27 school year.

M. Hyatt – What is the district doing to help with the number of devices in each classroom? D. Weinbaum answered that there are devices that can be checked out through labs in the building. Teachers can also borrow from other teachers. Students are allowed to bring their own laptop/tablet.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting