Cherokee County School District
School Council
Meeting Minutes Notes

Indian Knoll Elementary School
School Council

DATE: 12.16.25 MEETING TIME: 7:00 am MEETING LOCATION: IKES Conference Room

MEETING CALLED BY	Erica Morrie
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Meeting
PRINCIPAL	Erica Morrie
NOTE TAKER	Peggy Rein
BOARD ATTENDEES	Erica Morrie, Jennifer Stebbins, Peggy Rein, Heather Towery, Kristine Fletcher, Melanie Muhlfelder, Derek Townsend
GUEST ATTENDESS	Tessie Lauer, Amy Kerwood

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TOPIC: IKES Updates PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION

Staff Changes

Hope Wells (currently part-time EIP) will transition into the full-time position.

Leslie Bland will assume the part-time EIP role.

There will be no loss of allotments for the 2026–2027 school year. An opening at our school will be filled by a surplus teacher from another school.

Due to federal budget cuts, CCSD will reduce new teacher hires for the year to 140, compared to the usual 300.

Specials: The school has been allocated five specials allotments, which allows us to continue offering the technology lab as part of next year's specials rotation.

DISCUSSION

The space does not have to remain a traditional tech lab; it may be used for any type of student enrichment, including options such as STEM.

Fundraising and Playgrounds

Fundraising: The chocolate fundraiser is wrapping up, and the next fundraiser—a Color Fun Run—will begin in March.

The amount of fundraising this year has been higher than in previous years. This is due to the need to raise funds for an additional playground while also maintaining current playgrounds.

Recent maintenance needs include replacing the storm-damaged covering on the upper grades playground this winter.

Safety Huddles

Safety Huddles serve as daily check-ins focused on maintaining school safety.

Each morning, administration and the school resource officer meet to review any safety-related concerns.

They also conduct routine safety walks, checking interior and exterior doors, providing reminders, and discussing upcoming events to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and stakeholders at IKES.

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DISCUSSION	Menchies Parents expressed concerns that Menchie's is not allergy-friendly, particularly for students with dairy or gluten allergies. The team discussed possible alternatives, including Kona Ice; however, teachers noted that Kona Ice can reduce instructional time, and some parents raised concerns about food dyes. Parents also asked about offering an online payment option to avoid the need for cash on Menchie's days. The team agreed to revisit this topic at the next meeting and continue exploring alternative solutions.
DISCUSSION	Agendas Mrs. Fletcher raised the idea of using agendas in 4th and 5th grade to support student organization and time management. Mrs. Morrie noted that agendas are a significant expense and historically have not been fully utilized. The group discussed digital alternatives already available to students, including Microsoft Outlook calendars and the Canvas calendar, which can support organization. Teachers shared that they will explore having Mrs. Roberts introduce these tools as a lesson in Tech Lab in the coming weeks.

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TOPIC: Curriculum and Data Updates PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION	The county is in the process of purchasing a new balanced assessment piece which will be implemented over the next couple of years. Milestones Updates Testing Schedule has been set for 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades 4th Grade: Week of 4/20/26 3rd Grade: Week of 4/27/26 5th Grade: Week of 5/4/26 There will be no parents in the building during testing weeks in order to establish a consistent testing environment. Writing for Milestones:
DISCUSSION	3rd and 5th grades will continue with a writing prompt as in previous years. All students will receive an opinion prompt, with the expectation that they incorporate narrative and informational elements into their responses. 4th grade will not complete a writing prompt; instead, students will participate in a peer review and editing assessment.

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TOPIC: CCSD News and Updates PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION	The school board voted 4–3 to extend Superintendent Mary Elizabeth Davis's contract through 2029. CCSD staff received a survey regarding district leadership and initiatives for students and staff; the overall results were positive. Cherokee County Schools went from being ranked 21st to 8th in the state. The state government is giving one-time bonuses to staff: Teachers will receive $2000, Paraprofessionals $1000, and Head Custodians $3000. SPLOST renewal is coming soon – this money goes towards school development.

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TOPIC: PTA News PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION	Donuts with Grownups: The event was successful. Teachers appreciated that students arrived to class on time and instructional time was not impacted. Parents shared that holding the event early in the morning allowed more families to attend before work. PTA noted interest in adding coffee next year. Bingo Night: More information forthcoming. Color Fun Run: More information forthcoming.

AJOURNMENT CALLED BY	Erica Morrie
TIME	8:11 am
NEXT MEETING	4/28/26