

Sequoyah HS School Council Meeting

Date: 2/13/2026

Time (called to order): 7:30am

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), Tim Chapman (TC)

Other attendees/observers: Jason Meade (JM), Meagan Waid (MW)

Absent committee members: Audrey Thornley (AT)

Approval of Agenda: 6-0 (unanimous)

Presentation(s):

- Course/Elective selections (MW presents)
 - Teachers made recommendations directly in Synergy (Student Information System); very efficient
 - Core and electives – teachers had conversations with students about next steps (continuing in a pathway, moving to Honors/AP, etc.)
 - Counselors met with every student to register them for next year
 - Meetings during classes (9th – Lit classes / 10th & 11th – Social Studies classes)
 - Team went to DRMS to register rising 9th graders for electives
 - Timeline may be extended next year to ensure that counselors have sufficient time with each student to discuss wants/needs for their individual schedules
- Security, Facility, and Construction updates (JM presents)
 - New state law - DOE requires review of processes/procedures, emergency action plans, drill schedule with a larger group (parents, staff, and current students) – first meeting in November; will move to school council with added members as needed
 - January 29 – safety facilities walk with representatives from various departments in the county
 - Construction gives the opportunity to fix issues that may have been difficult to address previously
 - No new issues noted – any issues had been previously identified (ex. camera placement, sidewalks)
 - With the completion of the new Cherokee HS, the hope is that with the next SPLOST vote, funds will be available for more advanced improvements
 - Facilities (all timelines are approximate and fluid)
 - New gym facility: early-mid June anticipated completion
 - Football facility: early August anticipated completion
 - Press box: week before first home football game (which is August 28) anticipated completion
 - Visitor's concession stand: July anticipated completion
 - After spring break, mezzanine/locker rooms/weight rooms/gym will be closed for construction to begin early
 - This will affect some spring sports, but there are sufficient areas throughout the school to house the displaced classes and items
 - This would allow winter sports a better chance to use the new gym in SY2026-27
 - There will be some impact, but minimal to school as a whole during the final months of the school year
 - Permitting issues delayed the start time of the construction; turning over the mezzanine/gym for construction early will allow that lost time to be made up

Report from the Principal: (BVA presents)

- From last night's board meeting:

- There is a predicted CCSD budget shortfall (1200 fewer students in total projected enrollment)
- Many of the new builds in the county are for ages 55+, which is the main cause of the projected shortfall (tax dollars and enrollment)
- 60+ staff cuts anticipated district-wide; these will occur through attrition (retirement/resignations/transfers – teachers are not losing their jobs); this averages approximately 1.5 teachers per school in the district
- Teacher allotment numbers expected after February break (allotments are determined by enrollment numbers – if a school is projected to have an increase in enrollments, they may not feel the impact of the staff cuts as much as other schools that may have a drop in enrollment); SHS is projected to have a steady or possible increase in enrollment
 - SHS (and all CCSD high schools) very much want Student Success Coaches as funded positions – data backs up the worth of the position; currently using another allotment for Success Coaches
 - Ties into student registration: because registration has been completed for 2026-27, SHS is aware of needs going into job fair, etc.
- Saturday, March 7 – CCSD job fair
- Jason Meade has been named new principal of Mill Creek Middle School for SY2026-27

Old Business: None

New Business: None

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

Adjournment: 8:31am