

Sequoyah HS School Council Meeting

Date: 10/10/2025

Time (called to order): 7:34am

Location: SHS Student Center

Meeting called by: Bob Van Alstyne, Principal (BVA)

Attendees: Stephanie Judkins (SJ), Paige Sims (PS), Tim Chapman (TC), Chanda Schwab (CS), Brandon Grummer (BG), Audrey Thornley (AT)

Other attendees/observers: Marina Ross (MR), Jason Meade (JM)

Absent committee members: none

Approval of Agenda: 6-0 (unanimous)

Report from the Principal: (BVA presents)

- Homecoming Week (including parade, game, and dance) was very successful
- More than half the student population came to the dance – almost 1200 students (out of approximately 2000), zero incidents involving SHS students
- Funds from homecoming and prom allow the senior class each year to leave a legacy by gifting something that benefits or beautifies the campus; also allows for a large donation to the Shop with a Chief program (which benefits families in our zone)

Presentation(s):

Preliminary School Improvement Plan (SIP) Goals/Schoolwide Literacy Goals (MR presents)

- SIP Teams: Literacy, Data, Attendance
- Literacy: CCSD is focusing on literacy across the district (switch from balanced literacy to science of reading which includes phonics)
- Gap of students who missed the phonics-based approach at elementary school
- At the HS level: administration of STAR screener (ELA & Math); SHS wants every teacher in every subject area to incorporate literacy in their lessons
- Literacy = reading, writing, speaking, listening
- Multi-modal literacy (podcasts, videos, articles, etc) now included in the EOC that was formerly in 11th grade but is now in 10th grade (English 2)
- Teacher-led presentations to faculty about literacy goals/skills (not just leadership team – allows teachers across the board to take ownership of literacy goals)

School Day (ASVAB, SAT & PSAT Day 10/29) (JM presents)

- SHS has highest SAT scores in the county (we feel this is directly correlated to SIP goals)
- ASVAB is used by U.S. military to determine eligibility for enlistment and suggest suitable military careers for test takers
- Administered by MEPS (not SHS); goal is to test 50 students
- ASVAB & in-house SAT will also be given in the spring
- All 10th PSAT students will be housed at East
- 9th PSAT & 11th-12th SAT takers will be housed at Main
- Any 9th/10th grade student who comes to school will take the PSAT; 11th and 12th grade students who are not taking the PSAT/SAT have a digital day (these students had to pre-register in order to take the test); any 9th/10th grade student who does not come to school will also have online assignments to complete
- PSAT & SAT have slightly different timings so the hope is that this will also help with traffic
- No assigned parking spots on that day (even without a parking pass **that day only**, all students are encouraged to drive if possible)
- Early dismissal setup will look different from years past due to construction which has cut off the back road behind SHS
- To reach East, cars will be funneled behind Dean Rusk

Old Business:

Leadership Qualities of a Principal – submitted to county

New Business:

10/9/2025 Code Yellow

- 2:05pm – implemented
- Code Yellow = lockdown inside the building (business as usual inside, outer doors are locked)
- Because SHS has 2 campuses and students would need to transition between buildings, 6th period had to be extended until the Code Yellow ended
- Caused by significant police activity in the area, search for a suspect
- SHS made the decision to prevent students from checking out/being picked up during this time due to safety concerns
- Lasted approximately 1 hour
- Some buses were significantly delayed due to the delay in dismissal at Hickory Flat Elementary

Next meeting date: November 14, 2025, 7:30am, Student Center

Adjournment: 8:18am