

Sequoyah HS School Council Meeting

Date: March 13, 2026

Time (called to order): 7:32am

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), Tonya Carnes (TC), Andy Oberlies (AO),

Marshall Chapman (MC), Erin Maierhofer (EM), McKenzie Thom (MT), Landon Davidson (LD)

Absent committee members: Audrey Thornley (AT)

Approval of Agenda: 6-0 (unanimous)

Presentation(s):

- Safety Advisory Committee (JM presents)
 - Members: all regular School Council members plus MC, EM, MT, and LD
 - Required by state of Georgia
 - Review of Emergency Operations Plan (school level / county level / state level)
 - Plan will be impacted by construction and will be changed as needed
 - Crisis response directions, personnel involved
 - CPR/First Aid (requirement is 10% of staff to be certified; SHS has 30% certified)
 - Assembly points in emergency situations
 - Evacuation maps
 - Teachers have portions of EOP provided to them at the start of each school year (mostly what to do in various emergency situations)
 - Code Yellow: external threat, external doors locked down, limited inside movement (happened in fall 2025); communication through intercom from admin to staff & students
 - Code Red: complete lockdown; zero communication through intercom
 - All SHS facilities have plans (including athletic areas) – physical walkthrough with all coaches every fall
 - SHS maintains an internal document for all drills and unplanned events requesting staff feedback and answering questions; this ensures everyone receives all information
 - Some decisions are not negotiable, some are building level:
 - In fall 2025 Code Yellow, building-level decision was to not allow checkouts to prevent people from flooding the campus
 - In situations of severe weather, building-level decision could be to hold the bell until a weather front passes (even if there is not an emergency or alert)
- EOC & AP Testing (TC presents EOC info / AO presents AP info)
 - EOCs begin in late April
 - April 22-23 ELA (now in 10th grade Lit, now includes a listening section so wired headphones have been purchased)
 - April 27 Biology (students in any grade level can take so this is the largest pool of test takers)
 - April 29 US History (mostly 11th grade)
 - May 1 Algebra (9th grade)
 - EOCs to be administered at Sequoyah East to minimize distractions and irregularities
 - AP testing May 4 – May 15
 - College Board is always increasing the number of digital exams offered, but SHS is offering the same ones as last year
 - 1738 exams will be given this year at SHS (5.1% increase from last year)
 - AP Biology: 98 students will test, which is 100% of the students in the class
 - AP Lang: largest administration (166 students)

- Number of AP Scholars has increased so much that instead of a just a list posted in the cafeteria, now they are given pins to wear at graduation
- SHS has Silver status on the AP School Honor Roll; to attain Gold status, we will continue to encourage students to take at least 1 AP course during their high school career (this is a SIP goal)
- BVA is a proponent of students taking AP classes over choosing dual enrollment due to there being more individual support at SHS versus in a college setting; colleges tend to consider AP course enrollment and success more highly than dual enrollment as well
- Construction may impact AP testing (must maintain a secure testing environment, so construction may have to pause or change in some way during testing)

Report from the Principal: (BVA presents)

- Allotments: Based on all of the work done by administration and counselors, particularly Dr. Meagan Waid, SHS actually received allotments for next year (versus the anticipated loss of allotments)
 - Looked into how to maximize funding and support for students by making changes in internal scheduling
 - For example, some students receiving Special Education services were not being served optimally (they may have been in a Resource class for a subject they would be better served in a Team Taught class for)
 - By making the necessary changes, SHS gained these allotments (this is in addition to all retirees and teachers otherwise leaving being replaced):
 - 2 General Ed teachers
 - 2 Special Ed teachers
 - 1 ESOL teacher
 - Full justification for an 8th CTAE teacher (previously used Gen Ed allotment for this position)
 - SY 2026-27 will use Gen Ed allotment for Carey Blalock (Student Success Coach), freeing up the Counselor allotment we received last year; therefore, SHS will have 5 counselors in SY 2026-27, reducing each counselor's caseload by about 100 students
 - Plan is for the physical space in Student Services to be reconfigured to create a 5th counselor's office
- Facilities Updates:
 - Gym/mezzanine/locker rooms/etc: last day for use is April 3 – will be handed over to construction at Spring Break; should reopen post-September Break
 - For the end of this school year, coaches/classes will be relocated to Sequoyah East; for SY 2026-27 auxiliary gym should be open for use
 - During AP testing, which utilizes the SE gym, PE classes will utilize any open spaces available (ex: SE cafeteria will have weight room equipment)
 - The preference is to have only 2 weeks of inconvenience for these classes now versus more inconvenience for longer periods if construction deadlines are not met
 - Tentative opening dates:
 - Auxiliary gym / visitor concessions & locker room: June 3
 - Press box: August 28
 - Currently the roof is being replaced on the Main building; should be finished before Spring Break, then will move on to replacing the roof of East – should all be completed before the end of the school year
 - Monday 3/16: work begins on a new elevator at Main (will be completely gutted and replaced – should take about 3 weeks)

Old Business: None

New Business:

- SHS Journey Club, consisting of approximately 140 SHS students who mentor students at Hickory Flat ES, was recognized as HFES' Volunteer of the Year; it was announced yesterday that the Journey Club is also the CCSD Volunteer of the Year!
- Invitation from MED for stakeholders to attend a discussion about the state of CCSD schools and the future
- Increase in 55+ communities will have major effect on schools – seniors are exempt from school tax, which means about 70% of the community is paying for 100% of services... this is not permanently sustainable

Next meeting date: April 17, 2026, 7:30am, Student Center

Adjournment: 8:47am