Cherokee County School District

Little River Elementary
School Council Meeting Minutes

DATE	Thursday, April 16, 2026
TIME	7:15am
LOCATION	Little River Conference Room
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS	Dr. Joni Adams, Principal Christina Behne, Teacher Candida McClairen, Teacher Meghan Benson, Parent (Chair) Jamal Winfield, Parent (Vice Chair) Lizzie Baker, Parent (Secretary) Meredith Combs, Parent Betsy Davis, Parent (Absent)

CALL TO ORDER
Meeting called to order by Dr. Joni Adams at 7:18am.

AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes**
    a. Minutes from February 10th meeting approved.
2. **District Updates: Review Handout**
    a. Big jump from 2022/2023 school year (43rd in the state) to 2024/2025 school year (8th in the state). Credited to the Superintendent's focus on student learning and more resources, clear vision and new priorities.
    b. There have been budget/resource cuts at the central office to ensure teachers are paid more competitively.
3. **Field Day Feedback**
    a. In the future:
        i. Fewer events, longer time at each station. Kids didn't have enough time to engage at each station before it was time to move on.
        ii. Split it into two days. This can allow the opportunity to make activities more age-appropriate (younger kids one day, older kids the next day).
        iii. Possible to bump it to after milestones? (See below on milestones update.)
        iv. Last week of school?
4. **New Assistant Principal 2026/2027: Kristin Mondich**
    a. Ms. Mondich has been a TSA at Boston Elementary for the past two years.
    b. Will join as 2nd and 3rd AP in the fall, but has already been engaging with the school.

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5. **Milestone Testing**
    a. Currently, the milestone testing takes three weeks (plus more time for makeups). Next year, the testing will be cut down to two weeks, with the eventual goal being one week.
    b. Looking to move Milestones to May next year, which could affect pushing back Field Day.
6. **Outdoor Classroom / Sun Shades / Music Room Upgrades**
    a. With the help of a Cobb EMC grant and generosity of a local partner, we were able to build an outdoor classroom.
    b. PTA is amending the budget to put a sun shade over the classroom, and hopefully a few on the field/track.
7. **Parent Engagement**
    a. How do we encourage more engagement at home?
    b. Ideas that other schools have been implementing with success:
        i. Macedonia: “Dinner dice” sent home with families (ideally at Curriculum night) with monthly game/challenge from the school. Kids will play the game in the classroom for about 5min/day so they’re familiar at home.
        ii. Bascomb: Writing prompts with an incentive for submitting.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

1. There’s been a noticeable, positive difference in the culture of this school’s community over the past few years.
2. Final meeting for Meghan Benson (Parent, Chair), Betsy Davis (Parent) and Jamal Whitfield (Parent, Vice Chair). Two new members to be voted onto council in Fall 2026.

NEXT MEETING

To be announced in Fall 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by Dr. Joni Adams at 7:56am.