

Robert J. Burch School Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 2, 2026
8:00am - 8:45am

Focus:- Consistency, built together

Priority: - Strong Learning. Strong Culture.

Commitments: Students First. Strong Teams. Powerful Instruction. Purposeful Time. Clear Goals

School Improvement Plan

Goal 1: Increase student achievement and growth.		Goal 2: Enhance school culture for staff, students, families.	
1. Increase instructional consistency and effectiveness	2. Support consistent implementation of ELA standards, resources, and practices.	1. Implement schoolwide expectations, Leader in Me practices, student ownership routines, and common adult responses across all settings.	2. Build family capacity to support student learning, leadership, attendance, and engagement.

MEETING START TIME: 8:04

MEETING CALLED BY: Lisa Howe (Principal)

NOTE TAKER: Elise Zivny

MEMBERS PRESENT

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| ☒ Lisa Howe - Principal | ☐ Paige Ball - Parent Y1 |
| ☐ Cori Davis - Teacher - Y1 | ☒ Vernon Williams - Parent Y1 |
| ☒ Elise Zivny - Teacher - Y1 | ☐ Brandie Phillips - Parent Y1 |
| ☒ Shauna Bentley - Parent - Y2 | ☐ Antonis Williams - Parent - Y1 |
| ☐ Gift McDougal - Parent - Y1 | ☒ Paola Barrera - Community - Y1 |
| ☒ Arielle Brown - Parent Y 1 | ☒ Jin Hopson - Community - Y1 |
| ☒ Tiana Lowe - Parent Y1 | |

GUESTS PRESENT:

AGENDA:

Introductions - each team member introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their connection to or time at Burch

Purpose of school council

- A **School Council** serves as an **advisory group that gives families and community members a voice in the direction of the school**. Its role is to:
 - Learn about **school goals, priorities, and improvement efforts**.
 - Provide **input and feedback** from the family/community perspective.
 - Help strengthen **communication and partnership** between the school, families, and community.
 - Support the school's efforts to improve **student learning, school culture, and family engagement**.
- For Burch, the **Parent Lighthouse Team is also serving as the School Council**, while additionally helping strengthen Leader in Me practices between school and home.
 - roles, responsibilities - Howe

Bylaws & Officers

- Shauna Bentley will serve as Chairperson and work with the team to develop agendas and discussion topics.
- Gift McDougal will serve as Vice Chairperson and assist as needed.
- Elise Zivny will serve as Secretary and record/share meeting minutes.

Student Lighthouse

- Returning members were introduced.
- More than 50 students applied for Student Lighthouse.
- The team reviewed plans for a student cabinet and subcommittees.
- The school is considering a monthly schoolwide service project to expand student leadership and service opportunities.

Parent Lighthouse Proposed Projects & Family Engagement

- September 24 Grade-Level Family Orientation: Parent Lighthouse will provide a brief overview/promotion focused on helping families reinforce leadership skills and language at home.
 - Possible supports include
 - Bite-sized newsletter talking points,
 - Simple explanations/videos of the 7 Habits,
 - Videos of students being responsible leaders at school,
 - Deeper focus on the habit of the month.
 - The team discussed helping families identify age-appropriate ways students can take responsibility at home and giving families language for acknowledging student leadership.
 - The team emphasized teaching leadership responsibilities over time and expecting growth rather than perfection.
- January 2027: Parent Lighthouse-led 7 Habits for Families Workshop.
- March 2027: Parent Lighthouse-led Family International Night, with the first week of March under consideration.
- Family International Night is being developed as a schoolwide opportunity for K-5 students and families to celebrate the cultures and traditions represented across the Burch community.
- January, 2027 - 7 Habits for Families Workshop - Parent Lighthouse Led
- March, 2027 - Family International Night - Parent Lighthouse Led
 - Family International Night is being developed as a schoolwide opportunity for K-5 students and families to celebrate the cultures and traditions represented across the Burch community.
 - Considering 1st week of March

Proposed Meeting Dates -

- Tuesday, October 6, 2026 | 7:30–8:30 a.m. - School Council & Lighthouse
- Tuesday, October 27, 2026 | 8:00–9:00 a.m. - Lighthouse family workshop & international night planning
- Tuesday, January 12, 2027 | 8:00–9:00 a.m. - Lighthouse family workshop & international night planning
- TBD, January, 2027 | 7 Habits for Families Workshop - Lighthouse led
- Friday, February 26, 2027 | 8:00–9:00 a.m. - Lighthouse international night planning, family workshop reflection
- March 2027 | evening event - Family international night
- Tuesday, March 30, 2027 | 7:30 - 8:30a.m. - School Council & Lighthouse, Title 1 Input
- Tuesday, May 11, 2027 | 7:45–8:45 a.m. - School Council & Lighthouse 27-28 planning

Principal's report

- Enrollment has declined, which has required attention to staffing and class-section decisions.
- The atrium paving project has been completed.
- The schoolwide focus for the year is “Consistency, Built Together,” with emphasis on stronger consistency across grade levels.
- New ELA resources are being implemented, with ongoing work to align instruction with Fayette County expectations and Georgia standards.
- The School Improvement Plan emphasizes instructional consistency, ELA implementation, student leadership/ownership, and building family capacity.
- Volunteer opportunities and upcoming calendar reminders were shared.

Beginning of Year Universal Screening Data

- The team reviewed beginning-of-year STAR Reading, STAR Early Literacy, and STAR Math data.
- The school is focused on improving third-grade reading and math outcomes.
- The team discussed helping proficient readers move toward distinguished performance by encouraging students to read and talk about what they read at home.
- Parents asked about computer-based testing; the group discussed that the multiple-choice format was not believed to be a primary factor in lower scores.
- Parents also asked about spelling and definition practice. Families were encouraged to support spelling and vocabulary at home while classroom instruction continues to prioritize phonics.

Star Reading
26-27 Estimated State Fall Proficiency

Grade	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Distinguished
3	25%	29%	31%	15%
4	23%	22%	30%	25%
5	22%	22%	40%	16%
All	23%	24%	33%	20%

Star Early Literacy
26-27 Estimated State Fall Proficiency

Grade	At/Below 19 PR	At/Below 39 PR	At/Below 69 PR	At/Above 70 PR	At/Above 90 PR
K	25%	27%	18%	20%	9%
1	19%	20%	24%	27%	10%
2	6%	19%	48%	16%	6%
3	14%	24%	29%	24%	9%

Star Math

26-27 Estimated State Fall Proficiency

Grade	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Distinguished
1	30%	37%	12%	21%
2	6%	22%	47%	25%
3	24%	27%	31%	19%
4	15%	28%	22%	35%
5	16%	19%	26%	36%
All	18%	27%	28%	28%

Work Session

- 9/24/26 - 3 minute overview/promotion for families during Grade Level Family Orientation
 - The team discussed the September 24 Grade-Level Family Orientation and how to make the Parent Lighthouse message interactive and useful for families.
 - The group considered a concise half-page or one-page family takeaway with a QR code for parent feedback.
- Planning will continue for the January 7 Habits for Families Workshop and the March Family International Night.
- Action Items

Item	Next Step
Family Orientation	Prepare a concise Parent Lighthouse handout/talking points and parent feedback QR code for the September 24 orientation.
Family Workshop	Use upcoming Lighthouse planning meetings to develop the January 7 Habits for Families Workshop.
International Night	Continue planning the March Family International Night as a schoolwide family event.
Meeting Communication	Clearly identify future meetings as School Council, Parent Lighthouse, or joint meetings so families understand the purpose and whether the meeting is a public council session.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:05

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 | 7:30–8:30 a.m.