Cherokee County School District
School Council
Meeting Minutes Notes

# Indian Knoll Elementary School
# School Council

DATE: 9.17.26 MEETING TIME: 7:00 am MEETING LOCATION: IKES Conference Room

| | |
|---|---|
| MEETING CALLED BY | Erica Morrie |
| TYPE OF MEETING | Regular Meeting |
| PRINCIPAL | Erica Morrie |
| NOTE TAKER | Peggy Rein |
| BOARD ATTENDEES | Erica Morrie, Jennifer Stebbins, Peggy Rein, Leslie Smith, Kristine Fletcher, Derek Townsend |
| GUEST ATTENDESS | Amy Kerwood, Tessie Lauer |

Cherokee County School District
School Council
Meeting Minutes Notes

TOPIC: Presentation to School Council PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

| | |
|---|---|
| DISCUSSION | School Council Training Presentation:<br>• Code of Ethics<br>• Who serves on the council<br>• Roles and responsibilities of council members<br>Election of Officers:<br>• 2-year terms; most everyone is on year 2; Kristine Fletcher and Sara Kirkpatrick are on their first year<br>• Reviewed vacancy policy if someone has to leave the council<br>• Discussed roles of the council and bylaws<br>• Reviewed open records and confidentiality<br>Leadership Qualities of a Principal:<br>Reviewed the leadership qualities of a principal of Indian Knoll Elementary, 2026-27 |
| DISCUSSION | Mr. Townsend inquired about any changes to school safety plans. Mrs. Lauer reviewed required safety drills and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) procedures designed to ensure the safety and security of all stakeholders at IKES. Discussed the implementation of teacher emergency bags, which will be located by classroom doors and contain emergency release information and a condensed EOP reference guide. Mrs. Fletcher asked about Code Red procedures when students are in the hallway during an emergency. Mrs. Lauer explained that teachers check hallways and bring any nearby students into their classrooms before securing doors. Council members expressed a desire for additional communication with students to reassure them that they will be accounted for and kept safe during emergency situations.<br><br>Mrs. Morrie encouraged council members to share any suggestions or recommendations for improvement.<br>Election:<br>Chairperson: Leslie Smith<br>Vice Chair: Jennifer Stebbins<br>Secretary: Peggy Rein |
| | |

Cherokee County School District
School Council
Meeting Minutes Notes

TOPIC: IKES Updates PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION

## Staff Changes

- Welcomed Antonia Hampton-Gamble as the new paraprofessional supporting the REACH classrooms.

## Student Advisory Panel

- Emma Figueredo (5th Grade) has been selected to represent IKES on the Student Advisory Panel and will participate in meetings with the superintendent.

## Principal's Advisory Committee

- The Principal's Advisory Committee is comprised of 5th grade students who meet to discuss school-related issues, share student perspectives, and provide input on changes they would like to see within the school community.

## Positive Behavior Framework / Birdhouse Shirts

- Birdhouse shirts were sent home last week.
- The first Birdhouse Meeting is scheduled for October 9.

DISCUSSION

## Thanksgiving Breakfast

- The school will not host a Thanksgiving Lunch this year. Instead, a Thanksgiving Breakfast will be held for families.
- Attendance will be organized by last name, and the event will conclude by 8:00 a.m. to minimize disruptions to instructional time.
- Students will still receive a traditional Thanksgiving lunch at school, including turkey and other holiday meal items.

## Attendance and Tardies

- Attendance and punctuality have shown significant improvement compared to last year.

## Car Rider Procedures

- Reviewed updated car rider expectations.
- Parents are no longer permitted to walk students across the parking lot for drop-off; all students must be dropped off through the designated car rider line.
- The new afternoon car rider dismissal system has been successful in improving traffic flow and ensuring students are dismissed safely and efficiently.

Cherokee County School District
School Council
Meeting Minutes Notes

TOPIC: Curriculum and Data Updates PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

| | |
|---|---|
| DISCUSSION | Curriculum Night Feedback<br><br>Teachers expressed concerns about the effectiveness of Curriculum Night due to consistently low attendance.<br><br>Teachers noted that parent conferences provide a more meaningful opportunity for communication. |
| DISCUSSION | Conference Week<br><br>Approximately 50% of families have indicated that they plan to attend a conference during Conference Week.<br><br>Teachers shared a preference for conferences over Curriculum Night because conferences allow for individualized discussions about student progress, strengths, and areas for growth rather than general information presented to all families.<br><br>IKES School Improvement Plan (SIP)<br><br>Reviewed the current School Improvement Plan (SIP).<br><br>Discussed current ELA goals, including Reading and ELA proficiency targets.<br><br>Acknowledged that there is significant opportunity for growth in both areas throughout the school year.<br><br>The SIP will be shared electronically with the board for review.<br><br>Attendance incentives are being implemented to support improved student attendance and engagement. |
| | |

Cherokee County School District
School Council
Meeting Minutes Notes

TOPIC: CCSD News and Updates PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

| | |
|---|---|
| DISCUSSION | **Policy and School Updates**<br>• Shared the district anchor slide that will be included in all CCSD presentations.<br>• Discussed updates to policies IHA and IHE regarding grading and retention. Information will be shared electronically with stakeholders.<br>• Reviewed the school's grading plan, which ensures all students have opportunities for test corrections. Students earning failing grades will receive reteaching and be provided an opportunity to retest.<br>• Discussed policy IFE regarding electronic device guidelines, noting that the policy also applies during ASP.<br>**Beginning-of-Year Data Review**<br>• Shared Beginning of Year (BOY) Screener Data with the board.<br>• Reviewed current performance levels and identified areas of need.<br>• Acknowledged that there is significant room for growth as the school works toward meeting achievement goals throughout the year. |

Cherokee County School District
School Council
Meeting Minutes Notes

TOPIC: PTA News PRESENTER: Erica Morrie

DISCUSSION

Grandparents Breakfast: Was a success, with positive participation and feedback from families.

Cherrydale Fundraiser

- Discussed the percentage of funds retained by the fundraising company.
- Considered alternative fundraising options that may allow a greater portion of proceeds to remain with the school.

DISCUSSION

- Celebrated meeting the fundraising goal needed to begin work on the new playground project.

Upcoming Events

- Boo Bash: October 16
- Talent Show: November 13

Conference Days

- Plans are still being finalized for students who will remain in ASP during regular school hours on conference days.
- Lunch will continue to be available and served as a grab-and-go option.

Outside Lunch During School Hours

- Discussed the rationale for not allowing outside lunches during the school day.
- Reasons include maintaining student safety related to food allergies and supporting consistency and respect for cafeteria operations and procedures.

| | |
|---|---|
| AJOURNMENT CALLED BY | Erica Morrie |
| TIME | 8:30 am |
| NEXT MEETING | December 17, 2026 |