



Minutes of School Council Meeting

River Ridge High School School Council

September 17th, 2026

Meeting Information

September 17th, 2026, 7:45am, A-10

Attendance

Members Present

Justin Sanderson, Stephanie Portman, Alan Johnson, Scott Steinbrenner, Nicole Balejsik, Autumn Hamilton, Trisha Caputo, Theresa Haywood, Savannah Holcomb

Members Absent

Matt Kling

Visitors and Other Attendees

Josh Malcolm (CCSD Executive Director Capital Planning & Facilities)

1. Call to Order

Justin Sanderson, 7:45am

2. Presentation to the School Council

Josh Malcom (CCSD Executive Director Capital Planning & Facilities)

- EdSplost Budget and Timelines August 2026
- Goal in this planning was to give the community “if you vote on this, this is what you will get and when.”
- Year 2027
 - o Canton Elementary School, design finished and bid goes out October 1st and will start January 1st with a June 2028 opening
 - o Creekview Bus Access Drive and Parking
 - o Etowah High School Replacement the goal is to not need Etowah East- phase demolition and rebuild like Sprayberry.
 - o Maintenance Projects A: LED lighting, flooring, painting, HVAC
 - o System-Wide Facility Maintenance A: moving to EdSplost to open up general fund budget for things like step raises
 - o Transportation A: replacing 25 budgets per year for 5 years and 5 special ed buses for 5 year
- Year 2028
 - o Replace Oak Grove ES
 - o RM Moore ES RMA (heavy renovations a hallway at a time)
 - o Turf Baseball, Practice, Softball (RRHS and WHS)
 - o Woodstock ES RMA
 - o Woodstock HS Auditorium RMA
 - o Maintenance Projects B
 - o System- Wide Facility Maintenance
 - o Transportation B
- Year 2029
 - o Carmel ES RMA
 - o Creekview HS Auditorium RMA
 - o Sequoyah HS Addition w/ RMA
 - o Tippens RMA
 - o Turf Baseball, Football, Practice, Softball, Track Resurface (CvHS)
 - o Maintenance Projects C
 - o System- Wide Facility Maintenance C

- o Transportation C
- Year 2030 & Year 2031 also discussed
- Other things that are eligible to funded by EdSplost:
 - o Academics: Instructional Resources, Replacing Kilns (ES/MS)
 - o Arts: Marching Band Towers, Sound Proofing Music Rooms at ES, Auditorium lighting, seating, painting, flooring, etc
 - o Athletics: score boards, divider in RRHS aux gym
 - o Career (STEM/CTAE): push into MS and ES, expanded in HS based on individual HS needs
 - o Safety & Security: police vehicle replacements and safety and security equipment
 - o Technology: student devices, staff devices, licensing, school and district technology infrastructure
- Passed for the 1st time in 1997 and has been passed every 5 years since
- Not a new tax, it's a continuation of tax. Shared by all, not just Cherokee County residents
- District Website >> EdSplost >> there's information on the website to show what projects have been completed since 1997 through EdSplost
 - o Slides per school and per zone
- Student enrollment growth: we study projections to see where we are. We are starting to see a leveling out of student growth. We are not dropping off like other counties, we are starting to level out.
 - o Chart titled *CCSD student enrollment growth 1997-2035* that shows this projected leveling off
 - o Chart that shows capacity per grade
 - o This is all public on the CCSD website for community members to view

3. Report of the Principal

- Logistics: need to vote on chair person, vice chair person and secretary
 - o Chair: Nicole Balejcsik
 - o Vice Chair: Scott Steinbrenner
 - o Secretary: Savannah Holcomb
- Transparency is key and your input is important
- Algebra: RRHS is 19.2 points above the district average
 - o Bragged on our Algebra teachers by name
- US History: RRHS 20.2 points above the district average
 - o Possibly the biggest jump in RRHS history
- Biology: RRHS 9.2 points above the district average
 - o "We have magic in the bull pen" and can't wait to see the next 2 years data as well
- CCRPI: these are from SY24-25 and we are waiting on the next scores
- PSAT and SAT days coming up
 - o 8/9 PSAT \$14 test fee (deadline is 9-18-26)
 - o 10th PSAT/NMSQT state of GA pays for and students are automatically enrolled
 - o 11th NMSQT or SAT option
 - o 12th SAT option
- School Improvement Plan (SIP)
 - o ELA, Math and Attendance Goals reflected in our SIP
- Cell Phone Policy: going pretty well so far, interested to see how the next phase plays out if they are reduced in lunchroom environments
- Data from Savannah Holcomb: 95% increase in circulations of books in the Media Center the month of August 2026 compared to August 2025
- SAT and ACT scores broken down by High Schools
- Dates for SAT/ACT at RRHS SY26-27
- GBI "Cat in the Hat" AI report
- Hanover Report coming out September 28- October 16, 2026 for RRHS Staff Members
- RRHS SY26-27 Important Dates (All in Knight News for Staff & Ridge in Review for Community)

- SY26-27 HS Student Assessment Schedule
- EdSplost 2026 one pager (Sanderson will be sending out in ParentSquare with link to CCSD website)
- RRHS Faculty Meeting Tuesday and PPT was shared with school council

8. New Business

- Communication: asking school council their opinion on Ridge and Review
 - o School Council Feedback: It is good. It is long, but it's everything you need in one location. The Friday sent date is great too.
 - EFT Tour Deadlines emails were too much and made parents shy away from even reading the Ridge in Review
 - Website houses a ton of information
 - We assume a lot about parents' knowledge. We assume new 9th grade parents know how carpool works.
- Information in the Senior meeting about CommonApp, etc is information that needs to be presented earlier. By the time they get to this meeting, parents already know this information.
- Ask students what their interests in CTAE programs could be so we have information for when selling Cherokee happens and some money is redirected to CTAE programs. Obviously knowing that RRHS is space prohibited.
 - o Cosmetology is always brought up
 - o DECA and TAP are big and growing
 - o Work on a list of GaDoe courses that could potentially be held in this building
 - o Ben McGee is doing a fabulous job according to school council parents
- Shoutout to Cathleen Gay for being very knowledgeable and helpful

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:34am

Next Meeting

October 16th at 7:45am in A-10

Minutes Prepared By

Savannah Holcomb

Approval of Minutes

[After approval, enter the date these minutes were approved by the River Ridge High School School Council.]