

Avery Elementary School Council Minutes

10/1/26

Attendees: Dr. Lisa Turner (Principal), Mollie Lord (ILS), Heather Garrett (4th grade), Karen Sexton (3rd Grade), Priyanka Neelam (Parent) V Sigman (parent)

Minutes Taken by: Heather Garrett

Mission & Vision for 2026–2027

- Cherokee County School District's mission for Elevating the Excellence was shared.
- The district's mission is to:
    - Have contagious joy and optimism about serving and leading in Georgia.
    - Ensure students are learning more, growing more, and achieving more than they could anywhere else.
- The focus continues to be on student achievement, growth, and creating a positive learning environment.

District Priorities for 2026–2027

- **Key Priority 1: Excellence in Academics & Achievement**
    - Strengthen K–2 reading skills, progress monitoring, and assessment.
    - Develop reading intervention plans at each school.
    - Continue the Middle School 1:1 initiative.
    - Acquire resources for reading intervention and enrichment.
- **Key Priority 2: Excellence in School Board Governance**
    - Advance teacher and employee compensation.
    - Continue work related to the new policy for grading and placement.
    - Address technology/device initiatives.
    - Continue third-party personnel initiatives.
    - Develop a long-range strategic plan.

- **Key Priority 3: Excellence in District Coordination**
    - Improve clarity regarding the Code of Conduct and behavior supports.
    - Consolidate communication tools.
    - Update school safety maps as required by law.
    - Deploy additional school safety technology.
- **Key Priority 4: Excellence in a High-Quality School Environment**
    - Publish Key Performance Indicators for district operations.
    - Finalize and strengthen school staff support.
    - Acquire new transportation routing software and a bus locator app.

Avery Elementary School Improvement Goals

- Avery Elementary's School Improvement Goals for **SY 2026–2027** were reviewed.
- Goals focus on:
    - ELA/Reading achievement
    - Math achievement
    - Student attendance
- Reading and ELA goals include:
    - Implementing evidence-based literacy instruction.
    - Monitoring student growth through benchmark and progress-monitoring data.
    - Using assessment data to identify students needing additional support.
    - Providing targeted small-group instruction and intervention.
    - Strengthening teacher clarity and alignment between instructional tasks, checks for understanding, assessments, and learning targets.
    - Using standards deconstruction to ensure instruction reflects the rigor of the standards.
    - Increasing explicit vocabulary instruction across content areas.
- Math goals include:
    - Building teacher knowledge of rigorous, standards-aligned instruction.
    - Analyzing benchmark and common assessment data through PLC collaboration.
    - Providing targeted intervention and enrichment based on student performance data.
- Attendance goals include:
    - Monitoring attendance data at the grade level.

- Identifying trends and students needing intervention.
- Implementing attendance support plans.
- Communicating attendance expectations and the importance of regular attendance to families.

Special Education & Gifted Subgroups

- **Special Education**
  - Total students served: **165**
  - Kindergarten: 17
  - 1st Grade: 22
  - 2nd Grade: 24
  - 3rd Grade: 21
  - 4th Grade: 43
  - 5th Grade: 40
- **Primary eligibility areas include**:
  - Specific Learning Disability (SLD): 58
  - Speech/Language (S/L): 46
  - SDD: 22
  - OHI: 19
  - Autism (AU): 12
  - Other eligibility areas were also represented.
- **Gifted**
  - Total students served: **170**
  - 1st Grade: 9
  - 2nd Grade: 21
  - 3rd Grade: 39
  - 4th Grade: 43
  - 5th Grade: 58
  - 50 students qualified during the most recent testing window.
  - 88 students did not qualify during the most recent testing window.
  - Total students tested during the window: **138**.

EIP & ESOL Data

- **ESOL**
    - Total English Learners served: **46**
    - Kindergarten: 8
    - 1st Grade: 4
    - 2nd Grade: 9
    - 3rd Grade: 14
    - 4th Grade: 8
    - 5th Grade: 3
- Two students are newcomers who have been in U.S. schools for fewer than two years.
- Languages represented include:
    - Spanish, Russian, Mandarin, Ukrainian, Portuguese, Telugu, Chu, Turkish
- EL Monitoring:
    - Year 1: 7 students
    - Year 2: 7 students
- **EIP**
    - Current students receiving Reading EIP: **173**
    - Current students receiving Math EIP: **128**

Schoolwide Achievement Data

- **Early Literacy – K–3**
    - Fall STAR Early Literacy data showed 72% of students at or above the identified benchmark level.
- **Reading – Grades 2–5**
    - Fall STAR Reading data showed **60% of students proficient and above**.
- Data will continue to be used to identify students needing intervention, monitor progress, and provide enrichment.

Implementation Plan

- **Teacher Clarity**
    - Embed higher-order thinking questions into lessons.
    - Increase student engagement through researched-based Kagan strategies.
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- **Standard Deconstruction**
    - Teachers will deconstruct standards to ensure instruction and student learning reflect the appropriate rigor.
- **Vocabulary Instruction**
    - Vocabulary instruction will be embedded across all subject areas.
- **Reading Intervention Plan**
    - Identify students performing below the **40th percentile**.
    - Provide intentional, targeted intervention.
    - Continue progress monitoring to measure student growth.

New District-Created Summative Assessments

- New district-created summative assessments have been developed for:
    - **Grades K–2 ELA**
    - **Grades 3–5 Math**
- Assessments are available through the **Renaissance DNA platform**.
- The platform provides multiple reports to support:
    - Data analysis
    - Standards-based assessment review
    - Identification of student needs
    - Instructional planning

Leadership Qualities of a Principal

- **Instructional Leadership**
    - Develop and communicate a shared vision for teaching and learning that supports student growth.
- **School Climate**
    - Promote academic, social, and emotional well-being.
    - Maintain a rigorous, positive, and safe environment.
- **Planning & Assessment**
    - Collect, analyze, and use appropriate data to make informed decisions consistent with CCSD guidelines and procedures.
- **Organizational Management**

    - Manage human and fiscal resources effectively to maximize student achievement.
- **Human Resources Management**
    - Recruit, retain, and support highly qualified certified and classified staff.
- **Teacher/Staff Evaluation**
    - Provide consistent, constructive feedback focused on rigorous student learning.
- **Professionalism**
    - Demonstrate professional standards and ethics.
    - Participate in professional development and contribute to the profession.
- **Communication & Community Relations**
    - Communicate and collaborate effectively with students, staff, parents, and community members in a timely and professional manner.

⚜️ School Council Focus Moving Forward

- Continue using student achievement data to guide instructional decisions.
- Monitor progress toward Avery Elementary's ELA, math, and attendance goals.
- Strengthen intervention and enrichment opportunities.
- Support high-quality instruction through teacher clarity and standards-based planning.
- Continue collaboration among teachers, administrators, families, and the school community.

Maintain a positive, safe, rigorous learning environment focused on **Elevating the Excellence**

🏫 Calendar Updates at Avery

- **October 9: Fun Run Kick Off**
- **October 12: No School**
- **October 13-16: Early Release/Conferences**
- **October 16: Report Card Distribution**
- **October 22: Fun Run !**

Avery Elementary is proud of our students and teachers. We look forward to building on that success to make our school a place where our students will reach their highest potential!

Excellence Built on Love!! 💚 💛