

Knox Elementary STEM Academy

151 River Bend Way
Canton, GA 30114
770.704.1265

Debbie Ritter
Principal

Tammie Anderson & Lori Smith
Assistant Principals

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

October 1, 2026

Agenda Item:	
1. Call to Order	8:49 Members present Debbie Ritter, Leslie Hicks, Leslie Fullagar, Erik Renz, Melanie Beavers, Laurin Kendall, and Alex King
2. Approval of Agenda/Addition of Agenda Items	Alex King made a motion to approve the agenda, and Melanie Beavers seconded the motion.
3. Introductions – Welcome Leslie Fullagar – parent & Melanie Beavers – P.E Coach	Ms. Ritter welcomed our new members. All members introduced themselves.
4. Review School Council PowerPoint: Responsibilities/Attendance Requirements/Election of Officers	Ms. Ritter presented the School Council PowerPoint. Chairperson -Alex King Vice Chairperson – Erik Renz Secretary – Leslie Hicks
5. Leadership Qualities of a Principal	Ms. Ritter reviewed these qualities. Teacher retention rate has increased at Knox since last year. Professional development opportunities have increased as well and are supported by administration. Parent Square is our main form of communication to families and the community this year. Alex King made a motion to adopt these qualities with no changes. Erik Renze seconded the motion.
6. Instructional Wins/Challenges – Celebrate & Adjust SIP Plan	Knox grew in all areas on the Milestones testing for 3rd - 5th grades. Ms. Ritter shared the School Improvement Plan goals for the 2026-2027 school year. Our Reading Proficiency goal is 75.3% for 3rd grade, 70.2% for 4th grade, and 83.6% for 5th grade. The district is focused on improving literacy skills and fluency. We now have a Literacy Coach to support this initiative. Our ELA goal is 49.1% for 3rd grade, 51.5% for 4th grade, and 60.7% for 5th grade. We are looking to hire former or part-time educators to progress monitor and provide interventions once needs are identified. They will work with students to provide targeted instructional tutoring. We do see trends district wide that improvement is happening the longer students are in CCSD schools.



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	Knox is analyzing student data and focusing on subgroups that need more interventions on foundational skills. Our Math goal is 61.1% for 3rd grade, 65.4% for 4th grade, and 66.7% for 5th grade. We will use collaborative PLCs to align math instruction, tasks, and assessments with grade level standards. Our Attendance SMART goal is 96.3%. This year our counselors have a weekly raffle to recognize students who have been present every day that week.
7. School Improvements this Year	New Furniture for Science Lab New School Signage (Interior Directional/Classroom)
8. Staff Changes	New REACH teacher – Amanda Hodges New COMPASS teacher – Tatum Torres New KK Paras – Stacy Propes & Sophia Lorenz
9. Superintendent's Student Advisory Panel	The Knox student representative is Jane Moore in 5th Grade.
10. FUN RUN Fundraiser	PTA raised about 27K. PTA used some of the funds for Peaceful Playground on our blacktop area. Marcie Shell, a local artist, Cherokee Zone teacher and Knox parent painted the Peaceful Playground. These funds are also used for teacher grants, author visits, and other initiatives. We are looking to further improve other playgrounds in the future.
11. PTA Updates	Laurin Kendall gave a PTA update. New Board Members: Ashley Arronte, President and Meredith Love, Co-President. Kristen Sullivan is the new Secretary
12. Positive Behavior Framework – Castles	PTA provided new Castle Shirts – Thank you to PTA for generous donation and thank you to Canton Apparel for a great business partnership. First Castle Celebration – Q1 – next Friday 10/9
13. Transportation Calendar	New to Knox – all other schools in Zone have been using for years. This should help limit number of changes throughout the day and help ensure safety of students. This will be utilized especially with the upcoming Conference Days this year.



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14. Policy IHA	Knox will have a district representative speak to faculty about the district's new Grading Policy to support all learners.
15. Thanksgiving Lunch – 11/6, 11/9, & possible 11/10	All schools in Cherokee Zone have done away with Thanksgiving Lunch with exception of Liberty and Knox.
16. Attendance and Tardies	Remain about the same – added a weekly drawing incentive this year for students.
17. STEM	The recertification process is this year. Ms. Ritter brought it up to the Council to discuss if we need to go through reaccreditation or just maintain the principles of STEM (best practices). We do want to focus on literacy and increasing literacy skills. The Council discussed ways to communicate this decision process with the community to make their final recommendation.
18. Playground	We are looking at the addition of a new playground (in grassy area to the left of the school). This project will be school funded.
19. Safety Information (buses)	Admin has responded to two bus issues thus far – Monday before break and this past Monday. We do this to make sure students are safe, calm, and communication is clear to parents.
20. Curriculum Night	There was low attendance with the average per class about 5-6 students/parents. Teachers feel conferences will be more meaningful and individualized conversations.
21. Conference Days	Conference Days are October 13 – 16 There will be 6 slots per day with 24 slots total. About half slots are filled currently. Extended day – 40ish ASP – 65 (typical average is 85-90) Lunch service begins at 9 a.m. Dismissal begins at 11:30 Modified Specials (25 minutes instead of 45)
22. Yearbook	Updates from Leslie Hicks – 5 th Grade Baby Pictures Yearbooks are \$30.00 until November 1 st then increase to \$35.00. Families are uploading 5 th grade baby pictures for free.
23. Upcoming events – first semester	PTA Grandparents Event will be October 20th after school. The Book Fair is October 19 th – 26 th . It will be open for the Grandparents Event.



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	PTA Movie Night is October 16 th . Thanksgiving Luncheon will be in November. PTA Bingo Night will be on November 19 th . The PTA Holiday Shop will be in December. Report Cards go home October 16 th .
24. Next Meeting Date – Thursday, December 10 th @ 8:45 a.m. 25. Adjourn	Adjourned at 10:47 Leslie Fullagar made a motion to adjourn. Melanie Beavers seconded that motion.

Agenda Item: Alex King brought up an additional agenda item regarding the Penny Tax and Ed SPLOST.	Notes: Alex brought up how this will be up for a renewal vote in November.
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KNOX



STEM ACADEMY



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