Holly Springs Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 17, 2026 **Meeting:** First School Council Meeting of the 2026-2027 School Year
Time: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Call to Order

The first School Council meeting of the 2026-2027 school year was called to order at 9:00 AM.

Attendance and Quorum

A quorum was established.

Present:

- Derrick Jackson
- Morgan Mason Grantham
- Katleen Rosen
- Adriana Arnold
- Kerri Schmitt, Principal
- Jody Byers, 5th Grade Teacher
- Tammie Rice, 4th Grade Math/Science Teacher
- Josh Malcolm

School Council Leadership

The School Council elected the following officers for the 2026-2027 school year:

- **Chairperson:** Derrick Jackson
- **Vice Chairperson:** Morgan Mason Grantham
- **Secretary:** Katleen Rosen

The council also discussed reviewing the bylaws related to the roles and responsibilities of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Leadership Qualities

Principal Kerri Schmitt presented the Leadership Qualities document for the principal role, which includes eight required sections.

The council reviewed updates from the previous year, including a stronger emphasis on **Community Relations**, specifically visibility, accessibility, responsiveness, and communication, as well as **Resources & Support** for teachers.

Following discussion and review, the School Council approved the Leadership Qualities document.

SPLOST Projects

The council received an update regarding upcoming SPLOST projects for Holly Springs and schools within the Sequoyah Zone.

Holly Springs is scheduled for a major renovation and modification project beginning in **2030**, with completion expected by **2032**. Planned improvements include:

- Renovation of major systems, including the roof, HVAC, asphalt, and canopies
- LED lighting and flooring throughout the school
- Sound system and technology upgrades
- Phased construction to minimize disruption to students and staff
- New playground equipment possibly

Other major projects in the Sequoyah Zone include the phased demolition and rebuild of Hickory Flat Elementary and renovations, classroom additions, and athletic field improvements at Sequoyah High School.

The SPLOST project list has been finalized and approved by the Board of Education.

School Culture and Student Engagement

The school continues to use ClassDojo and Pride Points to recognize and encourage positive student behavior. Recent incentives have included hat days, silly socks days, pajama days, and pop-up celebrations every few weeks.

The school is also beginning the **Every Wildcat Voice Council**, a monthly student leadership group that will provide feedback on school improvement, incentives, cafeteria experiences, and school culture.

The council discussed opportunities to increase family participation and engagement. There have also been some parent concerns brought up, and Principal Schmitt is working to address those concerns and strengthen communication with families.

Academic Initiatives

Fall assessment data indicates that early literacy continues to be an area of focus. Approximately 60-70% of K-3 students are currently at or above benchmark.

The school will implement additional reading intervention using UFLY resources, along with a free after-school intervention program beginning in late October for students below grade level. Student progress will be monitored through Professional Learning Communities.

The school is also seeing positive progress toward its ELA and math goals. Teachers are reviewing student data regularly and using the information to guide instruction.

A major instructional focus for the year is **academic discourse**, including student-to-student discussion, academic language, annotation, and increasing participation among all students.

Safety and Security

The council reviewed the school's ongoing safety procedures, including regular fire, code red, and weather drills, as well as tabletop scenario exercises involving administration, the nurse, SRO, and counselors.

The school conducts a daily safety huddle to communicate expected visitors, schedule changes, and security updates.

Current safety measures include secured exterior doors, QR code scanning, visitor check-in and badges, distress alert badges for staff, and a drop-off cart system designed to minimize unnecessary building entry.

Outdoor conditions are also monitored using weather information and wet bulb readings to determine whether recess and outdoor activities are appropriate.

School Events and Family Engagement

Upcoming events and initiatives include:

- Fall pictures
- Math Walks coaching and professional development
- Attendance incentives
- Pumpkin Book Contest
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Red Ribbon Week
- Veterans Day

The school is also continuing to coordinate family events and communication efforts to encourage greater participation.

ParentSquare / CCSD Direct

The council was informed that ParentSquare is transitioning to **CCSD Direct**. The platform will continue to provide multilingual translation, form responses, conference sign-ups, student voting and polling, engagement tracking, and text and app notifications.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **10:30 AM**.