

Sequoyah HS School Council Meeting

Date: September 11, 2026

Time (called to order): 7:32am

Location: SHS Front Office Conference Room

Meeting called by: Bob Van Alstyne, Principal (BVA)

Other attendees: Deanda Davis (DD), SHS teacher; Stephanie Judkins (SJ), SHS media specialist; Audrey Thornley (AT), parent/community representative; Paige Sims (PS), parent/community representative; Lisa Hicks (LH), parent/community representative; Morgan Mason-Grantham (MMG), parent/community representative

Presentation(s):

Education SPLOST – Trey Moores & Matt Kimbrall, CCSD Representatives

- Continuation of existing sales tax – continuing this tax means not having to increase millage rate
- DOE requires 5-year local facility plan; exterior and interior analysis performed
- Current SHS renovation of athletic facilities is ahead of schedule and new field house & gym should open in October
- Next SPLOST plans: addition to Sequoyah HS – 3-story addition in grassy area behind the current Main campus; plan is to be able to end the split campus (repurpose current Sequoyah East) – begin late 2028
- Plan is also to renovate Hickory Flat ES (new building) – begin 2030/31
- Baseball, softball, practice fields will be turfed, fix fence, improve drainage (initial investment means savings down the line) – begin late 2028
- All plans are available on CCSD website
- All of the projects that will be completed in the next 7-ish years then mean solely maintenance for the foreseeable future (20+ years)
- Outdoor elevator prep work has begun (will give access to new aux gym as well as Sequoyah East)

Introductions of New/Previous Council Members

- School Council Presentation (CCSD Organization and Procedures for School Councils) – what a council is and how it works
- Council position elections:
 - Council Chairperson – Paige Sims (unanimous)
 - Council Vice Chair – Audrey Thornley (unanimous)
 - Council Secretary – Stephanie Judkins (unanimous)
- Qualities of a Principal (homework)

Report from the Principal: (BVA presents)

- 2026 Homecoming: Week after September break
 - Theme: Starry Night
 - Parade – September 30
 - Dance – October 3

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Sequoyah – US News & World Report named SHS the number 1 school in Cherokee County, 49th in the metro Atlanta area, 66th in the state of Georgia; this data is based on SY2023-24, which means we expect SHS's rankings should continue to rise
- This is tied to SIP goals: increase the amount of CTAE pathway completers (all pathways end in an industry certification test) as well as the number of students taking at least one Honors/AP class

Next meeting date: October 9, 2026

Adjournment: 9:18am