

Dean Rusk School Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday – March 19, 2019

Time: 4:30 to 6:00 PM

Location: Dean Rusk Front Office Conference Room

In Attendance:

Dawn Weinbaum – Principal

Elizabeth Castrillon – Certified Teacher

Melissa Christensen – Certified Teacher

Susan Whitfield – Parent Representative

Jenna Cavin – Parent Representative

Terri Jacomine – Parent Representative

Diane Ellicott – Parent Representative/Business Person – Absent

Larry Blase – Parent Representative/Business Person - Absent

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Weinbaum, and she welcomed the members. The Agenda was distributed.

Digital Learning Day on March 21st

Ms. Weinbaum discussed the upcoming Digital Learning day on March 21st. Students will complete the online assignments at home, and the assignments should be approximately 5 minutes per class. Due to computer repairs for 6th grade, the digital day may be postponed.

Scoliosis Screening on March 20 and March 21

Scoliosis Screening is March 20th and March 21st. Parents were to return the permission form which was sent home and emailed.

Georgia Milestones

Ms. Weinbaum distributed a calendar with Milestone dates for each grade level. Georgia Milestones start April 15th. ELA is the first week and math is the second week. 6th and 7th grades will complete Milestones on April 25th. 8th grade will continue testing in Social Studies and Science on April 26th and April 29th. If 8th grade students are taking Physical

Science, they will have their EOC (End of Course test) in May. Ms. Weinbaum proceeded to state that since there are no extra laptops, testing might take place in the morning and afternoon. She will also email a testing calendar to parents.

PTSA Fundraiser on March 29th

Ms. Weinbaum was excited to announce the PTSA fundraiser that will take place March 29th. The PTSA is working with an organization called Step-It-Up. During the students' connection time, they will participate in obstacle courses with inflatables; it will be a fun time for the students and will raise money for the school. Some ways the PTSA uses the money is for the 8th grade transition to high school, teacher grants, and "assesslets" to help prepare students for the Milestones.

7 Mindsets

Ms. Weinbaum summarized the 7 Mindsets program that started in January. Teachers are continuing to use the program in their classrooms, and the faculty is hoping that over time, it will make a significant impact on the students and school climate. Ms. Weinbaum then discussed the topic of bullying. The faculty and administration are working diligently to rid the school of any bullying. Unfortunately, this is a struggle in most schools, and social media is a contributing factor. Ms. Weinbaum then addressed the fact that oftentimes, the faculty and administration are not aware of bullying, so it is important that students and parents bring it to their attention. When the staff learns of an issue, they are very proactive and take it seriously and address it immediately. Ms. Weinbaum proceeded to discuss ways students can anonymously inform faculty of bullying situations. They can go online at Safe School Anonymous (<https://www.cherokeek12.net/Administration2/safety-security>), they can email their teacher, and/or they can make an appointment with their counselor. It was also discussed about possibly having speakers come and talk to the students. Once again, Ms. Weinbaum reiterated the point that Dean Rusk takes bullying seriously.

Course Placements

Ms. Weinbaum addressed report cards and course placements. Report cards will be sent home on March 26th. The students' course placements will be on the course placement form, which will include 7th grade advanced placement and 8th grade Advanced placement and high school credit courses. There will be a parent meeting to discuss the placements and courses for rising 8th grade students. Even if a child does not qualify for the high school credit classes, Ms. Weinbaum still encourages parents to come to the meeting. If a child is placed in Spanish, he/she can choose to take another language instead. Ms. Geohagan will continue offering new high school credit course called "Introduction to Business." There

will only be two classes offered, and enrollment will be based on a lottery system. Unfortunately, drafting will no longer be offered because the program has expanded at the high school level. A parent then suggested that a finance class would be an excellent addition to the academic curriculum; however, curriculum (state standards) is determined at the state level. Ms. Weinbaum also reiterated that course placement is data driven. Ms. Weinbaum will send an e-blast informing parents about report cards and class placement forms sent home.

Elementary and High School Transition

Ms. Weinbaum stated that middle school presentations at feeder elementary schools are taking place. 5th grade students will visit DRMS in May. Furthermore, 8th grade course recommendations for Sequoyah High School went home and have been returned to SHS if parents and/or students had any questions about their classes for their freshman year. Ms. Weinbaum then announced that Assistant Principal Catherine Hollman will be retiring at the end of the year. She has been a wonderful AP and will be missed. A new assistant principal will most likely be announced at the next board meeting.

End of the Year Dates

Ms. Weinbaum discussed several end of the year activities and dates. The last day of school is May 29th. Field Days are May 15th-17th. The 8th grade awards day and breakfast will be the last day of school. As far as 6th and 7th grade awards day, it is undecided and is still in planning. Ms. Weinbaum stated that 6th and 7th grade might have a common awards day – one grade in the morning and one grade in the afternoon. Also, final exams are the last three days of school.

Ms. Weinbaum thanked all council members for their participation and closed the meeting. The next council meeting is May 14, 2019, and this will be the last meeting of the school year.