

E.T. Booth School Council Agenda

January 12, 2022 | 4:30pm

Present: Mr. Sharrock, Ms. Riddick (joining remotely via Teams), Ms. Miller, Ms. Sanders, Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Quick

Absent: Mrs. Hackney, Ms. Metka, Ms. Josef

Call to Order- 4:32

1. Agenda Review

2. Approval of Minutes from 11/3/21 Meeting

Unanimously approved

3. Current Items/Reports

- Scheduling for Semester 2

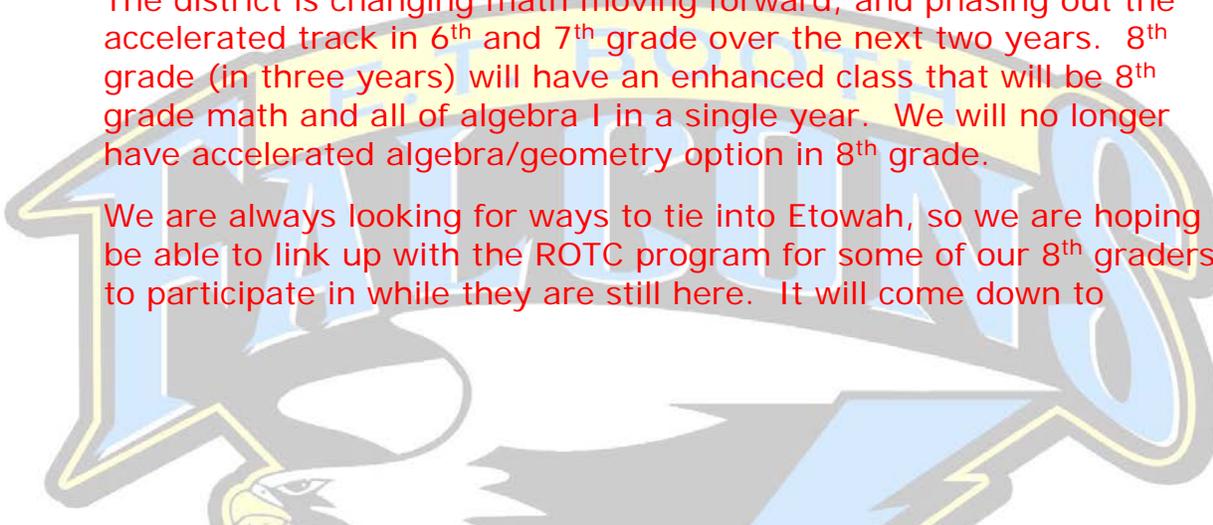
Right now we are in a lull. Mr. Sharrock will meet with the district next week. We had about 15 students return to face-to-face learning from digital, and a few go out for various reasons. The district is trying to limit students going digital to those who are medically fragile. Ms. Deneka's STEM course did not work out for kids to go back and forth to the high school this semester, so we opened her class up as a regular STEM connections class for Q3 and Q4. We will work on that more for next school year.

We had one change today; Shannon Dalton got a position at the county as a special education facilitator. We have hired a new teacher, Chase Welch, to fill her position. This created a domino effect of sorts to rearrange current teachers and fill Ms. Dalton's classes as well.

- Scheduling for Next Year

The district is changing math moving forward, and phasing out the accelerated track in 6th and 7th grade over the next two years. 8th grade (in three years) will have an enhanced class that will be 8th grade math and all of algebra I in a single year. We will no longer have accelerated algebra/geometry option in 8th grade.

We are always looking for ways to tie into Etowah, so we are hoping to be able to link up with the ROTC program for some of our 8th graders to participate in while they are still here. It will come down to



scheduling and whether it can be worked into both school schedules with the Etowah ROTC teacher. This would create great continuity for some of our students who are interested in this program.

Mr. Sharrock had a meeting with the district today to see if there are other ways to help our 8th graders find ways to be more involved in their education, and excited to go to Etowah and continue their school careers.

- All School Council Update

We had planned on starting that in January, but COVID has put that on hold. It will ramp up as soon as the county approves (this may be as soon as January 21). Our students really enjoyed this before. Already-established clubs have been given permission to be meeting virtually or social-distanced, especially if they have competitions, etc. We are not starting any new clubs.

- Laptop Redistribution

Mr. Sharrock knows that there has been chatter on social media about this process. Our district has had 3 districts that have been one-to-one (Rusk, Mill Creek, and Booth). This was a pilot program. The idea was that all middle schools would eventually be able to be one-to-one, but because of a lack of funding, this was not possible. As a result, they determined at the district level to redistribute the technology more equitably across the district. The idea was to phase that out over a three-year period, but that was not feasible in practice. This would have created a huge issue during Milestones had it remained the same. We are now about 1.5 to one, but the county will take some of them back this summer, and then more of them back during the summer of 2023. Mr. Sharrock appreciates the people who emailed him directly with questions so that he was able to clear up the misunderstanding.

- COVID Updates

The county thinks we are at the pinnacle of cases at this point. It has ramped up since the beginning of the semester. The cases appear to be mild so far. The new quarantine guidelines have helped with attendance because it is now only five days instead of ten as long as you are fever-free and improving. We are honoring parents' decision to keep their kids out for the whole ten days. Mr. Sharrock just got communication from the county about looking at attendance patterns for students who are missing 7 or more days that have nothing to do with COVID to help them get back to school and provide them with the help they need.

- Spring Fundraiser

Cherrydale fundraiser will be held in the spring again. We made more money last year than we ever have in the fall. This will be held March 7 through March 18 so that it will not interfere with Milestones testing. Some people like the fundraiser better than the donation drive, or vice versa, so Mr. Sharrock likes offering both.

- Code of Conduct – Hate Speech

Ms. Riddick asked that Mr. Sharrock address this to clarify what is considered hate speech, and how it is dealt with here at ET Booth. Mr. Sharrock said that we consider any comments that are racial, sexual, or otherwise single a student out for any reason to be hate speech. As with everything, however, each instance has to be dealt with individually. We want teachers to deal with it immediately, and then refer it to administration. Discipline usually follows no matter what; however, investigations can be escalated or deescalated depending on the circumstances. Mr. Payne is our lead investigator. Some things are being repeated from things students learn at home, or from social media, or students act without thinking, rather than acting out of malice. Weighing these factors with the need for correction can be a tenuous line to tread. Repeat offenders are always met with more strenuous consequences, as with any offense. Mrs. Johnson wonders if teachers need more training to better handle these issues in class because of what she hears from the students in her diversity group. She is fearful that the students who are being put down do not have an avenue to seek help or guidance from an adult. Mr. Sharrock said that counseling is available to everyone, but we aren't proactive about seeking out the students who have been offended by these comments. Also, because victims do not have access to what consequences were handed out to the offenders, this sometimes leads them to believe that nothing happened or that their feelings do not matter. Mrs. Johnson tries to be a contact person for students who need someone to talk to. Mr. Sharrock admits that an African American student may not be comfortable speaking with a white counselor who may not understand their situation. Ms. Miller asked what happens if someone accuses another student of doing something, but it is found out that nothing actually occurred. Mr. Sharrock said that we always return to the accused student to talk through the situation, and then consequences are enacted for the original accuser. He also said that students who end up in ISS always see a counselor to help with restorative practices to reduce future discipline offenses.

4. Update on District/School Initiatives

- DiscoveryEd STEM

Momentum is increasing with our group of 8 teachers on this committee. This was supposed to be our last year, and all teachers were supposed to be using this model as of this school year; however, COVID has slowed this process. It will now be a four to five year process instead of a three year process. We are settling into the new normal, and better able to incorporate these ideas. Kara Reeder is heading this up, and has planned an event to bring the community into our school with real-world problems that can be solved by our students. These could include architecture, translating skills, etc. Teachers here have been and continue to provide STEM activities for students during this transition.

- House Updates

- House Colors Spotlight: KESTREL (Responsibility)
- Semester Winner

Aplomado won the house contest for 1st semester

The house flags have been moved to show this new leader. House shirts are here, and will be distributed next week. We will have a house spirit day shortly thereafter. Students also continue to earn tickets for positive behavior, which count toward house points as well. This helps to support our Falcon PRIDE theme, and helps to develop positive community.

5. Future Items

- Testing

- Milestones

ELA and math have been doing DRC Beacon testing to their students that are specific to the domains of the milestones tests so that they can help their students focus on their current area(s) of weakness in each of these classes.

- ACCESS

This begins next week for our EL students, and provides them an opportunity to get to a point where they no longer receive direct services (EL-Monitored). This helps us to identify correct allotments moving forward.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 4:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 5:25