

Dean Rusk School Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday – January 14, 2020

Time: 4:30 to 6:00 PM

Location: Dean Rusk Front Office Conference Room

In Attendance:

Dawn Weinbaum – Principal

Andrew Carwile – Certified Teacher

Robyn West – Certified Teacher

Larry Blase - Parent Representative/Business Person - Chairperson

Jenna Cavin – Parent Representative - Secretary

Eric Fortner – Parent Representative/Business Person

Mitzi Hamilton- Parent Representative

Chanda Schwab - Parent Representative – Vice Chairperson

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Weinbaum, and she welcomed the members. All members were present.

PARENT AND STUDENT CLIMATE SURVEY

Ms. Weinbaum discussed the upcoming Parent and Student Climate Survey. Recently, Dr. Usry sent an email to parents regarding the Climate Survey. Parents were allowed to have their students opt out of taking the survey. Moreover, the survey is anonymous, and students began taking the survey Thursday, January 16th. The results from the survey count toward Dean Rusk's CCRPI, and the administration does not receive detailed information about the results. However, the Panorama Survey does give more detail about the strengths and weaknesses of the school's climate. Ms. Weinbaum also discussed how last year, at the suggestion of a council member, the administration gave the outgoing 8th graders a survey about their experience at Dean Rusk. The students gave great feedback, and the survey was a success.

DIGITAL LEARNING DAY

The next Digital Learning day is March 24, 2020. Ms. Weinbaum reiterated that this was originally not a day off on the school calendar, but due to election day, the county decided to have the students complete a Digital Learning Day at home. Because many of the county

schools are used as polling stations, it was decided it was more prudent for students to remain home for the day and complete their work digitally.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULING

Ms. Weinbaum stated that she is on a committee with other Cherokee County administration and faculty regarding middle school scheduling. The committee's purpose is to evaluate what types of schedules (length of periods, block schedule, 6th period day, etc.) are academically most effective for middle school students.

MILESTONE STUDENT GROWTH REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS

Milestone Student Growth reports were sent home on December 17, 2019. Students are compared to other students with similar abilities, and the goal is to see improvement each year. Furthermore, report cards were sent home on January 13, 2020.

Elementary and High School Transitions for 2020-21

Ms. Weinbaum distributed a handout with important meeting dates for rising 9th graders. Mr. Van Alstyne, Sequoyah High School's principal, came to Dean Rusk and met with the 8th grade students. Sequoyah High School counselors also came over and spoke with the 8th grade students about electives, academic courses, and schedules. On January 15th, there was a meeting for 8th grade parents concerning Freshman courses and schedules. On January 21st from 6:30-8:30, there will be another rising freshman parent meeting and elective fair in the SHS Auditorium.

Ms. Weinbaum also stated that they are still finalizing dates for visitations to the elementary schools for rising 6th graders. There also will be a parent meeting in May at Dean Rusk.

GEORGIA MILESTONE CALENDAR

Ms. Weinbaum distributed the Milestone testing calendar for this year. Testing will begin April 14th and will continue through April 30th. The testing calendar will be emailed to parents in the near future.

QUESTIONS AND AGENDA IDEAS FOR NEXT MEETING

In closing, a member asked about the sewage issues from the previous year. Ms. Weinbaum said that all paper towel holders were replaced with hand dryers, and the issue is definitely

better but not completely resolved. However, there is no hazard to students and staff. Another council member asked if there was a National Junior Honors Society at DRMS. Currently, Jennifer Campbell, a teacher, is the sponsor for the Honor Society, and a student must be chosen based on certain academic criteria and character qualities to be a part of this organization.

Ms. Weinbaum thanked all council members for their participation and closed the meeting. She also asked the council to submit any ideas for the next meeting, so she can add it to the agenda. The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020.