

## **Dean Rusk School Council Meeting**

Date: Tuesday – November 12, 2019

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 for the meeting. Ms. Weinbaum discussed the Veteran's Day program on November 11<sup>th</sup> and said it was a huge success. The students did an incredible job honoring the Veterans. Also, the Superintendent's VILLA Bus Tour came to DRMS on the same day as the Veteran's Day program. The visit was a success as well.

### **CCRPI**

Ms. Weinbaum discussed the results for the CCRPI for 2019. She gave each member a chart that presented the growth over the past three years for all Cherokee County Middle Schools. The results are based on several factors including the milestones, student performance, individual student growth and closing the gap between higher level students and lower level performing students. Dean Rusk's CCRPI is 83.8%, which is up from 81.6% from last year. DRMS has the second highest growth this year in the district and has the largest growth over the past two years. The state sets target goals for each year. Subgroup performance is part of the CCRPI score as well - EL population, ED population, and SWD population.

## **Superintendent's Villa Bus Tour**

DRMS was honored to have the Superintendent's Bus Tour come to the school on November 11<sup>th</sup>. People in the community must apply to be a part of this program and only 18 people are selected. Chanda Schwab, a DRMS School Council member, was a part of the tour and said it was extremely informative and impressive. She strongly encourages parents to apply to be a part of this program, which is for six weeks. Current members will be recognized at the upcoming School Board Meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Georgia Climate Survey**

Ms. Weinbaum will be sending the survey link via email to parents in the near future. Also, students will be taking the survey as well within the next month.

## **Puberty-Sex Education**

Starting the week of November 18<sup>th</sup>, students will begin taking the puberty-sex education class during PE and Connections class. Ms. Weinbaum stated that letters were sent home to parents regarding the course. Parents also needed to send in permission for students to take the class or opt out of it. The material was available for preview and is abstinence based. In addition, there is one new section about Erin's Law, which informs students about sexual abuse and how to report it to a trusted adult. The curriculum is taught by the PE/Connections teachers and is fully scripted. Furthermore, the teachers have taught the curriculum for many years and are well prepared.

## **Important Dates**

Ms. Weinbaum presented important upcoming dates. On December 20<sup>th</sup>, students will have an early release day at 12:45. It will be a normal dismissal routine, and Ms. Weinbaum will be sending an email soon. Parents are discouraged to check out their students early, but if they do, they will need to come to the front office for check out. Ms. Weinbaum also discussed on March 24<sup>th</sup> there will be no school due to elections, but it will be a Digital Learning Day. This date was NOT on the current school calendar. Furthermore, several School Council members discussed the past Digital Learning Day. Chanda Schwab mentioned that it would be beneficial to inform parents at least two days prior, so they can prepare and make sure their child completes the work. Once again, Ms. Weinbaum mentioned that each teacher should send Digital Learning Day homework that takes approximately 5 minutes per class, and teachers should release the assignment at 4:00 P.M. on the day it is assigned.

## **Mid-Terms**

The week before break, students will have mid-terms. On December 18<sup>th</sup>, students will take two exams; December 19<sup>th</sup>, students will take two exams, and on December 20<sup>th</sup>, they will have one exam. Each grade level will determine the subject schedule and will communicate with parents. Ms. Weinbaum also mentioned that different subjects can use a variety of assessments, including final projects.

## **Basketball**

Basketball season has started, and so far, the girls' and boys' teams are split between their wins and losses. The games are going well, and the students are having a great time watching and cheering for their school and friends.

## **Elementary and High School Transitions for 2020-21**

Ms. Weinbaum discussed the upcoming meetings for rising middle schoolers and rising high schoolers. She passed out a transition schedule of meetings for rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders, which is similar to last year. However, Sequoyah is adding a meeting on January 20, 2020 regarding general information about electives. Dr. Usry is currently working on the schedule for rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders, which will include principal visits to the various elementary schools.

## **Welcome Lisa Rich**

Ms. Weinbaum mentioned that Assistant Principal Dr. Steinbeck is no longer at DRMS due to a new opportunity. Lisa Rich, who served as Instructional Lead Strategist and has worked with Ms. Weinbaum for several years, is now the new Assistant Principal for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and also works with Special Education.

## **Candy and Food Incentives for Students**

Ms. Weinbaum discussed the food incentives for students and the positives and negatives of this type of reward. It is not against county policy, but some parents, teachers, and administrators are concerned that too much candy is not the best for some students and want to be sensitive to those struggling with weight, have allergies, or have parents who do not want their child to have sugar. Mrs. West and Mr. Carwile discussed that when they do give candy, it is a small piece and is not often. They also discussed other incentives they give to students. Moreover, part of the RTI program is to give students a choice board

which offers a variety of incentives. It was also discussed that it might be beneficial to directly ask students what motivates them. Finally, Mr. Carwile mentioned teachers could send an email to parents, and if they are opposed to candy for their child, teachers can give them an alternative incentive. Also, teachers are not allowed to ask for candy on their supply list, but they can ask for donations.

### **Revisions for Principal Leadership Qualities**

Ms. Weinbaum asked if there were any revisions or updates that needed to be made to the Leadership Qualities of a Principal for DRMS handout given at the last Advisory Council Meeting. These expectations are for the current principal and any future principals. There were no changes or additions, so Ms. Weinbaum will submit it to the county.

At the close at the meeting, Ms. Weinbaum stated that there is not any new county information to share. She also asked if any members had questions. Chanda Schwab asked if mouthguards are allowed at PE. Ms. Weinbaum said that she will check with the PE teachers.

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, January 14, 2020.