

**Date:** 11.12.2020

**Meeting Time:** 4:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

**Meeting Called By:** J. Mark Smith or Norma Kelly (Not sure here)

**Type of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**Principal:** J. Mark Smith

**Note Taker:** Sawyer Henderson

**Board Attendees:** J. Mark Smith, Greg West, Sawyer Henderson, Mina Borrero, Norma Kelly, Julie Olvin, Sean Kaufman, Tanya Robson, Matt McKenna, Evelyn James, Robert (not sure if Robert Tidwell or Robert Mitchell)

**Guest Attendees:** Chris Bennett, Joel Roth, Meagan Biello, Nancy Henson, Dan Gagnon

**Agenda Items:**

**Time:** 5 Minutes

**Topic:** School Updates: Old Business Follow-Up

**Presenter:** J. Mark Smith

**Discussion:** Mr. Smith shared ACT scores and graduation rate information. The average ACT score was a 22.6, which was a small decline from a 22.9 in the previous year. However, this was largely due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. On the other hand, Woodstock's graduation rate reached an all-time high at 92.4%.

**Conclusions:** Mr. Smith expressed gratitude for all stakeholders on helping to make this possible.

**Time:** 5 Minutes

**Topic:** Questions Regarding Old Business

**Presenter:** J. Mark Smith

**Discussion:** Q: Mr. Kaufman asked if there were any plans to identify/change current practices based on the increased graduation rate during a time of digital learning?

A: Mr. Smith advised that the Superintendent is looking into the possibility of opening a digital high school in future years. Mr. Smith also discussed Mountain Education Center where students can go to attend "Night School" to provide additional opportunities for students to be successful

**Time:** 20 Minutes

**Topic:** Teacher Support

**Presenter:** Evelyn James, Mina Borrero, and J. Mark Smith

**Discussion:** In an email sent between the last meeting and the current meeting, Ms. James suggested the Council discuss ways to better support teachers. This suggestion was seconded by Ms. Borrero and agreed upon to discuss by Mr. Smith.

Ms. Kelly began the conversation by asking what the current process was for teachers who were quarantined and if they were still allowed to teach from home?

Mr. Smith responded by saying the following: If a teacher can be quarantined for close contact or if they test positive for COVID-19. If teachers are absent, they try to have a certified teacher continue instruction. If they are teaching digitally, teachers can possibly work from home with their digital courses.

Ms. Borrero asked what concerns teachers have about being supported.

Mr. Henderson expressed that there is not a clear solution to a lot of the stress that teachers are facing. He also brought up that he understands parents and students are feeling stressed as well. However, tokens of appreciation such as the food, jeans days, and other kind gestures are appreciated, but it does not address the overarching problems everyone is facing.

As a follow-up, Mr. Smith did share that a Thanksgiving meal would be provided to employees in the following week.

Ms. Olvin shared that the Facebook group “CCSD Positivity Vibes” works to support teachers through acts of appreciation also.

Mr. Henderson follow-up and asked the Council and PTSA to encourage parents to remind students who are quarantined that they should be checking in with teachers if they are not sure where to locate materials. Just because students may not see the information, they should persist and ask questions on what they should be working on if they are in quarantine.

Mr. West echoed these comments and feels overall supported by all stakeholders.

Ms. Kelly asked if teachers could livestream classes to students at home, similar to what Cobb county is doing.

Mr. Smith answered by explaining that teachers cannot have students at home sharing live with the class due to potential circumstances arising if students are at home, and the teachers have no behavioral control over those circumstances. He later said he will follow-up with the department of Curriculum & Instruction to share this feedback.

Ms. Robson shared her experience as an assistance principal in Cobb county, explaining that for teachers, the livestreaming is difficult to manage, but as a parent, she welcomed the idea as an option, and it would be her preference. She also said that in Cobb, students are allowed to share their cameras and speak.

Alternatively, Ms. James shared that she would prefer not having teachers do what Cobb is doing due to the added pressure. However, she added that if there was a way to access recorded instruction instead of a live version for the students at home, she would be in favor of that option.

Mr. Smith concluded the section by reminding all members of the timeline of events since opening (being open for eight days, then transitioning to digital, then to hybrid, and back to face-to-face) and commended the students, parents, teachers, and administrative staff for being supportive through this difficult time.

**Conclusions:** Mr. Smith will continue to share information between the Council from teachers on how to be better supported. Mr. Smith will also bring the feedback about livestreaming to students back to the Department of Curriculum & Instruction.

**Action Items:** Deliver feedback to C&I

**Person Responsible:** J. Mark Smith

**Time:** 15 Minutes

**Topic:** Advanced Placement Expectations

**Presenter:** J. Mark Smith, Joel Roth

**Discussion:** Mr. Smith asked the Council for their perspectives on the rigor of Advanced Placement (AP) courses in consideration of all the external factors influencing achievement: Are the courses too difficult based on how content is being delivered in different ways?

Ms. Borrero shared that teachers have been very helpful, but the work can be confusing to understand. She also asked if the rigor was too intense and if it could be causing burn-out in students, who may not wish to take future AP courses or even these courses in college.

Mr. Smith agreed with that perspective but also stated that sometimes students stay in AP courses, where they may not be successful, due to both external and internal pressures. He further shared that the burn out is sometimes seen in seniors because of lack of a perceived benefit. For example, he stated that seniors often do not take AP Literature if they attain a score of a 4 or a 5 on the AP Language exam because it already exempts them from most of the introductory college English courses.

Mr. Kaufman shared that he has noted that students who may be high achievers may not necessarily know if they are demonstrating adequate learning based on how AP coursework is scored (i.e. Most students may score lower on an exam than they are used to, but this is considered “good” because the course is much more difficult). He said, overall, teachers have been great at addressing any questions or concerns, but he encouraged teachers to communicate more with parents about coursework and expected grades and/or grading curves.

Dr. Roth shared about putting in policies to help remediate and better help students succeed without lowering the standard of expectations for academic achievement.

Mr. Smith followed up by adding that the administrative staff does monitor class averages and failure rates weekly and monitors if intervention is necessary.

Mr. Henderson asked if teachers could record lessons in class and post them later for students to view. That way if students do miss, they may not be able to join live, but they could watch later, especially for rigorous courses where the content may be too complex to learn on their own. Additionally, he shared that even with additional supports, some students are still not taking advantage of those opportunities. More communication should be conducted with those students to see if there is anything else that can be done on the school end to help them be successful.

**Time:** 5 Minutes

**Topic:** Be Pro, Be Proud Workshop

**Presenter:** Meagan Biello

**Discussion:** Ms. Biello shared about an opportunity that was provided to students the week of October 26<sup>th</sup>, which was an immersive and mobile workshop that promotes skilled trades with hands-on activities. Students greatly benefited from the experience, especially those in CTAE courses, and most skills were represented. Ms. Biello also noted that due to the cancellation of school because of the hurricane, when the workshop returns to the middle school, high schoolers will be given another opportunity to participate.

Ms. Borrero expressed that her student was involved as a volunteer with the workshop and that it was a wonderful experience for students.

**Time:** 5 Minutes

**Topic:** Final Exam Schedule & General Questions

**Presenter:** J. Mark Smith

**Discussion:** Mr. Smith shared that the final exam schedule for the first semester had not yet been sent out due to waiting on final guidance from the county. However, it should be sent out soon. He then opened the floor for questions.

**Q:** Ms. Kelly asked the following: What is the protocol for students who may be in quarantine during finals week?

**A:** Mr. Smith shared that if it is an authentic assessment that could be given on Canvas, students may could still take the exam on Canvas. However, if not, students may have the option to exempt the final or they will be given an opportunity to make it up in January. Mr. Smith advised that this answer is tentative and may change based on district guidance or policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.