

Cartersville Middle School
School Governance Council Meeting
May 26, 2020

• Review of School Year

Teachers felt that the changes implemented during the school year were overall very positive and expressed satisfaction with how the year had been progressing pre-pandemic. Parents voiced their support and agreed with the sentiment that if the teachers were pleased then that was all that really mattered (and that they were pleased as well both from personal experience and because the teachers were happy.) Communication techniques and the handling of discipline were praised.

• Priorities for the 20-21 School Year

6th grade students will have the opportunity to “preview” different explo/elective classes before having to sign up. This will give them a chance to see what each different class offers (in terms of expectations, supplies, etc.) because they did not get the opportunity to meet with teachers/preview classes at the end of the 19-20 school year.

Still awaiting information about CDC guidelines and expectations for upcoming schools. Focus is on the cleanliness of the school and how to streamline the movement of students around the building. Large gatherings (cafeteria) uncertain.

Registration for students who are technically in district but have gone to Bartow County schools has begun. Registration will also be open to out-of-district students based on the numbers.

• Curriculum Mapping/Unit Planning

Grade levels have been meeting by subject to begin mapping out plans for the upcoming school year and have been isolating essential standards and determining how those will be taught. Focus will be on catching students up on what they missed at the end of the year and in making up for the gaps in not having learned new subject material or having been in a school building since March.

Stipend day for teachers on May 29th to continue working on the curriculum map and determining how standards will be taught and estimated time for teaching those standards.

Curriculum maps will be made available on the CMS website.

• Staffing

Several changes to the upcoming school year. Several new hires. Mrs. Glover will be taking over the AP position; Dr. Word will be moving to the primary/elementary school. Concern expressed over the loss of Dr. Word's mentoring program and how this might impact the African American male students. Mr. Gibson believes program will continue to be supported by mentors and counselors and that Mrs. Glover will fill a need for female students in need of mentors.

Ryan Lee will be teaching the new computer science class. April Laurich will be teaching the new reading remediation class. Drama position currently unfilled -interviews ongoing.

- 20-21 Budget Priorities

Bleachers and gym floor will be remolded over the summer.

More student technology will be purchased

Concern over possible budget cuts -discussion about where those cuts might occur. Suggestions centered around transportation, especially considering that the school year might look different and might require less of the budget to be applied to running buses etc.

- 20-21 SGC Elections

Elections will be held toward the beginning of the school year. The following representatives/positions have concluded their term

- Sid Rowser - Business
- Tonya Lutjens- Parent
- David Caswell – Parent
- Jackie Pace- Teacher
- Rick Poe- Teacher
- Heather Hayes- Teacher- due to transfer

Any other member not wishing to return should notify Mr. Gibson in order to place the position on the upcoming communication and ballot.

- Pandemic Response

Positive response from both parents and teachers. Teachers felt like the system went as well as could be expected and were glad for the direction given by administration. Parents agreed with teachers overall. Some concern expressed that not everyone was on the same page in terms of how to use Schoology or how to upload/assign different assignments and assessments for students. Some teachers seemed to have a better handle on Schoology whereas others were assigning things in different platforms which caused confusion. Digital learning was more focused on assigning work to keep students fresh on certain topics/skills as opposed to doing actual structured teaching of new topics. Mr. Gibson relayed that if school was to be digital in the fall, that the format would be different and more structured -teachers providing more "live" lessons with more video teaching that will imitate the time/structure of a normal school day.

Teachers might even teach from inside the classroom. Mr. Gibson has created a number of plans for a variety of outcomes -alternating schedules, four-day weeks, etc. Nothing has been decided yet.