

School Governance Meeting

11/19/19

Principal Update

Enrollment Breakdown

Current enrollment is 1089. Enrollment fluctuates often due to varying circumstances. There are 162 out of district students. These students might attend for a variety of reasons: they are simply out of district, have parents who work for the school or the city, or have been students in Cartersville City Schools and have parents move but are allowed to continue attending because of previous academic good standing. 48 out of 370 6th graders are out of district. There are approximately 15% of students who are out of district. Moving often impacts how many students we have out of district. Students of academic good standing and with good behavior are often given the opportunity to remain in the school system, which accounts for the high number of out of district students (62) in 8th grade.

6th grade applicants are always the highest number. Applicants were given strict consideration to ensure that numbers did not grow too large. Many applications are received in July and can impact scheduling and class size.

There is a consistent trend of growth within the district. Growth is a continual concern in the community and the school system. The team concept at middle school allows for our structure to feel small while still having a large number of students.

Pure capacity according to the blueprint is 1175. The reality of the capacity is that there is only one available classroom -two if resources are truly stretched. Our building has an ability to expand due to the way the building was constructed.

Social Studies Position

There is a position open due to a teacher retiring in January. The school is looking to begin interviewing within the next several days. Hiring after September 1st is called "limited contract position" which means they are not guaranteed a position the following year and the committee will "re-interview" in the spring.

REACH Scholarship

5 8th grade students signing REACH Scholarships. These students meet several qualifications including academic and socio-economic status. If the students continue to meet criteria, they are eligible for scholarships from certain schools in Georgia and some of these scholarships potentially cover an entire 2 or 4 year degree depending on the school.

Winter Dance Fundraiser -January 31st

Rather than selling items, there will be a “winter dance” fundraiser. This will be open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. This dance will be on January 31st -information will begin to circulate in December.

Computer Science

Middle schools as part of the state law have to offer computer science. Our school system will be going a K-12 route. There will be a set curriculum for students to follow. There will be two options: an elective option where students will participate in the course all year and an exploratory option, so students can “explore” whether they like this “path” or not.

It is a career-ready pathway, depending on the standards set forth by the state. Our school is looking at a path that considers basic principles, coding, line coding etc. to provide students with a portfolio upon graduation. Students are being prepared for a potential internship and a portfolio to showcase what they have done and can do so they will be more job and career ready. In the high school, it is likely that multiple pathways will “spring” out of the core courses -providing a variety of options to prepare students. Engineering and design related classes will be offered in the future.

Student Council/Beta Club

Mr. Gibson met with the Student Council recently to discuss with them different options and choices available. There are also many requirements that the state expects. He discussed with them how things can be offered effectively -summer options, short courses, etc. The student council representatives said they would rather come for a short period of time during the summer rather than lose a class that they enjoy -like band, chorus, etc. Summer “preview courses” might also be available helping students get prepared for a Spanish course or an accelerated type math course. Other options being looked into involve PE/dance options. These dance classes do count as a PE credit. Marching principles added into band courses also count as a PE credit. This can factor into true accountability as well.

Student Council representatives will meet the following month to follow up on this conversation.

There are currently online options available for high school students but not currently for middle school. Online options have a cost involved with them which is why they do not always work for middle school students. Our funding allows for a summer school option to be held physically in the school.

Decisions hopefully to be made at the end of January to produce a schedule.

Hope for Christmas

Student council will be participating in the Hope for Christmas program. There are many sites that participate in this organization. There are approximately 70 families that qualify for food, clothing, gifts, etc. The students will help with volunteer drives -gathering coats for children;

food etc. The student council is attempting to “narrow down” specific items that students can bring in to donate. Each homeroom will be responsible for a different item. Student council students will have an opportunity to participate with helping the small children do different fun activities.

Open Discussion

Dr. Feuerbach and his wife are participating in Dancing with the Stars. There will be different opportunities to help offer support and fundraising support. This cause benefits the Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter and Backpack Buddies. Tickets also help support these organizations.

Updates on the Principals’ State Meeting: True Accountability has been the big focus of many of these meetings. We are currently in the “building” phase to determine what that looks like overtime and how we hold ourselves accountable in ways that extend beyond test scores. How are we holding ourselves accountable on a daily basis? There has been discussion as well about the different “tracks” that students can go on at the end of 6th grade which determines their next two years of middle school and into high school. True Accountability can also help with the “forecast” of these tracks and scheduling for the students.

Growth has also been discussed and will be continually discussed. New student furniture is expected for the following school year (2020-2021).

CCRPI score is a 77.2% focused on last year’s data and results. This score shows that we are way ahead of schools in our area and are 6 points above the state average and 3 points above the school behind us. We want our CCRPI to be above the 80% mark -this is a long-term goal. There are many “moving targets” and factors represented in that score. This score is a reflection of the many pieces involved on our school.

The climate rating is a 4-star climate rating. This rating is based on discipline data, survey data, and is made up of different surveys given to the state department. Discipline data was better than most schools, but our survey data was lower than most schools. Mr. Gibson feels that the better discipline data is why the survey data was low. Changes have been implemented for this school year.

School Governance can support Mr. Gibson and the students, school, and staff by providing honest feedback about scheduling and other topics. Mr. Gibson would like to see more community involvement to help support the students and provide more things for the students. We need community involvement with Canes Time as well -a master list should be created both to see what community involvement is available and what needs exist within the community.

Next Meeting: 7:00 AM December 10th