

Cartersville Middle School

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Governance Council

2019-2020

December 10, 2019

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The next scheduled meeting of the CMS School Governance Council will occur on January 28, 2020.

Mission

The mission of Cartersville Middle School is to provide supportive relationships within a safe, structured, and engaging learning environment, resulting in students reaching their fullest potential each day.

Vision

Engagement + Opportunities + Partnerships = Continuation of excellence!

Collective Commitments

We are committed to building positive relationships with all stakeholders.

We are committed to creating a structured and active learning environment for students.

We are committed to providing varied opportunities for students to achieve their fullest potential.

We are committed to teaching and learning like a CANE every day!

School Governance Notes 12/10

Principle Update

a. Enrollment -1086

Enrollment has stayed relatively steady. Enrollment changes daily and withdrawals usually depend on enrolling in online school programs or families are moving. Most students do not withdrawal simply to attend different schools. Arrivals are coming from out of state -impacts growth in a different way. Some new enrollments are coming from other middle schools in the area -approximately 80% are local.

b. Social Studies Position

Mrs. Childers will retire effectively in January but is currently out on leave. The new social studies teacher has been hired on a "limited contract". Four candidates were interviewed for the job. New teacher will begin January 6th, 2020.

c. Winter Dance Fundraiser -Jan. 31st

A school-wide fundraiser has been used in the past to help the school "fill in gaps." There are many organizations in the school that sell items so in order to distinguish this fundraiser, a dance will be offered for students of all grade-levels. This will be a Sunday-dress style event for all grades. There will be music, dancing, concessions, etc. There is limited capacity and the event will be held in the multi-purpose room. A limited number of tickets will be sold for \$10 a ticket. Volunteered services have cut down on the overhead involved in the dance. 400 students is the maximum amount that will be allowed. Mr. Gibson is still looking into how many students will be allowed to attend. No students from outside of the school will be allowed to attend. Fundraiser money will be used to support programs around the school.

d. Student furniture

Middle school is scheduled to get new student furniture in the 2020-2021 school year. Three classrooms have been "piloting" the new furniture to test the size and durability and functionality in the classroom. All student classrooms will be receiving new desks, and programs like art and chorus will also be receiving new furniture. Middle and high school summer school will be held in CMS in the summer and CMS will be the primary location for the summer feeding program.

e. Canes Time -January 15th

December 11th is the last Canes Time for December. Next Canes time is January 15th - students will sign up the Friday they come back from winter break. Mr. Rowser led the discussion about involving School Governance members getting more involved in Canes Time sessions and hosting their own sessions. Students would benefit from attending sessions with members in the community. If community members are interested in the process, they will be paired with a teacher in that grade level. Students will then sign up for the course if they are interested and will then attend the session. Interested committee members have been instructed to email potential sessions to Mr. Gibson or Mrs. Jacobs. There will be two Canes Time sessions in January. There is high student

interest in things that can be created -a tangible product. 50 minute class period - approximately 45 minutes of instruction.

Newsletter Feedback

Working on communication has been a priority. Mr. Gibson has put together a parent newsletter that has been going out through the Blackboard system. He is seeking feedback from the council about the effectiveness of this communication style. The intention of the newsletter is to be a usable tool for parents. Feedback has been positive. Any feedback or notes should be written on the newsletter and brought back to the next school governance meeting.

PBIS Recognition

A sponsor has been found for the PBIS shirts. Discipline committee made the decision to look at discipline for the entire semester -the recognition event will take place in January to honor the students who should receive the reward.

High School Registration

High school registration will begin in January. A parent meeting will be held to prepare rising high school students and parents about registration and high school life and activities. In February, the high school staff will begin meeting with students to discuss enrollment and credits. Students will need to work on determining a direction they want their high school path to go in.

Open Discussion

New coaches have worked very hard to build-up programs that have not been very strong in the past. Track and wrestling programs have seen success.

A Blackboard phone call will be sent out later in the week about midterm exams to explain the process. There will be three exams on Thursday and three on Friday. Students will not be allowed to take the exam early. Exams will be made up on January 7th. 90 minutes per class for exam will be offered. Attendance is important during these days; students are not encouraged to check out and should not miss school.

There is still some concern about the communication between the fifth grade and sixth grade and the expectations of fifth grade students and the middle school expectations. There is parent concern that the message being conveyed does not match with the reality of what they experience in the middle school. For example, there is not the emphasis on testing in the fifth grade that then comes to dictate the placement of students in the sixth grade. Placement depends on testing but also elements in a "matrix" which factors in things like the Milestone scores, math and reading inventory, teacher recommendation scores. This information is taken into placing students when they arrive in the middle school.

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