**Mossy Creek Middle School**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 18, 2022 -- MCMS Media Center**

The School Council of Mossy Creek Middle School (MCMS) met in regular session on October 18, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the MCMS Media Center.

**Attendance:**

Dr. Andy Gentry – Principal

Frank Kenney -- Assistant Principal for Instruction

Michelle Starley – Special Education Teacher

Carey Bassett – Sixth Grade Teacher

Suzanne Ganas – Parent

Sydney Howard – Parent

Jennifer Zoumberis – Parent

Patrick Chiappetta – Parent

Marcell Ausborn – Counselor, MCMS

Angelina Park – Student

Zoey Cunningham -- Student

Maranda Aguilar – Student

**Call to Order**

Dr. Gentry called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves.

**Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Gentry provided an overview of the agenda items. The agenda had been previously emailed, and a motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. No members opposed, and the agenda was approved.

**New Business**

Elections: Motions were made and seconded to nominate members for the positions of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary. The Council approved the following nominations: Dr. Andy Gentry, Chairperson; Patrick Chiapetta, Vice Chairperson; and Michelle Starley, Secretary. No members opposed.

Principal Report: Dr. Gentry expressed his satisfaction with the beginning of the school year.

* Currently, staff and students are experiencing minimal illness due to COVID, but increased flu cases.
* Students have been well-behaved, and the number of discipline referrals has been low.
* MCMS now provides Standards Based Report Cards along with traditional numerical report cards to give parents more information about student performance. Prioritized standards are included in Standards Based Report Cards, and Dr. Gentry emphasized the goal for students to master standards. Parents can access an explanation of levels for standards on the school’s website.
* MCMS athletic teams have experienced several notable achievements since the start of this school year. The eighth-grade football team earned a spot in the semi-finals. The girls seventh- and eighth-grade softball teams won the county championships. The county’s cheer championship is next weekend at Houston County High School.
* The Measure of Academic Performance (MAP) assessment was administered to students in August. MAP data is used by the county as an important data piece and indicates student academic growth. The MAP assessment is administered three times during the school year. A MAP report will be sent home to parents, and scores will be available for parents to access online. The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) will be administered in April.

Teacher Report: Increased emphasis is being placed on reading this year. Lexile levels are included on Standards Based Report Cards. Students participate in the “ReadnQuiz” program to increase motivation. Students are awarded points for passing quizzes about books they have read. Prizes are also offered.

Counselor Report: Mr. Ausborn explained the purpose of the Sources of Strength program. He discussed the peer advisor training that was held in September. The next meeting for Sources of Strength is on Tuesday, October 25. Mr. Ausborn shared that Tamara Andrews was recently hired as the school’s new Military Life Counselor. Various mental health issues are supported through Sources of Strength, Second Step, and meetings with Ms. Andrews.

Student Report: A “Pink Out” fundraiser was held October 5 to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month. A winter formal will be held February 3, but students have not started planning for it yet. The Houston County Board of Education now requires that a music list be set and approved prior to school dances/events. Suggestions for creating a song list were discussed. Parents will be allowed to attend the winter formal.

Parent Report:

* Concerns that current eighth-grade students are only taking a day trip to Atlanta instead of a more significant field trip were discussed. Current eighth-grade students were not allowed to have field trips to Disney or Universal during their sixth or seventh grade years due to the COVID pandemic. The decision of the Houston County Board of Education to allow out-of-state field trips occurred too late to allow students to conduct sufficient fundraising to help sponsor such a large trip this year. The need for a new travel company was discussed as the one used previously by MCMS is no longer in business. Dr. Gentry stated he will discuss the need to increase fundraising opportunities for next year with the Guiding Coalition team. Dr. Gentry shared that cookie dough and coffee fundraisers will start in a few weeks, and a report on the school’s recent bedsheet fundraiser will be sent out soon. Parent offers to support future fundraising efforts were expressed.
* Parents asked about current school safety procedures. Dr. Gentry discussed the school’s new Centegix school safety system. Dr. Gentry shared that any staff member can call a Code Red and also send out an alert for emergency situations such as fighting or medical emergencies. All outside doors are remain locked throughout the school day, and the only entry door is in the front of school. Visitors must go through the front office as the inner sets of doors are locked. Safety drill practices were explained, and Dr. Gentry discussed his involvement in county Safety Audits.
* Communication between teachers and parents was addressed. Parent concerns related to different methods of communication among grade-level teams were expressed. The possibility of having teachers use a common method (e.g., Remind, Google Classroom, Dojo, newsletters, weekly emails) to provide information to parents was discussed. Parent concern with the lack of information written in student agendas was communicated, while parents also agreed student responsibility should be encouraged.

**Review of Meeting Dates**

The next meeting will be held December 8 at 7:00 a.m. in the MCMS Media Center. Dr. Gentry will send out a reminder and an agenda. Dr. Gentry encouraged members to contact him with concerns to add to agenda and to let him know if an additional meeting is needed before December 8.

**Adjournment**

No additional questions or concerns were expressed, and a motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. No members opposed.