**Mossy Creek Middle School**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**September 12, 2023 -- MCMS Media Center**

The School Council of Mossy Creek Middle School (MCMS) met in regular session on September 12, 2023, at 7:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the MCMS Media Center.

**Attendance:**

Dr. Jody Dean, Principal

Michelle Starley, teacher

Marcell Ausborn, counselor

Carey Bassett, teacher/parent

Suzanne Ganas, teacher/parent

Patrick Chiapetta, parent

Jose Humberto Gama Ponce, parent

Isaac Routier, Student representative

Miranda Aguilar, Student representative

Zoe Cunningham, Student representative

**Call to Order**

Dr. Dean called the meeting to order at 7:05 a.m. Attendees recited the pledge and observed a moment of silence. Members introduced themselves.

**Review of Agenda**

Dr. Dean provided an overview of the agenda items. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. No members opposed, and the agenda was approved.

**New Business**

Terms for the officer positions held by Mrs. Starley and Mrs. Bassett ended at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. Motions were made for Mrs. Bassett to continue as a teacher representative and for Mrs. Starley to serve as secretary. The motions were seconded and approved. A motion was made to nominate Dr. Dean as chairperson. Dr. Dean accepted this nomination, which was seconded and approved. Additional motions were made and seconded for Patrick Chiapetta and Jose Humberto Gama Ponce to serve as parent representatives. Both Mr. Chiapetta and Mr. Ponce are businesspersons in the local community. The motions for parent representatives were approved.

Dr. Dean emailed a copy of the proposed MCMS School Council By-Laws prior to the meeting. He also provided paper copies of the proposed by-laws to all members in attendance. Mrs. Starley inquired about the secretary’s mandatory report to the county’s legal organ, and a motion was made to remove this section and approve the revised by-laws. The motion was seconded and approved.

Dr. Dean proposed the following dates for school council meetings: November 14, February 13, and April 9. No objections were made regarding these dates, and council members agreed to meet at 7:00 a.m. on these days in the school’s media center.

**Principal Report:**

Dr. Dean shared that Progress Reports will be sent home with students on Friday, September 15.

Two new teaching slots were added this year, and Staci Miller and Dylan Gay were hired as special education teachers. The school’s previous art teacher left at end of last school year and Louisiana Garza was hired to fill this opening. Two new paraprofessionals were also added to the school staff. Dr. Dean shared that Mossy Creek is fully staffed.

Dr. Dean stated that Mossy Creek’s enrollment currently consists of 769 students, which is an increase of 22 students when compared to last year. Mossy Creek is the second smallest middle school in Houston County; however, growth evidenced at Langston Road Elementary School may carry over to Mossy Creek in the future.

Dr. Dean shared that Mossy Creek is off to a good start this school year. Teachers have placed an emphasis on teaching procedures, especially to sixth graders who are new to the school.

Students participated in Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing in August. Students will take this assessment three times this year (fall, winter, and spring). Dr. Dean explained that the MAP assessment measures individual student growth and provides information that allows teachers to focus on students’ areas of need.

Deputy Michaela Scarlett was hired as Mossy Creek’s School Resource Officer (SRO) this year. She is employed by the Houston County Sheriff’s Department. The district began employing only staff from the Houston County Sheriff’s Department to work as SRO’s this year to increase consistency throughout the district. Chad Weldon is a Houston County deputy who also visits Mossy Creek.

Mossy Creek faculty and staff members are continuing to use the Centegix crisis alert system this year. Dr. Dean described the system operation and various codes. The school has already practiced safety and fire drills this year.

In athletics, Mossy Creek is in the midst of football, softball, and competition cheer seasons. Football playoffs will begin at the end of September. Competition cheerleaders recently earned second place in a competition held September 9. Students will attend a fall sports pep rally next week. Soccer tryouts will start October 17.

Other upcoming events include a talent show on October 27, fall break during the week of October 9, and observance of Veterans Day on November 10.

**Teacher Report:**

Mrs. Starley reported that teachers appreciate the support they have received from the school administration regarding student discipline this year.

**Counselor Report:**

Mr. Ausborne explained Sources of Strength and shared that an upcoming meeting will be held soon. Students will participate in a school-wide behavior screening on Monday, September 18. Parents were able to opt out of this screening. The screening will consist of 20 questions and will inform school counselors of students who may internalize behaviors that are otherwise overlooked. There have been some concerns and misconceptions that information from the screening will be used to label students; however, Mr. Ausborn explained that any provision of support will remain a parent decision.

**Student Report:**

Students will soon observe a “Pink Out” day in October to raise awareness for breast cancer. Student Council elections will be held soon.

**Parent Report:**

Mr. Chiapetta stated that he was aware of some controversy or hesitancy regarding the upcoming behavior survey. Mr. Ausborn and Dr. Dean were able to answer his questions and address the misconceptions held by some parents and guardians.

**Adjournment**

No additional concerns or questions were expressed. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned.