

LUELLA HIGH SCHOOL

School Council

MINUTES

Thursday, December 17, 2020



1. Welcome

In attendance:

Jerry Smith, Principal

Donna Scoggins, Media Specialist

Jacob Sapp, Teacher

Christopher Hightower, Teacher

Dr. Tanisha Sapp

Carolyn Fraser

Jay Dockweiler

Jim Wappler

Felicia Blackburn

Dr. Camishe Golden

Dr. Connie Reliford

2. Celebrations

We have been dressing up & celebrating the holidays all week. Faculty has been donating canned goods to the Luella community.

- GHP - all school nominees advancing to State level
- A/V program: Finalist in state GSBA short video competition
- Swim - still swimming and setting records
- Basketball: Varsity Boys and Varsity girls - #1 in Region 5-AAAA and both state ranked
- Wrestling - still wrestling - 4 wrestlers placed in South Metro tournament
- Jay: Hope Dockweiler LHS alum graduates from UGA tomorrow.

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3. HCS Revised school calendar 20-21

Students now returning on the 11th to give teachers more planning time...additional planning day every month for the rest of the year.

4. Monthly metrics:

- a. Enrollment- 1268 current
 - i. Class Counts
- b. Student Learning Option survey – status Remote 1056/ in person 212
- c. Average Daily Attendance (ADA)- 80%
- d. Student grade trends- 69.1% (only 57% of all freshmen are passing everything)
30% of all students have at least 1 F.
- e. Grade officially post Jan 8
- f. Dr. Sapp: As a parent, has a concern...maybe would like an audit of how grades are calculated....when, how, needs to see rubrics, lack of notifications, curt comments when students are questioning grades/ Smith: this issue now on his radar after hearing from several parents saying similar issues. / Hightower: from teacher perspective...not to belittle or discount the parents' concerns....very frustrating to teachers to share information / expectations/ repeatedly, both individually & whole group, & the only thing that matters to the students is the final grade while discounting the requirements, the learning, the process being asked....only arguing about a grade. Sometimes lately it is as if the students are constantly challenging their grades even though they do not fulfill the requirements. He is open for discussion. Just wanted to say that teachers are putting their whole heart into their lessons then the students only want to know why they "didn't get a 70". Students are feeling beyond empowered into challenging. Same types of arguments about being tardy & absent. Feelings of entitlement at times. We need the students to be proactive, mindful of how you speak to teachers. / Dr. Sapp: She agrees 100% as she can relate as she herself is an educator...however it is to a point where it has become concerning with assignments being editing days after being given, dates being changed, etc.....mistakes can be made but adding additional requirements after the initial assignment is causing panic as they are missing pieces of assignments bc requirements were added late. As parent, she doesn't want to be a referee between the teacher & her child./ Blackburn: a teacher as well (4th gr)...says she agrees with both Sapp & Hightower. Has logged in herself to check assignments, has reached out & gets responses but the students don't get responses from the teachers. Trying to teach the students to advocate for themselves.....students saying teacher trying to purposely failing them./ Dockweiler: stressful & trying time....what are the understandings by Smith for locking in grades? Everyone is in survival mode wit all we are trying to do hybrid. Students not taking things seriously while blowing off classes, being late, not doing assignments then trying to make it all up. / Smith: we will be making changes for 2nd semester to improve this situation... to be addressed later in the agenda. / Reliford: for the parents who are

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having problems, she regrets this bc she is highly pleased with her child's teacher... the student is learning, being stretched, having a great experience. Phenomenal teachers! High expectations. /Smith: as we roll into next semester, how do we fix these less than positive situations? Asked for parents to provide details, input./ Hightower: Thank you to all the parents for sharing as an eye opener to everything that is going on at LHS. Liked the idea that Reliford shared in regard to teachers pairing up to share best practices..he suggested that the parents on the council do the same with other parents to communicate & be involved, how to communicate with teacher, showing students how to advocate in a respectful manner, etc. Asked parents to be community leaders to encourage other parents to do as they are doing. /Smith: one of the things we are looking at for 2nd semester will be doing parent university nights. /Reliford: another good idea would be to have students share with other students regarding best practices. /Smith: part of the planning for "recovery university" involves use of our peer facilitators.

5. Covid-19 updates

- a. [Henry County, HCS and LHS data- most recent dashboard](#)
- b. This past week 2 confirmed cases at LHS
- c. Concerns from parents regarding protocols being followed. There are now changes to the guidelines with quarantining...remains 14 days if there are symptoms; w/o symptoms 10 days; negative test day 5 or later , quarantine reduced to 5 days. Some elementary & middle schools moved to fully remote for several days this week. With the change in the guidelines, we will be reviewing our protocols. No new info about when we return in January.
- d. Golden: guidelines are confusing- symptoms, no symptoms, test results, contact, etc. Unclear to parents. /Smith; will review the new guidelines & try to put together something that makes more sense to present in January. We work on this daily. Very challenging to teach in this environment. Staff has remained COVID free pretty much. /Dr. Sapp: very frustrated on behalf of teachers & staff. Students have an expectation of face to face learning but not possible in this environment. Has a friend (HCS teacher) in the hospital right now. She spoke up and was ridiculed for saying teachers are scared & have to show up. Sapp said she would quit rather than go into the building to teach/work. Commended Mr. Smith for having strict guidelines & requirements for keeping our building safe. /Smith: It is a struggle to lead the group who wants to do what is best for kids, yet they are fearful. As a principal he has to abide by county policies. He himself has an elderly father he is concerned about. Proud of the faculty; we are fortunate to be as far along as we are not having any more issues than we have had. His greatest burden is for what the teachers feel, doing all they can to protect themselves the kids. Has struggled with some decisions he has had to make the last couple of weeks. Concerned about what will happen when we return from this 2 week break. / Dockweiler: Wanted to say that there is a practical side as parents, a small group being loud & advocating for the minority who says keep pushing forward./ Dr. Sapp: watched school board meetings online,

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mentioned Donna McBride & others who shows up at every meeting speaking out. Things being said at the board meetings indicate that they are only listening to a few people. Sapp said she sends emails etc bc she doesn't feel like she is being heard. Metro counterparts are not going back in person yet HCS has been in person since August. Concern is what is going to happen when all of this is over. /Smith: Agrees with Dockweiler; some of the foundation that has made the decisions we are currently working under has been "shaken" a bit. Asked the parents to share their concerns. He believes some of the momentum has been slowed. He appreciates the fact that our parents are so honest & feels so strongly ; we are at a spot where there may be some changes./ Wappler: we are trying to carry on & expect normal outcomes from a not normal situation. We have to stop expecting "normal results". Has to be allowances for the stress & pressure we all are feeling. /Smith: sees the stress in his teachers & it is not lessening. We are expecting the same outcomes & "make it all work" which is not going to happen. This community has been clear in how they feel. He will do all he can given whatever is rolled out but wants them to know that he understands how the faculty, parents, & students feel./ Hightower: TY to everyone for being transparent. Said today that he shared with his students about his struggle that he had at the beginning of this year as a teacher in order to do his job. Personally, the most struggle this year.. question does he go or not....unable to share his story with school council or anyone else. Faced new situations not bc of teaching performance, but related to the pandemic. Everyone is struggling yet we cant share... feel isolated...where do we go for support? The struggle has been real within the teaching profession.

6. 2nd semester planning

- a. **Revised learning progressions**-district chose teachers for each course to identify prioritized standards in each subject to focus on to help pare down the content being delivered.
- b. LHS Recovery University

7. Updates:

- a. **CARES 2 team**- new focus... Scoggins leading this effort... teachers have a form to fill out, call will be made by the team (non teachers) who are assigned the call. Shifted heavily on attendance; counselors working on Social Emotional aspects. / Blackburn: team helpful, before letters came./ Sapp told her how to turn on alert for each class if absence is recorded.
- b. **LHS Staffing** – making progress, hired all admin asst, others. Some positions still need to be filled.

8. Updates from Henry County Board of Education meeting

- a. **Preparing for SPLOST VI**- decisions being made as to what projects will be funded from these funds. Add on to schools, refresh 1:1 technology, etc.

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b. Live streaming link: <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/domain/13598>

9. Etc....

Suggestion to move meeting earlier to 6:30

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 14,

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