

School Council Meeting (Remote Meeting)

March 24, 2020

In attendance:

Jerry Smith, Principal
Donna Scoggins, Media Specialist
Chris Hightower, teacher
Tanisha Sapp
Carolyn Fraser
Connie Reliford
Kedra Battle

How is it going with remote learning?

Mrs. Sapp: Some issues with communication from teachers, keeping correct attendance, responding to student rather than her as the parent.

Hightower: A parent was concerned that the work was done yet the son was marked as absent from class. Are teachers actually taking attendance in IC?

Smith: Teachers are not required to take IC attendance. It is just a check to make sure students are showing up for lessons.

Sapp: Things aren't consistent. Some using Google Classroom, some using Schoology, etc.

Updates:

Smith : We will return to school April 13 as of right now. Plans in place if we can't go back April 13. We would know definitely by Spring Break. Some states are not returning to school at all. That is not even been discussed in HCS. When he has more information he will pass that along asap.

End-of-Pathway tests for CTAE students have been cancelled. Will have an opportunity for them to take these if they choose, but they will not be administered by the school. EOCs will not be given. College Board – no face to face AP exams; 45 minute exam only, abbreviated content. No other guidance from College Bd about refunds, etc.

Sapp: End-of-Pathway test being cancelled....She was not aware. Says this goes back to her point about lack of communication. About EOCs: didn't the state superintendent suspend these tests? Mr. Smith was tonight referring to the national requirements being waived. Said she read that parents can decide about retention/promotion. She is more concerned with the smaller of her children on this topic.

Smith: Some High schools are having a large conversation about grading. Some have not given an assessment since we went to remote learning, others have different scenarios. If we are out beyond Spring Break, we will re-evaluate what we need to do about grading. There is a great range of execution

with the way remote learning is taking place school to school. LHS will continue to have office hours, class time, etc. What we are doing now will stay the same unless we remain closed longer than April 13.

Any employee will still get direct deposit; paper checks are being mailed.

Mr. Smith has been having conversations about with leadership & Dr. Davis regarding mental health issues that arise from this situation. This is taking a toll on students, families, teachers, etc. He will be sending something out about the Employee Assistance Program if help is needed.

A list was compiled of students that were not in school the Friday we got out. Administrators have divided that list & are calling those homes. We can't force a kid to come to remote classes, but we at least can document that we have made contact or at least attempted.

Reliford: Rigor does not mean MORE work. Meaningful work is not the same as just busy work. The minds of the students are preoccupied with this virus situation.

Battle: Free internet had certain criteria that had to be met; therefore some students still didn't qualify for the free service. Also, some teachers introduced new material & are already giving tests. She says there needs to be a mental balance. Kids working way into the night.

Smith: He has pulled a report that shows the names of students that have not yet hit our network & are making contact. He is trying to address the issue of any students don't have access to the internet. Prom is April 18 in Atlanta. Mayor Bottoms has closed all restaurants etc 14 days. Limit of 50 at a gathering. The venue will likely tell us we cannot have prom. Right now we are just outside that date of 14 days. So we wait to see, moving forward as if it will still be on. Also moving forward as if graduation is happening as normal. Mr. Smith sent a video to the seniors & a letter to underclassmen that he understands, & that we are working to make things happen.

Sapp: Kids stop work at 3:00 each day unless there is a project.

Next meeting Monday March 30 6:00- at this time Mr. Smith will have more updates.

Smith: LHS does things differently; he is proud of the kids & our staff. Very thankful for the work of the parents & students. We have great kids & parents.

Sapp: Thank you to Mr. Smith for his leadership & transparency.