The **Perry Middle School Council** meeting was held on Monday, September 21, 2020, at 6:00 pm in the Perry Middle School Media Center. Dr. Heath Burch sent an email on September 16, 2020 at 11:36 am to all committee members to inform them about the upcoming meeting. Included within the email was as follows: a copy of the meeting minutes from February 3, 2020, the Bylaws, and the Agenda. A courtesy email was sent on September 21, 2020 at 1:34 pm to remind members of the meeting.

**Member attendance: Dr. Heath Burch (Principal); Sam Lester (Council Chairman and Parent); Sarah Sullivan (Council Vice Chairman and Parent); Dr. Diana Phillips (Council Secretary and Teacher); Shan Williams (Council Member and Parent); Latondra Oliver (Council Member, Parent, and Teacher); Jan Melnick (Council Member and Parent)**

1. **Call to Order** – At 6:00 pm, Dr. Heath Burch (Principal) called the meeting to order.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Dr. Burch led the Pledge of Allegiance and all in attendance stood and recited the pledge.
3. **Moment of Silence** – Dr. Burch asked for a moment of silence, all in attendance recognized and participated in the request.
4. **Recognition of Visitors** – Dr. Burch stated that there were no special visitors in the meeting.
5. **Approval of Agenda** – Dr. Burch asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda “as is.” Mr. Lester made a motion to accept; Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.
6. **Old Business – Approval of Minutes from the February 3, 2020 meeting**
   1. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes were sent prior to the meeting for member review. Dr. Burch asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Lester motioned to accept the minutes, and Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion - all agreed.
7. **New business –Discussion**
   1. **Review and Adopt System School Council Bylaws**
      1. Dr. Burch asked for a motion to accept the bylaws. Mr. Lester asked, “As is? There haven’t been any changes?” Dr. Burch said there were no changes. Mr. Lester motioned for the acceptance of the Bylaws, and Dr. Phillips seconded the motion.
   2. **Election of Officers**
      1. *Chairman*
         * Dr. Burch nominated Mr. Lester as Chairman of the committee and Mr. Lester accepted. Ms. Oliver seconded the nomination.
      2. *Vice Chairman*
         * Dr. Burch asked for a nomination for Vice President. Ms. Sullivan asked about the duties of the position. Dr. Burch explained the requirements and Ms. Sullivan agreed to the position. Dr. Burch nominated Ms. Sullivan for the position and Dr. Phillips seconded the nomination.
      3. *Secretary*
         * Dr. Burch nominated Dr. Phillips for the position. Dr. Phillips accepted the nomination and Mr. Lester seconded the nomination. Ms. Oliver expressed her delight toward Dr. Phillips’ ability to fulfill the job. In return, Dr. Phillips thanked her for the vote of confidence and expressed her “love” for such a kind sentiment toward her and her abilities.
   3. **Set Meeting Dates for the 2020-2021 School Year**
      1. School Council Dates Proposed by Dr. Burch:
         * November 9, 2020
         * January 25, 2021
         * April 12, 2021
      2. All members in attendance agreed upon the suggested dates.
   4. **Report on the Opening of School – Dr. Burch**
      1. Perry Middle School currently has 1,010 students enrolled. The projected numbers do not predict a decline, but a steady rise until an additional middle school is built. There are close to 300 students enrolled in distance learning and the rest of the student population is face-to-face learning.
   5. **Changes for the Year – Dr. Burch**
      1. The school classroom environment:
         * Students are 4ft- 5ft apart and there are no more than 20 kids in one class.
   6. **New Personnel – Dr. Burch**
      1. There has been additional teaching positions added this year. There are currently 70 teaching positions and everything is going well.
   7. **School Safety – Dr. Burch**
      1. Regarding Distance Learning (DL), this is a “work in progress,” stated Dr. Burch. Everything is very new to everyone. The pushout has been a learning process and everyone is growing and learning every day. This experience has been difficult for teachers, students, and parents. The level of complexity was different than expected for everyone. Perry Middle School is working tirelessly to assist both parents and students to ensure a superior learning experience. Teachers and Administrators possess the ability to see the students’ progress within a course and how much time the students are spending working within the Odysseyware program (the program chosen by the county). The students must put in the time to get their work completed. This has proven challenging for some with all of the additional distractions at home.
      2. Mr. Lester asked if people were designated to only teach DL. Dr. Burch stated that there are teachers who only do DL, but that Dr. Phillips does both – face-to-face and DL. Additionally, Dr. Burch recognized Ms. Hayes as doing a lot in Language Arts. He stated that the teachers are doing a great job and working hard to meet deadlines. The grade deadline did prove a little challenging, but we are all working hard, concluded Dr. Burch.
      3. The technical college has about of their classes online, stated Mr. Lester. He continued by saying that the parking lot looks like a “ghost town.” The technical school DL went from to this semester, with the exception of some (mechanics and cosmetologists). He further noted, the teachers were teaching with Zoom and projecting the lesson in many different places all at once.
      4. Dr. Burch noted his lack of enthusiasm toward the change stating, “I’m not a fan of the change.” He elaborated by making reference to the students inability to have a true middle school experience. Some of the limitations included: the students unable to eat in the lunchroom, groups having to stay together (unable to mingle between other classes), and the lack of ability to participate in certain clubs.
      5. To date, there have only been two reported COVID cases at Perry Middle School, stated Dr. Burch. His frustration was expressed when he mentioned sending exposed kids home to quarantine because of their proximity to the reported cases. He further noted, that he hates to send students home, but it is necessary for everyone’s safety. Limiting the interaction of the kids is causing them to miss the Perry Middle School experience, stated Dr. Burch.
      6. Mr. Lester stated that everything, “looks good from the outside.” Dr. Burch followed-up stating, things are working well – operationally. He continued, there have only been a few behavior problems – a welcomed positive. There is no break time and the lack of time is being missed by both teachers and students – especially teachers. With safety a top priority, Dr. Burch continued, “We just can’t do it right now.” Although all the changes are for the best, Dr. Burch said that he still was not a fan. He concluded by saying, “We will continue, because it’s what’s best.”
      7. Dr. Burch discussed the 13 additional teachers this year – six were added to the staff, five retired, and two were promoted. This year the student population increased by approximately 70 students and he noted there was an increase in student population last year as well. He noted the student population was about 850 when became principal at Perry Middle School. He noted that there would be continued growth until another middle school was built, but that Perry Middle School is prepared to handle the growth and referred to the learning cottages located in the back of the school – they are unnecessary at this time.
      8. COVID precautions (per Dr. Burch) - include but not limited to: sneeze guards in all classrooms, students washing their hands every period, teachers cleaning between classes, custodians spraying rooms when kids are out, and students wearing masks (during transitions and as long as tolerable in the classroom). He continued saying that the students know the rules and they are doing well – same with teachers. “I’m used to wearing one now,” stated Dr. Burch. He noted one of the top challenges being, keeping the kids apart in the hallways. With an unrealistic span of 6ft between each student, students are asked to stay at least an arm’s length apart from others. If you can touch them, you are too close, said Dr. Burch.
   8. **Reward Program Sponsors**
      1. Dr. Burch expressed his concern over lack of funding this year. He elaborated referencing the inability to fundraise money as he has done in the past (dances and other avenues of gain for student rewards) – because of the guideline restrictions. Dr. Burch stated his desire for sponsorship of the PBIS rewards system if any of the council members knew of anyone. Mr. Lester suggested selling 9 Fast Passes instead of 3. Dr. Burch mentioned possibly auctioning off one of the passes, and concluded by asking for suggestions on ways to raise money while maintaining distancing guidelines. Mr. Melnick interjected about the generosity of Wal-Mart that his Assistant Principal Greg Ellison was able to obtain in the past. Ms. Williams suggested a Spirit Night at a local restaurant (Shane’s Rib Shack) where a percentage of the proceeds go directly to the school. Mr. Melnick talked about having an icee truck come, but Dr. Burch stated that we cannot do that right now – guidelines. Mr. Lester joked about saving money by not having to pay for field trips. Dr. Burch added that we are unable to go to Rigby’s which is something that has been done in the past as a reward incentive. Ms. Williams noted that with the closing of the Georgia National Fair, there have been local businesses/vendors offering fair food options. Mr. Lester added Lane’s Packing as a potential place to get fair food. Dr. Burch explained that all food items must be prepackaged.
   9. **Upcoming Events**
      1. Dr. Burch reported that the girls’ softball team finishing out the season as the number 2 seed. He continued by saying football is “rocking and rolling,” but it is about to conclude. There were 4 games and the next will be against Mossy Creek on Wednesday, November 8, 2020. He noted that 8th grade is doing well, and that cheerleading starts Saturday, September 26, 2020. Cheerleading dates changed because of rescheduling at the high school. The competition will be at Huntington, he stated. Dr. Burch informed the committee that there is only a certain number of people who can attend, and that this may upset some people.
      2. CTAE is still able to compete, but they are limited to what can be done inside the building, reported Dr. Burch.
      3. Tutoring is an option, stated Dr. Burch. Ms. Sullivan asked, “There is tutoring?” This is something that has just started, but this is an option for students who need additional assistance, state Dr. Burch. Mr. Lester noted virtual office hours as an alternative to staying after school and said that it is something being implemented at the technical school. Students are able to join the Zoom during a specific time between set office hours (3:00pm – 5:00pm) and can come and go as needed. Dr. Burch noted a possible pick-up in things once progress reports go home. Mr. Lester agreed.
   10. **Questions**
       1. Dr. Burch reported no need for an Executive Session and asked for questions. None were asked and the meeting was adjourned.
8. **Adjournment – Dr. Burch adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.**