



Perry Middle School

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Dr. Heath Burch, Principal

Dr. Liz Harrison, Assistant Principal of Instruction
Ms. Kizzy Johnson, Assistant Principal of Discipline
Mr. Randy Mizell, Athletic Director

Mrs. Susan Faircloth, Counselor
Mrs. Kristi Hess, Counselor
Mrs. Christy Hursey, Band Director

The **Perry Middle School Council** meeting was held on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 6:00 pm in the Perry Middle School media center. Dr. Heath Burch sent an email on November 2, 2020 at 10:54 am to all members as a reminder. Since information was limited, COVID measures pressed toward a Zoom conference, and member participation was down (unable to have a quorum), the November 9, 2020 meeting was tabled for January 25, 2021. On November 6, 2020 at 8:34 am, Dr. Burch emailed all committee members and informed them of the rescheduled meeting. January 20, 2021 at 10:02 am, Dr. Burch emailed all members an agenda for the January 25, 2021 meeting. An additional email was sent by Dr. Burch on January 21, 2021 at 12:56 pm with a copy of the September 21, 2020 meeting. Members were asked to review the minutes prior to the January 25, 2021 meeting.

Member attendance: Dr. Heath Burch, Dr. Diana Phillips, Sam Lester, Shan Williams, Sarah Sullivan, Latondra Oliver

- I. Call to Order** – Sam Lester, Chairman, called the meeting to order.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. Lester led the Pledge of Allegiance and all in attendance stood and recited the pledge.
- III. Moment of Silence** – Mr. Lester asked for a moment of silence, all in attendance recognized and participated in the request.
- IV. Recognition of Visitors** – No visitors in attendance.
- V. Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – An agenda and minutes were provided to each member by Dr. Burch in a Perry Middle School binder. The binder was given as a gift for serving on the school council. Mr. Lester asked all attendees to read the agenda and minutes for approval. Dr. Phillips motioned for acceptance of the agenda and Ms. Sullivan 2nd the motioned for the agenda acceptance – all agreed. Mr. Lester brought forth the motion for the minutes. Mr. Melnick motioned for acceptance of the minutes and Ms. Oliver 2nd the motion – all agreed.
- VI. New business –Discussion**
 - a. School Council New Member Training** –Dr. Burch stated that he believed everyone had completed their school council training, but asked that if they had not completed the training to please do so.

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- b. Academic Report 1st Semester** – Dr. Burch covered new challenges this year. He addressed teachers having face-to-face (ftf) classes and virtual classes (vc) and the challenges that come with each. Additional Chromebooks have been ordered, but with other schools ordering them as well, there is a wait. He continued stating, school campus has taken into consideration challenges from the COVID restrictions and applied additional leniency in the classroom – referring to finals, making-up work, and testing. Last semester about 85% of the student population here passed, stated Dr. Burch. Although ftf students and vc students have been working hard, there is “no comparison to ftf classrooms,” Dr. Burch. Three hundred students participated in distance learning 1st semester. One hundred and thirty distance learners returned to ftf classes this semester. Currently, there are approximately 877 kids on campus, continued Dr. Burch. He further noted a steady growth in student population during the four years he has been the Perry Middle School principal. With a positive attitude toward the direction at Perry Middle School, Dr. Burch mentioned a desire to return to normal next year.
- i. Connection classes:** Dr. Burch addressed schedule changes stating, the 1st and 2nd nine weeks, students had 1 Connection class. However, since band requires a financial obligation from parents, an adjustment was made to the schedule that would allow students to attend band (utilizing their instruments) and attend other Connections while meeting safety guidelines – Dr. Burch noted Chorus having issues with the single class Connection as well. A rotating block schedule will be utilized during the 2nd semester for Connection classes, he concluded.
- c. Safety Procedures and Updates** – Dr. Burch explained, Perry Middle would continue doing the same things as last semester. He praised teachers and kids by saying everyone did a great job wearing masks, washing hands, and cleaning. Dr. Burch noted a remarkably low COVID report prior to Christmas - probably not 3 cases. “We contact traced and followed procedures, and they have been working,” Dr. Burch. He proudly stated, 1,000 people under one roof and it did not spread because of you; we are doing something right - continuing to social distance, wash hands, clean, etc. Dr. Burch reported his observation from watching students transition in the hallway, between classes, and noted the kids are doing what they are told - with an occasional mask on the chin instead of on the face.
- d. Perry Middle Faculty and Staff Guarantees** – All teachers are expected to keep kids safe and communicate with parents, stated Dr. Burch. He asked committee members for their input on improvement and encouraged them to reach-out to him if they felt there was a disconnect in any way. Dr. Burch expressed his desire to promote a strong connection between school and home - professionalism and PLCs working toward improvement always. Promoting PLCs have proven a little challenging since collaboration is harder to accomplish during school hours because of a lack of subs. He continues, teachers have a reason to complain, but they have been great. The staff is making it work. Dr. Burch recounted a time of scarcity in the office and the willingness of the staff to pitch-in and help. Mr. Lester and Dr. Burch joked about Dr. Burch finding the medicine form when Mr. Lester was dropping off his child

e. Upcoming Events – Presented by Dr. Burch

- i. Dr. Burch noted that he is not aware of anyone leaving at this time – things can change. He is glad that people want to stay; this shows that they are happy. He mentioned the teacher recruitment fair being online this year. No one has to surrender their Saturday, but they can inquire online for more information. Dr. Burch stated that the interview process would be interactive (electronically). If interested, he encouraged them to contact him.
- ii. Milestones testing is still “on” for now, stated Dr. Burch. This test will not define what an exemplary job everyone is doing, especially since 130 kids are back from distance learning. The learning curve is on a spectrum unprecedented in educational history. Mr. Lester stated that the test would be done with an asterisk. We will be ready either way, stated Dr. Burch; we did the MAP test.

f. Thoughts – Mr. Melnick asked about the school times next year and Dr. Burch replied as follows: elementary school hours are 8:30 am -3:30 pm, middle school hours are 7:30 am – 2:30 pm, and high school hours are 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Dr. Burch noted that some of the changes have been positive stating, “I don’t know if we will use lockers anymore. Some good things have come out of this.” The change schedule changes have decreased the number of bus drivers needed too. The middle school will forfeit approximately 15 minutes of the school day; this will come from Connection classes, he concluded. Mr. Lester shared a positive experience with Ms. Kizzy Johnson (Assistant Principal of Discipline) and Ms. Kristi Hess (Counselor). Mr. Lester said that they are the best around and concluded with, “Kizzy was very professional. She is exactly the person that you want in that office.” Dr. Burch, “No one has missed them more.”

g. Other topics brought before the council - None

VII. Executive Session (if necessary) – not needed

VIII. Agenda Development for April 12, 2021

- a. Dr. Burch asked for input for the upcoming meeting – none offered by the committee. He stated that if they thought of anything to let him know and told everyone that he would see them at the next meeting - *Monday, April 12, 2021 – 6:00 pm.*

IX. Adjournment –Mr. Lester adjourned by leaving.