

Perry Middle School Council Meeting

Council Meeting - Location: Perry Middle School Media Center

The **Perry Middle School Council** meeting was held on Monday, August 19, 2019, at Perry Middle School.

Member attendance: Heath Burch, Kizzy Johnson, Diana Phillips, Amy Dixon, Sam Lester, Deandra Harris, Sarah Sullivan, Todd McDonald

- I. **Call to order** – Heath Burch, Principal, called the meeting to order.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Heath Burch led the Pledge of Allegiance and all in attendance recited the pledge.
- III. **Moment of Silence** – Mr. Burch asked for a moment of silence, all in attendance recognized and participated in the request.
- IV. **Old business – Approval of Agenda, Minutes, and Bylaws**
 - a. **Approval of agenda** – Mr. Burch asked all attendees to read the agenda he provided. Members reviewed silently, Sam Lester motioned for the agenda acceptance. The motion was seconded by Dr. Phillips.
 - b. **Approval of Minutes** – Members were asked to review the minutes from the previous meeting by Mr. Burch, all members reviewed the minutes silently, Mr. Lester motioned the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Harris.
 - c. **Approval of Bylaws** – After all members reviewed the bylaws silently following Mr. Burch’s request, Mr. Lester motioned all bylaws accepted as presented, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan.
 - ❖ Mr. Burch addressed member availability on the Student Council following Ms. Harris’ inquiry. Three slots are currently available, explained Mr. Burch, and he continued by encouraging Ms. Harris to let parents know that they can come and attend whether they are a member or not. He reiterated the open door policy Perry Middle School has with their parents, and he encourages parents to come and be a part of the school in some kind of capacity.
- V. **New business – Officer Election, Tentative Meeting Dates, and Discussion**
 - a. **Election of officers -**
 1. **Reporter** – The recommendation for *Dr. Diana Phillips* to be the *Perry Middle School Student Council Reporter* suggestion came via Mr. Burch and Mr. Lester seconded the motion, Dr. Phillips accepted the position. All members were in agreement with the election of this office.

2. **Chairman-** *Mr. Sam Lester* accepted the recommendation as *Perry Middle School Student Council Chairman* made by Mr. Burch. Mr. Burch motioned for Mr. Lester to hold this position noting, he was not eligible to hold the Chairman position. The motioned was seconded by Mr. Dixon, and all members were in agreement with the election of this office.

3. **Vice Chairman** – *Mr. Heath Burch* accepted the nomination of *Perry Middle School Student Council Vice Chairman* from Mr. Lester. The motioned was seconded by Ms. Harris, and all members were in agreement with the election of this office.

b. **Tentative Meeting Dates for the 2019-2020 school year** –

- Mr. Burch read the following dates and times for the remaining three meetings of the 2019-2020 school year. All members reviewed and agreed upon the below dates and times.

1. *Monday, November 4, 2019 – 6:00 pm*
2. *Monday, January 27, 2020 – 6:00 pm*
3. *Monday, April 13, 2020 – 6:00 pm*

- Ms. Dixon made the motion to accept the meeting dates and times. The motion was seconded by Ms. Harris.

c. **School Opening Report – Presented by Mr. Burch**

1. Mr. Burch stated, the 2019-2020 school began with approximately 950 kids in the Perry Middle School system. Although the population has increased, adjustments were and are being made to accommodate the growing needs of the student body.

2. A further notation addressed the “growing pains” associated with the 6th grade. Administration and faculty are aware of concerns/issues and are making adjustments whenever needed. He continued by expressing the need for flexibility from all stakeholders. Perry Middle will continue to be pursuant of a learning environment that meets the needs of all learners - any concerns may be address with him.

3. The start of school proved a success with the positive feedback received in the office from parents about the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Burch expressed his desire to remain flexible and pursue new and improved ways of maintaining a safe and efficient school.

4. The back-to-school dance generated a crowd consisting of over half the school population. A notation of 6th and 8th grade attendance was made stating, 6th grade had the largest turnout while 8th grade had the smallest turnout – this was noted as par for the course as part of the middle school culture. Mr. Burch further noted, no issues were reported at the dance.

d. **Changes for the year – Presented by Mr. Burch**

1. Mr. Burch addressed the teacher team changes stating, four teachers working together instead of two, more teachers having less preps, and ultimately teachers directing more of their focus on the students.

2. Mr. Lester asked about the number of teachers in Perry Middle. Mr. Burch responded that Perry Middle has 65 teachers, but that the school is about to add one more in 6th grade. He further noted, parent calls are expected because of

the necessary changes. However, he feels the new staff and necessary changes will result in a positive learning environment.

3. Mr. Burch discussed the rotating schedule implemented in Perry Middle this year. After a brief explanation of the process, Ms. Dixon responded by saying that she thought it was a “great idea.” Mr. Lester added by giving his opinion of a rotating schedule and offering some of the benefits of a rotating schedule. He concluded with how it has helped his son. Ms. Johnson agreed with the benefits.

4. **Explanation of PRIDE** – Pride is attached to the period for that day, stated Mr. Burch. He stressed the benefits of the enrichment and support. Mr. Burch explained the bell and tardies this year. He educated them on what time the bell should be, but noted the flexibility given through the principal’s discretion when needed.

e. New personnel – Presented by Mr. Burch

• **Here is a list of the new teachers at Perry Middle this year:**

1. *Quishawna Henderson – Media Specialist*
2. *Emily Nick – 8th grade, Georgia History Teacher*
3. *Jeff Pinckley – 8th grade, Georgia History Teacher*
4. *Lia Evans – 6th grade, Social Studies Teacher*
5. *Jennifer Dykes – 7th grade, Math & Science Teacher*

f. School Safety – Kizzy Johnson, Assistant Principal

❖ “*Safety is # 1.*”, stated by Mr. Burch.

1. Ms. Johnson reported, Perry Middle School began the 2019-2020 school year with a comprehensive safety plan – this was submitted to the Houston County Board of Education. She continued saying, the plan requires administration investigate different situations/scenarios for better and safer ways to execute drills, evacuate the premise, secure the building, etc. The committee formed to perform duties related to safety are comprised of people who best fit the needs of the plan. Office Gary looks over the plan to help ensure all safety avenues have been covered. Additionally, her boss Lieutenant Buck, from the Perry Police Department, reviews the plan for added safety measures and to help ensure the plan has been fully evaluated for the best options possible.

2. An additional safeguard in place at Perry Middle School, stated by Ms. Johnson, is the use of a School Resource Officer (S.R.O). Officer Gary is Perry Middle School’s S.R.O. and stays at the school all day while school is in session. She interacts with the kids, walks the building, checks on kids and reviews the cameras. Ms. Johnson further noted, Office Gary’s role not only reflects that of an authoritative figure in discipline, but also as an encourager and positive role model to students through daily interactions throughout the school.

3. With school entering the 3rd week of August, execution of a *Safety Drill Day* will occur on Wednesday, August 21, 2019, stated Ms. Johnson. This drill will cover the following codes: *Code Yellow, Code Red, and Active Intruder*. Examples and procedures for each drill was given by Ms. Johnson. She further noted, each classroom has an assistant assigned to perform tasks (barricading

doors and moving students to safety) in the event of an emergency. Two safety drills will be performed this year, one this week and one in January.

4. Ms. Johnson stated, the 1st *Fire Drill* was approximately the 3rd day of school. The students evacuated the building in 1 minute and 38 seconds without incident. A second drill day is coming soon.
5. *Code Blue Drill* will happen soon, per Ms. Johnson. Although in the infancy of the 2019-2020 school year, a “real” *Code Blue* occurred and everything went splendidly. Procedures were followed, the student was attended to, other students were rerouted throughout the school (as needed), and everything went as practiced.
6. Collaboration among administrators on safety generated the purchase and installation of six new security cameras within the school, per Ms. Johnson. To help prevent blind spots, she noted installation of the cameras in the gym lobby and in the hallways – to help ensure student safety.
7. In order to help further secure the building, new walkie talkies were purchased this year, says Ms. Johnson. Faculty near all entrances, coaches, office staff, and custodial staff have been equipped with the new two-way radios.
8. Ms. Johnson states, although there are not a lot of issues in this area, Title IV education and Bullying education is being taught by teachers using scripted lessons; this helps ensure students know what is and is not acceptable. This year, Ms. Johnson noted, that she and Officer Gary went into every classroom to enrich the education in this area, and help stress the importance of what they are learning.
9. Ms. Dixon asked about cell phones – the new policy. Mr. Burch explained the new policy and the need for students to have them in their lockers to prevent distractions while learning. Ms. Dixon stated her concern with a school shooting and the ability to speak with her child. Mr. Burch addressed her concern. Dr. Phillips mentioned the low statistical rates for that happening and the literature tied to cell phones shown to distract kids from learning in recent studies. Additionally, Dr. Phillips mentioned, anonymous reporting this year. Mr. Burch stated that the implementation of anonymous reporting is county-wide.

g. Reward Program sponsors – Presented by Mr. Burch

1. There is a reward program for kids that do not get a strike. Students are given a reward every 9 weeks. Mr. Burch asked for community help providing rewards for all the students who qualify. Last year, students with no strikes for the entire year went to Rigby’s at the end of the school year - this cost approximately \$3,000. Currently, administration is working to get computer carts for every team – no additional funding has been received to help cover these costs and incentives.

- Letters were given to members to dispense for donations.

h. Preliminary Assessment scores – Presented by Mr. Burch

1. Mr. Burch stated, all math and language arts scores improved last year. Gains/improvements are still being sought through evaluations across the board. He further noted, growth percentiles will be given in October.

i. Upcoming events – Presented by Mr. Burch

1. 1st pep rally this Wednesday, stated Mr. Burch.
2. Open House will be this Thursday, August 22, 2019 – all grades will attend on the same night. The night of the Preceding Open House, will be a meeting at 5:00 pm and then Open House will following at 5:30 pm.
3. Ag is going to a show soon, stated Mr. Burch. He added, all other organizations are currently recruiting members.

j. Miscellaneous topics of discussion –

1. Mr. Burch asked for any questions or concerns. If anyone thought of anything later, he encouraged them to call/email/text/etc.
2. Ms. Dixon motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Lester seconded the motion.

VI. Adjournment