The Turner Middle School Council met in a regular session on Thursday, February 15, 2018, at Turner Middle School. School Council Members present:
Chris Kuiper (Parent), Carol Lobban (Instructional Lead Teacher), Trina Martinez (Parent), Kay Solomon (Parent), Lucy Ward (Teacher), Darron Franklin (Principal), Dawn Digsby (Teacher), Danny Anderson (Pastor and Community Member), Ms. Miller (Teacher), Dr. LeFleur (Parent), Antoinette Wright (parent)

School Council Members absent: Lee Collins (Parent)

Eleven members were present, representing a quorum.

1. Call to order - Mr. Franklin called the meeting to order at 6:03pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Review of minutes from January 25, 2018, motion to approve and seconded and approval of minutes from January 25, 2018.

4. Survey results - two surveys – one to serve the school and the other to serve Mr. Franklin. GA Parent survey impacts CCRPI.

5. Review of survey results – CCRPI – participation numbers only.
   a. Review of parent survey results – read what needs to be improved from the survey.
   b. Comments from the survey:
      i. Ms. Digsby – parental support – opportunities are always available for parents to come to school – parents are being notified – engagement nights – so what is the solution? Mr. Franklin indicated people could ask to be contacted in the survey; there are some parents that don’t get communication – Ms. Martinez as an example; she doesn’t get most communication from TMS, but gets it from Annette Winn. Dr. LeFleur asked what are the ways we’re trying to communicate with parents – Mr. Franklin provided the primary ways in which that happens generally, from electronic to paper to the marquee. He asked if social media was used, but parent response was lacking. Mr. Franklin said there was Twitter and Facebook, and indicated the links were on the TMS webpage, but have since been removed. It’s something that can be revisited. Mr. Kuiper asked about that communication, especially with regard to sports, miscommunication – the person leading the group should be leading the communication effort so there is no miscommunication, perhaps a collaborative calendar. Results in better planning and more forward looking. Mr. Willis’ communication as a good example. Ms. Digsby mentioned his great use of Remind and the 100% level of participation. Mr. Kuiper also mentioned the use of the website. Mr. Anderson commented; parents also need to take initiative to know the information. Another parent present indicated when she received the survey, she indicated she didn’t know Mr. Franklin. We don’t have a PTA, and she said when there are strong PTAs, there is better parent participation and engagement. She also
commented on bullying and fighting; she had a personal experience with her daughter’s; maybe there can be some clubs/programs that can teach etiquette and how to deal with one another (Antoinette Wright). Mr. Franklin indicated he is open to parents, and is pretty responsive. He is present in the hallways. He tries to attend as many events as possible. He asked, “What could I do better for you to have known me?” She indicated PTA will help, to have a support team. When she received the message about the Parent Advisory, she was there. Mr. Franklin addressed the PTSA issue. It continues to be one person who has children at Lithia Springs High School. She wants to recognize children, but there are 810 children, and don’t have 4 parents to commit to PTSA. There is very rarely a response to the call to volunteer for PTSA. She asked about student participation with PTSA, but Mr. Franklin indicated there are privacy issues with that. Mr. Franklin is open to ideas. Mr. Franklin indicated they constantly address the issue of bullying and fighting everyday over intercom, and addressed the dynamics of what happens in the situation. There are social skills that our kids need to develop. Boys Town is an example. But parental engagement is important with that type of effort. Mr. Franklin provided Ms. Digsby as an example of an after school program, and it depends on the child’s personal interest. Parents were provided the dates at the beginning of the school year regarding different programming. Ms. Kidd indicated that bullying and fighting don’t happen a lot at TMS. Ms. Martinez indicated that it does happen. Ms. Wright, indicated the same, that students don’t talk about it, it’s not just her daughter, and middle school is challenging. Ms. Digsby – support for track team is lacking, with teachers and parents. Track is not supported in the same way basketball, football, and soccer are. Mr. Franklin said none of the sports are well-supported. Soccer – less than 15 parents attend games, for example. If it weren’t for the band, there would be very little attendance at football games. It’s a community issue. Jump ‘n Joy – over 200 band kids. How do we improve the environment so kids feel safe, so they can grow, that they are challenged? What kind of culture can we start to create so that kids can feel supported? Something is better than nothing. Yearbook participation from students is unprecedented. The point of the group is to drive improvement at TMS. Especially for students who struggle academically, there needs to be a non-academic connection. Dynamics of band, for example, that every one can be involved, whereas with other groups, that’s not the case. Dr. LeFleur addressed other concerns – safe environment – what is the plan of action in the event of an active shooter? Mr. Franklin responded that there is a plan is the same for every school – Code Red protocol would be in effect. He provided specifics about what students are encouraged to do. Unification point is at Cornerstone Baptist Church. Students records are accessed with an app Mr. Franklin has on his phone. Other communication by app. This is a reason for parents to verify their information. Drills are done to make sure teachers know what to do, and to get kids in the habit of knowing what to do. Mr. Franklin talked to them over the intercom about the importance of doing the drills (based on the shooting in Florida). Most teachers keep their doors locked. Protocols regarding substitute teachers outlined. Dr. LeFleur – how can we create a positive culture? Mr. Franklin summed it up by saying it’s time to be honest on all levels. We need to continue having the conversation, and share the conversation with others in the community. Teacher feedback – Dr. Lobban addressed parental involvement. Parents have jobs outside of Lithia Springs, and it’s hard to get parents to
meetings. Mr. Kuiper offered the suggestion about streaming a meeting. Dr. LeFleur offered the idea of quarterly Saturday mornings, for example, where faculty is present, mix and mingle, talk about the important issues, and parents aren’t having to rush to get here after work. Ms. Kidd is concerned about the physical and emotional needs of the students, and as a teacher, it can get overwhelming. She mentioned advisory programs with smaller student groups, like 15, to talk about issues leading to growth. Ms. Dukes – WISE guys. Mr. Kuiper suggested that type of program could be for homeroom, for example. She stated we need to take action on one thing and make it happen.

ii. Discussion by Mr. Franklin - Developing core values for the school – drives activities and priorities – brainstorm – what do we want for our parents, staff members, students. Behavior, for example, persistence. Socialization and interaction. 5-10 core values are small enough to focus on, and allow them to serve as a foundation. Core values drive activities. People believe what they see and hear. Culture – the way we do things, processes. Climate – how we feel about the place we are. Boys Town social skills as an example. Such as how to disagree appropriately. Mr. Franklin will email the group a breakdown of possibilities. Engagement for parents, behaviors for students, adults in the building with students. A lot is being put on the adults in the building, but as a core value, there should be parent participation. As long as there is a staff member, parents can offer whatever they are good at. Ms. Martinez as example of STEM and girls. Mr. Kuiper had a lightbulb moment... Ms. Digsby talked about the lack of prevalence of mentors. Mr. Franklin mentioned the mentor program. Ms. Digsby presented examples of people who want to mentor. They need to go through the MATCH process for one-on-one mentoring. Action step – think about core values, which drive us and give us priority (Mr. Franklin’s email). Mr. Kuiper asked about artifacts available regarding values that are present in the building for students to see. Mr. Franklin wants the group to create these core values. Student-led conferences have been helpful.

iii. Send out survey to the group re: values. Next meeting would be fleshing out the values and what is important to the group.

6. Principal’s Report
   a. Recognized as National Beta School of Merit – quiz bowl team will compete at the National Convention
   b. Science Fair – two students going to state – Ms. Miller and Mr. Holland did a lot to prepare the students (girls)
   c. Copy of Milestones revised calendar – will be sent out to parents after the break; this year it will be taken by grade level (Mr. Anderson asked about noise concerns because of the breakout; Mr. Franklin addressed the concern describing logistical adjustments that will be made). Milestones will be taken online this year. Students can practice online.

7. Suggested items for next meeting – March 29th is the next meeting

8. Teacher participation on the board – Ms. Davis, Ms. Waites, Ms. Miller

9. Meeting adjournment – motion to adjourn, seconded at 7:35pm.