

## Hamden High School

### School Governance Council

Meeting Date: Monday, June 12, 2017

*Members: Robin Lamott Sparks, parent, ( absent) Kevin Keating, teacher, Paul Giansanti, Vice Principal, Paul Darcy, parent, Kim Forselius Bielen, parent, Sherlet Kurian, parent, Christy Palumbo, parent, Alicia Norris, parent,( absent) Elisa James, teacher, Steven DelGrego, teacher, Cate Marshall, teacher, Nadine Gannon, Principal, Anna Lisa Aurora, teacher,( absent) Judith Goldberg, community representative, ( absent) Chris Daur, Board of Education representative( absent)*

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#### Agenda

Meeting Minutes taken by: Kim Bielen

Update from Principle Gannon

Guest Speaker Mr. Cocciola

TERC Database

Approved Minutes from May meeting

6:00pm

#### **1. Update from Principal Gannon**

- a. Ms. Rodriquez, Administrator at HHS, being transferred to Church Street Elementary School. No plan has been announced regarding replacement at HHS.
- b. HHS will be losing 1 social worker on staff, no replacement has been announced.
- c. Discussion about rain dates for graduations, options available.
- d. Announcement of 25 HHS students accepted to UCONN and at least 4 students that it is known of, are going to Ivy League Universities. A higher percentage than most public high schools in area. Discussed how these information would be noteworthy to Hamden residents and families.

6:15pm

#### **2. Power School Update**

- a. Discussion about utilization of Power School (PS) and Power School University. Principal Gannon attending this summer Power School University to learn more about PS's features and capabilities.
- b. Dr. Kurian spoke about the retraining of teachers on Power school and its capabilities and categories. How teachers might need to be re-trained on the categories such as: attendance, grading calculations, content, assignments, and assessments so they can better meet the needs of students as well as their own teaching needs.
- c. Power school offers valuable data that HHS needs to utilize to help pinpoint effective solutions in regards to student performance, trends, weakness, ineffectiveness. Understanding the system better and utilizing it to its potential is more cost and educationally effective

6:30pm

#### **3. Speaker Mr. Cocciola, Coordinator of Counseling and career Pathways at HHS**

- a. Mr. Cocciola spoke more on the discussion of Power school and Customizing a system to benefit HHS. PS could allow HHS strategies and techniques that specifically are designed for HHS needs. i.e. attendance issues and recording at HHS, Power School can offer management tools and real time access and a tracking system to collect data needed to manage attendance of students. Its system allows teachers more free time to instruct and it empowers students. How can we at HHS use this system to its upmost potential to benefit our learning environment? What are we doing currently? what are our goals for next year with this system? What are our obstacles in obtaining the data we need? Discussion to be continued in September 2017. With plan on how to implement.
- b. What do we want our High school students to understand about their high school experience?
  - Developing a pace for students so they can move forward to obtain high school goals to begin this discussion as a freshman.
  - Understanding the AP grades and grade scales
  - Importance of nonacademic activities, community involvement, family responsibilities, beneficial soft skills
  - Understanding student structure at home and effects on high school experience
  - Helping students develop a plan (freshman orientation emphasizes preparation)
  - Acknowledging certain school environments work best for certain students. What are alternatives? How do we support these alternative choices and help make connections?

6:50pm

#### 4. Dr. James presented thoughts on TERC

- a. Dr. James presented TERC (Students Testing & Education Reference Center) a possibility to be implemented at HHS. What does Mr. Cocciola think of the program? Would it be of value to our school? It could help students make their future education decisions easier is the theory of the program. Providing students information on colleges, technical schools, entrance exams, certifications, professional licensing information. Also, information on how to build a resume. This program could assist HHS Guidance staff? Because there have been thoughts: is there enough communication and support from HHS Guidance currently for all students? Do students navigate HHS system easily, much is how parental involvement? Can we include this in our school budget? Is it worthwhile to consider?

7:15pm

Meeting Adjourned for evening. Next meeting September 2017. New members to attend in October 2017 and be formally announced September 2017. Sherlet Kurian to be new Council Leader, Robyn Sparks, 2016-2017 Council Leader, stepping down and resigning from Council.

