

## Hamden High School

### School Governance Council

#### Meeting Date: Monday, December 11, 2017

*Members :Kevin Keating, Paul Giansanti, Vice Principal, Kim Forselius Bielen, parent, Sherlet Kurian, parent chair, Christy Palumbo,( absent) , Cate Marshall, teacher ( absent), Nadine Gannon, Principal, Anna Lisa Aurora, teacher, Judith Goldberg, community member, Chris Daur, Board of Education representative, ( absent) Erica Blackmon, parent, Jasmina Besirevic-Regan, parent, Amita Singla, parent,( absent),Corinne Castro, parent, ( absent) Chris Thomas, teacher, Erica Tamsin, teacher, Ava Purdue, student representative, Terrance Boyd-Nordstrom, student representative ( absent) , Reva Zaleski ( guest), Nandi Cummings ( guest)*

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#### Agenda for Tonight's Meeting

Meeting Minutes taken by: Kim Bielen

Housekeeping: \*\*Ending promptly at 6:55pm. Winter Concert Tonight

Approval of minutes 10/16/17 & 11/13/17

COMPACT agreement- Did all parents get with report card? BOE meetings: December 12, Erica Blackmon attending

Update from Safety Meeting (held at Spring Glen)- Erica Blackmon

PTSA President Reva Zaleski- Goals

Education

Update from meeting December 6(will send out as minutes this week)

Mrs. Gannon :Retirement of Dr. Messiah- will there be a new principal? Any updates?

Mrs. Gannon: STEM ACADEMY in HHS (\$500K)

School Promotion

Christy/Ms. Gannon: update on LED sign

Tardiness/Absenteeism

BOE policy for Attendance & Truancy update- final vote on 11/14/17(?) confirmed?

(see BOE policy#5113 and #5113.2 online) Safety/Operations

Update: Screens up and running, comments from students?

Vacant positions

Community member- nominees?

Reassessment of GOALS and any new IDEAS- Realignment/New committees

6:00pm **Introductions/Welcome** made by Chair Kurian and review of evenings agenda. Meeting asked to adjourn at 6:55pm due to HHs concert

6:05pm Vote taken to approve October and November minutes. Minutes approved.

6:10pm Comments made by Chair Kurian that HHS Compact not sent out in all Report Cards as intended. Principal Gannon will have Compact added to Weekly Dragon Update for all to be able to view.

6:15pm Principal Gannon reviewed the Safety meeting held on December 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 at HMS for Hamden School parents, teachers and administrators.

- Principal Levy (HMS) presented a PowerPoint presentation on this forum. It was an interactive discussion between attendees (parents, teachers and administrators)
- Highlights of forum: responsibility of teachers/administers/parents/community to ensure safety of students while at school, there was an explanation of safety drills, practice drill, and other school safety checks/measures.
- An open discussion on parents having confidence in the school's safety system
- Ms. Goldberg commented in tonight's meeting that the CT PTSA has been discussing safety in the schools regarding social media the pros and cons of social media and its effects on school safety. How social media can be proactive with student's safety but also can be a deterrent.
- Comments were made on the success of the Safety Meeting held at HMS on 12/6/17. Ms. Blackman remarked the attendance was low, possibly due to no babysitting being offered for parents. Possibly to offer same agenda in the spring for parents to attend.
- Overall 12/6/17 Safety meeting was a success and the thought to continue these types of Proactive/Interactive school community events between the parents, teachers, administrators, students and community.

- 6:24pm Introduction of Reva Zaleski the President of the HHS PTSA
- Ms. Zaleski gave a brief introduction about herself and the goals and objectives of this year's PTSA at HHS
  - Some of these goals to rebuild the PTSA by: networking with other school committees, having stronger communication between students, parents, teachers and administrators, to encourage parent and student involvement at HHS.
  - Ms. Zaleski spoke of her most current project to continue with a Hamden Food Bank drive even after the holiday and involve the student body to participate. ( maybe to not just donate food but birthday parties in a bag) Also to have certain fundraisers and volunteer projects coordinated throughout the year.
- 6:40pm Dr. Clydette Messiah's retirement as Assistant Principal at HHS.
- Chair Kurian inquired about processes taking place to replace Dr. Messiah after she retires.
  - Dr. Gannon and Mr. Giansanti said there will be a replacement to their knowledge of Dr. Messiah's position.
  - Mr. Giansanti stated this would be addressed at the Teachers Union meeting. Also that the Governance Council will be notified when process begins regarding replacement.
- 6:45pm Discussion on STEM Academy
- Principal Gannon meeting with the BOE before the winter break regarding STEM Academy grant.
  - How does HHS apply the STEM grant? This National non profit educational program provides a career minded curriculum, instruction, administrator/teaching coaching to assist in engaging and preparing students after graduation.
  - Principal Gannon and Mr. Giansanti exploring other schools regarding STEM and comparing what would benefit HHS best (health/science programs, personalized instruction, etc.) Both stated they needed to create a vision to come up with a successful plan for HHS.
  - STEM grant also needs to be analyzed regarding exact amount and guidelines that must be applied to implement.
- 6:50pm Follow up on HHS TV's
- Principal Gannon spoke of great response regarding TIV screens in school to provide better communication
  - Principal Gannon spoke of the positive effects of the TV screens in central locations around the school providing school information keeping students actively involved, stimulating engagement and interaction, supporting school events and collaborations.
  - Keeping students informed with school news and information from the tv's streaming HHS updates is becoming contagious and enhancing school spirit.
- 6:55pm 2018 Goals for Governance Council
- Chair Kurian was hoping to ask Committee to each revisit initial goals and agendas the Committee has set for this school term individually and discuss.
  - Due to time restraint Ms. Tamsin and Ms. Marshall spoke only about their proposed goals. Briefly agendas such as attendance, usage of headphones, cellphones during school hours and consequences were discussed.
  - Mr. Giansanti briefly spoke about revisiting the Buses vs walkers topic and changing the 2 mile rule for walkers to school to 1 mile.
  - Revisiting proposed Committee and agendas will be done at next meeting.

7:00pm Meeting Adjourned for evening. Next meeting Monday, January 8, 2018

UPCOMING MEETING DATES: January 8, 2018, February 12, 2018, March 12, 2018, April 9, 2018, May 14, 2018, June 11, 2018\*\*

