

Hamden High School

School Governance Council

Meeting Date: Monday, January 15, 2019

Attended Members: Sherlet Kurian, Christy Palumbo, Frank Dixon, Jasmina Besirevic-Regan, Corinne Castro, Liz Marini, Ann Stiltner, Erica Tasmin, Nadine Gannon, Darce DeCosta, Ava Perdue, Judy Goldberg, Dan Cocchiola (guest)

Agenda for Tonight's Meeting

Meeting Minutes taken by: Christy Palumbo
Housekeeping

Next Meeting: February 25, 2019

Minutes

6:09pm December Minutes will be read, approved and voted on in February.

6:15pm Updates from Mrs. Ganon regarding recent threat. Plan of action imposed was "stay and play"- students were in period 3 and stayed there until all clear by HPD. SGC all agreed communication was appropriate and commended principal, staff, students, central office and HPD on how the matter was handled.

6:20 Guest Speaker Dan Cocchiola Coordinator of Counseling and Career Pathways. Dan indicated that starting upcoming school year students will have the same counselor from grade 9-12 noting the Tier I intervention approach in the classroom. Teachers will make adjustments in classroom as needed.. There will be re-organization of students in counselor panels to keep fair number in distribution, could be NEW student's regular counselor, noting transitions will be made and adjustments as appropriate. Dan discussed availability of counselors to students, email, setting up meetings, tracking meetings via Naviance and outlook calendar, use of Connection sessions. Video of HHS grads viewed in Connections to hear from peers. Invited Higher Heights and QU students helping in college application process. SGC members brought to attention that this not common knowledge. Also noted discrepancies in counselors availability and advice. Dan and Nadine welcome feedback. Much discussion on HHS STEM ACADEMY and HECA programs HHS HECA program will be the first high school to roll out advanced manufacturing program, will leave with associates degree, stating that college is not always an option for students. STEM ACADEMY will include biomedical program which is hands on, "Project lead the way" Dan will be doing several community talks regarding both programs. Dan indicated there is a pre-apprenticeship program that has begun on Fridays and there is student/parent interest. Included at college fair this year, representatives from unions such as Carpenters, Electricians

SGC members recommended yearly parent / student orientation not just for freshman because parents and students are not always sure what to expect in the upcoming year, the lack of communications from the counselors with parents and students and how that can be addressed.

Dan was in agreement and liked our ideas and will see how they can be accomplished. Members volunteered to look at other schools orientation ideas and outlines to assist Dan.

SGC Recommendations:

School counseling department support consistent communication and services through yearly student and family orientation.

School present videos and webinars via website for families that do not attend presentations

Start graduation planning / i.e. course selection planning earlier (career paths, college, application process, etc.)

Institute peer mentors/parent ambassadors

Invite Dan back in April

7:30 Ann Stiltner presented community member Evelyn Cumberbatch MD MPH for SGC position All voted in favor.

7:45 **Meeting Adjourned**

