

## **HHS School Governance Council Minutes - Meeting 5/18/20 (on Zoom)**

**Members Present:** Frank Dixon, Principal Nadine Gannon, Vice Principal Darce DeCosta, Chris Daur, Erica Tamsin, Mark Zarillo, Evelyn Cumberbatch, Liz Marini, Greg Theriault, Nancy Restivo, Ann Stiltner

(Please Note: this member-present list was not noted at the time of the meeting; this is a reconstructed list in Sept-Oct 2020 and thus may not contain all members who were present; apologies to anyone present who was not included.)

### **I. Introduction from Frank Dixon**

### **II. Principle Update from Ms. Gannon**

- a. Thanked people for their support in these challenging times; proud of HHS family over past few months; is principle and Mom – experiencing herself what families are going through.
- b. Grading – supported by teachers and, once understood, by students; much effort went into form grading system; key is not failing anyone
- c. Engagement; happy with numbers of kids staying engaged
- d. Legislative Council Meeting on Saturday – turned over the Chris Daur for update (below)
- e. Graduation planning
  - i. Taking into account guidelines from state regarding re-opening; discussed with super-intendant/s; also, gave student survey/feedback – overwhelming support to postpone; seems like no harm in waiting - until mid-June to make decision
  - ii. Wednesday evening celebration for Seniors – drive-thru; also using buses to pick up kids who don't have rides; teachers/staff, sports teams, theater folks - various ways showing support and “shouting out” for students/teams/etc...
  - iii. Scholarship virtual recognition – possibly June 5, Dan Cocciolla planning
  - iv. Locker cleanout; putting in bags with names and planning pick-up; also opportunity for drop-off of items (books, instruments, etc...)
- f. Re: Counseling Department – responding to feedback from last meeting about counseling department not meeting needs of all students; reminder of computer virus that took down school website for weeks; wanted to share this
- g. Meeting with Admin Council – to discuss flat-lining of BUDGET – 2.8 million that won't have – will mean cutback in what HHS offers; largest school numbers in a while; may not be able to offer as much; will mean difficult times
- h. Has a Re-Opening committee; Budget cut will be main factor regarding what will be needed in re-opening

### III. **BOE Update: Chris Daur**

- a. Appreciates listening to what is going on at HHS
- b. Re: engagement – glad to hear it
- c. Legislative Council meeting
  - i. Playing with money from State; flat lined for year – getting same amount of money last year; getting less than 1% increase from budget from last year;
  - ii. Projecting 12 million \$ deficit on town side
  - iii. Will get some CARES money of \$900,000
  - iv. Look at credit recovery issues
  - v. Will need to look at what coming next year – whether back in class, clean classes, etc..
  - vi. Took 2.3/8? million out of budget
  - vii. Lot of pension obligation comes due this year
- d. Still maintaining food pantry
- e. Starting at some elementary schools will have all kids on free lunches

### IV. **Governance Council/Committee Update/Planning: Erica Tamsin**

- a. Do we want to have meeting in June 2020?
- b. Develop quick Interest Survey with Frank & Corinne – for present members to gauge interest
- c. New term October 1, 2020
  - i. Fill 1, maybe 2, student positions
  - ii. 2 X 2 year terms – total 4 years for all members
- d. Mr. Hanna brought up how to include minority students
- e. Issues with student members:
  - i. How are students recruited? Jack spoke how he knew about it (thru sister); Ms. Gannon said was on monitors – is common way of communicating with students
  - ii. Ms. Gannon said Student Council didn't run this year, but combined house leadership in Student Ambassadors; hopeful to get Student Council up and running next year
  - iii. Question: what criteria for students to join?
  - iv. Mark G. asked if could have teacher recruiting process for students
    1. Frank brought up that teacher recommendations could be one aspect of recruiting students
    2. Which sub-committee should it go under?
    3. Mark G. offered to take this on
- f. Election Process – back to Erica
  - i. wait to see how many seats are open
  - ii. option to use technology to get interest out

### V. **Committees:**

- a. **Communication SC met; Mark Z. update**
  - i. Want to expand the on-line presence of HHS; possibly split it student, staff, parents; question of place for engagement or networking?

- ii. Thinking:
  - 1. HHS Parents Facebook page; place to share information
  - 2. For kids not clear; brought up Band Twitter account as example
  - 3. Ms. Gannon brought up that Dr. James maintains the website; could have a link for parents to click and connect to parent website
  - 4. Erica brought up that Instagram works to connect with kids better than email;
  - 5. Eve brought up consideration of possibly petty/toxic interactions if parent site just open; Corinne and Mark responded that can have a moderator to evaluate all content before posting
- iii. Other sub-committees didn't meet and no updates

**VI. Frank Dixon: Back to Question of June Meeting?**

- a. June 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>? Not 29<sup>th</sup> as is 4<sup>th</sup> July weekend
- b. Consideration of waiting for Ms. Gannon to hear more and decide about Graduation
- c. Decided on June 22<sup>nd</sup>

**VII. Questions:**

- a. Jack's regarding Schedule?
  - i. Ms. Gannon responded that won't be making changes to Bell Schedule next year
  - ii. Should be hearing from school counselor soon regarding class schedule

**VIII. Input from Those Not Yet Heard:**

- a. Liz talked about making Transition for 8<sup>th</sup> graders to 9<sup>th</sup> grade smooth as possible
- b. Ms. DeCosta – making outreach efforts to kids; Goals/Priorities may have to change in the fall depending on situation and needs; Mental Health &
- c. Financial aspects to consider

**IX. Goodbyes**