Hamden High School (HHS) School Governance Council (SGC)

Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2021, 6pm (on Zoom)

Members Present (alphabetical order)**:** Frank Dixon, Nadine Gannon, Katie Gurski, John Hanna, Mia Hoffman-Kamrat, Andrew Hull, Elizabeth (Liz) Marini, Karlen Meinsen, Kevin Mensah, Nancy Restivo, Susan Schultheiss
Members Not Present: Darce DeCosta, John Donahue, Frank LaDore, Tykia Terrell, Mark Zarrillo
Guests: Scott Trauner
BOE Representative: None

1. **Welcome – Frank Dixon**
    a. Called meeting to order at 6:18pm

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – Nancy Restivo**
    a. Liz motioned to approve the November 15 meeting minutes.
    b. Nadine said the statement "Lowest F is a 50" was incorrect and asked that it be removed from the minutes.
    c. Liz motioned to approve the November 15 meeting minutes with correction. Katie Gurski seconded. All approved.

3. **Governance Council and Administrative Remarks – Liz Marini**
    a. Liz asked Karlen to speak about Vicki Simiola as a candidate for SGC community member to fill open spot
        i. Karlen spoke about Vicki's credentials
        ii. Liz agreed she was a good candidate
        iii. Frank asked if Karlen knew which subcommittee she might serve on. Karlen said possibly mental health and safety
        iv. John H also agreed she was a good candidate
        v. Liz motioned to vote Vicki on as a community member. Nancy seconded. All were in favor. Motion approved
    b. Liz said she needed more time before speaking on Strategic Mentorship Initiatives

4. **Principal's Remarks – Nadine Gannon**
    a. Safety number one concern
        i. Walk-thru metal detectors arrived last week and implemented today
        ii. Checking backpacks is time consuming and creating long waits
        iii. Nadine asked Scott Trauner to speak on process
            1. Students were all in by 7:45am
            2. The metal detectors were tested on Friday
            3. They are working on ideas on how to streamline the process and hope to implement in January. The idea is students will walk through the detectors with their backpacks on, having put all metal objects in large clear plastic bag for security to

look through. The hope is that this will make the process faster, but safety is priority

iv. Nadine stated staff and admin have spent a lot of time on this and there is a learning curve
v. There is a community forum to speak about issues
    1. Students spoke up about needs and concerns
    2. Two students each from clubs, sports teams, and student ambassadors were invited to forum
    3. Mental health and school climate were major concerns
    4. An Open student forum is wanted
vi. Kevin stated that the new entry system is inconvenient and makes it hard to get to class and that the checking of backpacks is not working. Some kids "jump" the backpack line. Scott said he would have a meeting with security to go over protocol
vii. Nadine stated that school counselors will meet with students after the break

b. Ayanna Iovieno is the student BOE representative

5. Board of Education Report – None

a. Chris Daur could not make meeting

6. Yearly Goals & Survey results – Liz Marini

a. Will discuss at next meeting

7. School Safety Letter - Safety and Mental Health Committee

a. Frank shared the letter with the full SGC and asked for feedback from the SGC only, not admin, before sending out
b. The purpose of the letter is to ask for long term systemic changes
c. John H stated that a Mental Health Coordinator is needed at Central Office
d. Need to speak to Amanda Forcucci, Director of Health and Physical Ed, about health class requirements

8. Committees Review – Liz Marini

a. Will discuss at next meeting

9. Adjournment – Frank Dixon

a. Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:45pm. All approved. Meeting adjourned.