

Hamden High School (HHS) School Governance Council (SGC)
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2021, 6pm (on Zoom)

Members Present (alphabetical order): Frank Dixon, John Donahue, Nadine Gannon, Katie Gurski, John Hanna, Mia Hoffman-Kamrat, Andrew Hull, Frank LaDore, Elizabeth (Liz) Marini, Karlen Meinsen, Kevin Mensah, Nancy Restivo, Susan Schultheiss, Tykia Terrell

Members Not Present: Darce DeCosta, Mark Zarrillo

BOE Representative: Chris Daur

1. Welcome – Frank Dixon

- a. Called meeting to order at 6:05pm
- b. Welcomed new members
- c. Read the purpose of the SGC

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Nancy Restivo

- a. John Hanna motioned to approve the August 23 meeting minutes with corrections. Liz seconded. All approved.
- b. Liz motioned to approve the September 20 meeting minutes. Andrew seconded. All approved.

3. Governance Council and Administrative Remarks – Liz Marini

- a. Liz welcomed new members: Katie Gurski, Karlen Meinsen, Susan Schultheiss, Tykia Terrell, Mia Hoffman-Kamrat, Kevin Mensah
- b. Liz stated that the survey she sent to all the members had great results and will share them with everyone later in the meeting
- c. All members of the SGC introduced themselves

4. Principal's Remarks – Nadine Gannon

- a. After Action Committee met to discuss incident last week
 - i. Families want to create a forum to discuss these incidents with police officers
- b. PSATs were taken October 13 – juniors and sophomores took them using pencil and paper, freshman did them digitally
- c. Currently 1731 students enrolled
 - i. Nadine is advocating for additional support
 1. Two additional security guards were hired
 2. Credit Retention positions need to be filled
 3. Family engagement staff needed
 4. ISS position needs to be filled – currently done by teachers
 - ii. Superintendent said he will provide what is needed
- d. Nadine met with 9th graders in 100 person groups to talk about expectations, credits, mental health, etc
- e. Nadine hopes to meet with 10th graders to talk about their high school experience

- f. Karlen asked the following questions
 - i. Are the SGC meetings recorded and public?
 - 1. Frank D. answered yes
 - ii. Are the SGC agendas and meeting minutes on the HHS website?
 - 1. Frank D. answered yes
 - iii. Can members ask questions during meetings?
 - 1. Frank D. answered yes
 - iv. Karlen told Nadine that she was happy about the forum the families want to create
 - v. Karlen asked Nadine if she is trained for possible dangerous scenarios that can happen at school, i.e. situations involving guns
 - 1. Nadine said she went through ALICE training
 - 2. Nadine stated there is an emergency plan in place
 - 3. Nadine stated that she is part of a monthly District Safety Meeting
 - vi. Karlen asked who is currently supporting the ISS issues
 - 1. Nadine answered that security and administration deal with the issues and that the teachers are manning the ISS room during their free periods

5. Board of Education Report – Chris Daur

- a. Debriefing of the incident at HHS last week will be posted on the Hamden Public School website
- b. Chris will keep everyone posted on what happens in the Family Forum
- c. Tyika asked if volunteers entering the school need to be vaccinated
 - i. Nadine stated that there is a no visitor policy in place currently
 - ii. To be a volunteer one needs to go through a screening process through HPS Human Resources
 - iii. Nadine is not sure if volunteers need to be vaccinated but will ask during her weekly medical meeting on Friday
 - iv. Nadine asked Tyika to send her email to her so she can let her know
- d. Finalized teacher contracts for next three years
- e. Trying to keep schools in good shape
 - i. Replaced air handler at HHS – please let Chris know if there are hot and/or cold temperature issues
 - ii. Painting of the HHS cupola is finished
 - iii. Looking to do as much preventive maintenance as possible
 - iv. Making sure school has proper ventilation
- f. Changes at BOE in next two weeks
 - i. Six new members
 - ii. Chris has two years left
- g. Revisiting 3R program
- h. Selling of Wintergreen School building to ACES in the works
- i. Budget coming up for approval
- j. Having trouble filling positions

- k. 1700 (K-12) kids in the summer program, hope to do it again next year
- l. Looking for suggestions for community spirit
- m. Superintendent contract has been approved for next year
- n. Need to adjust health procedures week to week for COVID
- o. Frank D. asked when first BOE meeting with new board will be
 - i. Chris said they meet the second Tuesday of the month
 - ii. New members will be sworn in in November
 - iii. New board at December meeting
- p. Chris commented that he thought Nadine and staff handled the incident last week very well
- q. Karlen asked if a Resource Officer was assigned solely to HHS
 - i. Nadine stated there is only one for the whole district and that the day of the incident the officer had to be called from HMS. The response was immediate
 - ii. HHS used to have two but there are not enough police officers in Hamden to provide them now
 - iii. Chris stated that this will be discussed with the new BOE members, Chief of Police and possibly the Mayor
 - iv. Chris stated that the security officers are trained to deal with dangerous situations
 - v. Frank D. suggested that the SGC write a letter recommending a Resource Officer be full time at HHS.
 - 1. Karlen suggested this happen ASAP
 - 2. Frank D agreed and suggested the letter be sent to the BOE, Mayor, Chief of Police, Superintendent

6. Yearly Goals & Survey results – Liz Marini

- a. Liz shared the survey results: recurring themes were safety, community, students, counseling
- b. Members chose sub-committees via survey
 - i. Sub-committees need to meet between SGC monthly meetings
 - ii. Each needs to pick a Chair and to meet before next meeting
 - iii. Liz will send an email to each sub-committee so they can meet to work on goals
 - iv. Liz will send a shareable link in that email regarding survey results
- c. Liz stated that the Operational Sub-Committee helped improve the HHS website and praised the Mental Health Sub-Committee for all they accomplished
- d. Karlen stated that the goals should be measurable and include timelines

7. Sub-committee Goals and Members

- a. Meeting before next general meeting to discuss goals

8. Old Business – Nadine Gannon

- a. Nadine stated that HHS students now have hamden.org emails. Students and teachers can email each other but students cannot. No one from outside the school can email students

9. New Business

- a. Chris suggested a master list of the current SGC members including their email and phone numbers be sent to everyone on council

10. Adjournment – Frank Dixon

- a. Next Meeting November 15 at 6pm via Zoom
- b. Frank D. made motion to adjourn meeting at 7:27pm. Nancy seconded. Meeting adjourned.