

Hamden High School (HHS) School Governance Council (SGC)
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2022

Members Present (alphabetical order): Katie Gurski, Mia Hoffmann-Kamrat, Tracey Jacobson, Karlen Meinsen, Janice Mira-Keenan, Sarah Northrop, Gina Parillo, Nancy Restivo, Susan Schultheiss, Julie Stewart, Judite Vamvakides

Members Not Present: John Hanna, Kevin Mensah, Vicki Simiola, Tyika Terrell

Admin Present: none

BOE Representative Present: none

Superintendent Rep Present: Linda Morbidelli

Guest Speaker: Jasmina Besirevic

1. Welcome – Karlen Meinsen

- a. Called meeting to order at 6:06pm
- b. Reviewed Mission statement

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Nancy Restivo

- a. Katie stated we should add our parent guest to the attendance list. Since he did not present and he is listed later in the minutes this is not necessary. In addition, we will note guest speakers on the attendance list, not all guests that attend. Sarah motioned to approve the September meeting minutes. Katie seconded. All in favor

3. Guest Speaker - Jasmina Besirevic

- a. Jasmina presented a proposed Student Exchange Program between Sicily and HHS. Have tentative agreement. Need to identify 15 students at HHS. Invite students to come from Sicily April 4-16. Would shadow HHS students and take field trips. Establish collaboration. HHS students would possibly travel there next Fall or Dec. Having info session for parents next Thurs at 7 and BOE on Nov 9. Recruiting parents. Jasmina doing admin work. Need someone at school, a liaison – working with Beth Lapman, but not liason. Fundraising needed to offset cost. Need budget guidelines. Some parents have reached out. Need to move quickly. Need SGC to spread word. Foreign language teachers supportive but can't be liaison. Registration open
- b. Sarah invited Jasmina to PTSA meeting to present

4. Principal's Remarks – Nadine Gannon

- a. Nadine not present so Linda Morbidelli gave a brief administrative update
- b. Admin is putting efforts into reinforcing foundational routines. The feel is positive this year. Students bringing back school spirit. Maintaining high expectations for code of conduct and learning. Cellphone policy seems to be helping. Getting to class on time. Almost end of first marking period.
- c. Monday nights are tough for Linda. Superintendent (SI) Gary Highsmith and Linda will do best to attend mtgs. Want to support SGC

5. Sub-Committees – Karlen

- a. Break out into subcomm groups. Each subcommittee needs to decide on goals or one big goal and choose chair for each subcommittee to update during general mtg. Subcom can decide when to meet.

- b. Tracey: Were subcommittees chosen as a response to concerns?
 - i. Karlen: Yes. For Career pathways – what are we offering to those not on college path? Gannon would like to look into med careers option – Gateway, internships.
 - ii. Katie: Sister teaches at Sommerville HS in MA – look at their course curriculum for vocational paths
 - iii. Tracey: Experience has been that students are not identifying that they want to go into vocational careers. Auto gone because lack of interest. Post HS planning lessons being done at HHS. Everyone wants to go into college. Dan Cocchiola would be great resource. Child Dev can get college credit. Had CNA prog.
 - iv. HHS profile: 60% 4 year, 15% to community college, 3% military, 3% direct employment, 4% gap year, 7% trade
 - v. Linda: Need to continue to offer multiple pathways, especially for non-college students. Tracey’s point is important – students don’t know what they want to do until much later on. Need to set up student success plan in MS – need to know student pathway so can cater to those. Making guesses does not help. Need to engage students much earlier about pathway options that are available so can be on path much earlier than HS.
 - vi. Katie: Leveling, equity intertwined with this
 - vii. Sarah: May be a high % enrolling in college, but % dropping out after first year
 - viii. Mia: Students not given enough options and feel forced to go to college
 - ix. Janice: Some discover once in college not for them

BREAK for subcommittees to meet

- c. Career Pathways: Susan, Janice, Tracey - chair
- d. Mental Health: Mia, Karlen, Judite - chair, possibly Vicki, John
- e. School Climate: Sarah, Gina, Kevin, Katie - chair
- f. Equity: Julie, John, Nancy - chair
- g. Karlen: Subcomm report out at next meeting
- h. Nancy: Does SGC want to hear student presentation on GPA issue? Yes - invite to next mtg, Nov 14, 6pm

6. Board of Education Report – Mariam Khan

- a. No report

7. Old Business

- a. Karlen: Encouraged SGC members to go to BOE meetings and report back – rotate members going
- b. Sarah: What does it mean to have SGC work on outreach?
 - i. Karlen: Attending BOE and Legislative Council mtgs, writing letters, etc.
- c. Sarah: How is traffic pattern working?
 - i. Seems to feel safer for everyone

8. Adjournment – Karlen

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm