

Hamden High School (HHS) School Governance Council (SGC)
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2022

Members Present (alphabetical order): Tina Deamicis, Katie Gurski, Mia Hoffmann-Kamrat, Tracey Jacobson, Karlen Meinsen, Kevin Mensah, Janice Mira-Keenan, Sarah Northrop, Gina Parillo, Nancy Restivo, Susan Schultheiss, Vicki Simiola, Julie Stewart

Members Not Present: John Hanna, Tyika Terrell, Judite Vamvakides

Admin Present: Nadine Gannon and Scott Trauner

BOE Representative Present: Mariam Kahn

Superintendent Rep Present: none

Guest Speaker: none

1. Welcome – Karlen Meinsen

- a. Called meeting to order at 6:06pm
- b. Approval of November Meeting Minutes – Nancy Restivo
 - i. Sarah motioned to approve meeting minutes. Karlen seconded. All in favor
- c. HHSGC member Judite Vamvakides resigned as of today
 - i. Judite offered to help if needed
 - ii. Karlen will reach out to next person with most votes in spring election
 - iii. Karlen values members time
 - iv. Use NO Fault consensus/ problem solving – take emotion out and no one's fault. Here to support each other and the work collectively to help school
- d. Proposal to Amend the Bylaws: Members who miss two consecutive meetings or a total of three meetings of the School Governance Council in an academic year, shall be subject to a vote of removal from the council. If $\frac{2}{3}$ of members vote for removal, the member shall be removed and replaced with the candidate who received the next highest number of votes from the most recent election.
 - i. This will be voted on at next meeting
 - ii. Add: with the exception of illness
 - iii. Add: members should give prior notification if will be missing

2. Principal Remarks - Nadine Gannon

- a. Two pep rallies were a success. Thanks to Mr. Trauner. Hope to do more in the future
- b. 823 students earned honors/high – 48% of population. Deciding how to distribute
- c. Dragons United meeting on Fri. Students led meeting. NG will meet with core team each week. Need to think about all of the students – include everyone.
- d. “Why Hamden” on Wednesday night at HHS. Slide show. 4 student panel speaking. Tours. Have different clubs. Will talk about Nursery School, HECA, culinary arts, etc
- e. 3 senior students each gave a TEDx talk at live Hartford TEDx event. Run by Scott and Officer Brewer. Brewer gave a national Ted talk so started a HHS Ted talk competition. Pulled in other students to do videoing.
 - i. Tracey – could be their capstone project
 - ii. Vicki – why don't Hamden residents hear about this more
 - iii. Scott – was posted on Social Media
 - iv. Nadine – was in Hamden Dragon Newsletter
 - v. Vicki – would like to be on Hamden Dragon email list
 - vi. Tina – local paper could cover this
 - vii. Karlen – paper no longer exists, only neg things on Social Media
 - viii. Mia – make the HHS newspaper more transparent and more known. Want to make a Google classroom for clubs
 - ix. Nadine – reach out to the Patch to ask for HHS section. Asked Karlen to get a connection
 - x. Scott - PR should be someone's job
 - xi. Karlen – has call into Social Media person at HMS. Keyed into website page
 - xii. Vicki – volunteering to help with SM

- xiii. Karlen – everything gets back to the kids. Need a positive SM presence.
- xiv. Sarah – district needs PR person
- xv. Tina – need to get the word out of the positive things going on
- f. Spirit week next week. Giving out 10 Gift Cards/ day for those who participate. Kids are coming up with the days
- g. Marking period 2 is going well. Some tardies, some class cutting, some not engaged. Invites anyone to come into building to see for themselves.
 - i. Janice has issues with the first period tardies
 - ii. Scott is starting to crack down on them
 - iii. Increase in kids coming at 7:30
 - iv. NG – for period 1 send email to admin. Want cellphones completely out of sight
- h. Safety – Scott - have ongoing drills, monthly tests of emergency communication systems
 - i. NG and ST going to training for reunification
 - ii. Monthly district safety mtgs, bi-monthly school based mtgs
 - iii. Karlen – how do you monitor all the doors? Are there cameras? Is district supporting the building?
 - 1. Scott – emphasize with students not to leave doors open, Guard does perimeter check, have cameras on doors
 - 2. Doors are not alarmed
 - 3. There are cameras that can see all the doors.
 - 4. Security guards at 2 main doors
 - 5. Sarah - Is there an issue with the students coming and going?
 - 6. Tina – can the guards split up watching the exterior doors on the monitors
 - 7. Down 3 guards – no one applying. Looking at incentives to hire
 - 8. Talk about someone monitoring cameras
- i. NG – low on substitute teachers
 - i. Hired 3 in-house subs – always at HHS
 - ii. Many teachers out sick
 - iii. Some students walk around building if teacher is late
 - iv. Teachers do not have access to students' attendance in other classes for the day so they can not see if there is a pattern of a student skipping classes
- j. NG - To support teachers NG has principal's round table with teachers, certified staff, and non-certified staff from each department who speaks to their department about concerns and needs, and brings those to the discussion. Last two meetings have been about how to fine tune what is going well.

3. Sub-committee reports

- a. Mental Health - Vlcki
 - i. Have not met
 - ii. Left message with Clifford Beers clinician
 - iii. Will set up next meeting
 - iv. Working on Q's they want to address
- b. Career pathways - Susan
 - i. Looking at issues of electives – how it affects freshman, looking at data, how are decisions being made on how and when electives are offered
 - ii. Tracey looked at health class change to freshman
 - 1. Director does not support that move based on data
 - 2. Looking at de-leveling health - will not happen next year
 - iii. Had Q's about programs of study – how are courses developed and offered?
 - 1. NG – looking at creating a program of study and a guide to which classes to take that would relate to area of interest, ie health, culinary, etc
 - 2. NG – want students to have their schedules in hand before school ends
- c. Climate and Culture - Katie
 - i. How to collaborate with and support Dragons United?

1. Potluck dinner not happening due to illnesses
2. Making sure informed about events
3. PTSA hoping to raise money to support student programs and clubs
4. Movie night Dec 22 – half day so can't do
5. Whether feasible to help with SM – not sure if have ability
6. Tracey suggested Liz Marini to help
7. Karlen suggested Elisa and Laurie in media center
8. Tina - are there journalism, publication, IT classes?
9. Scott -can the newspaper link be sent to all students?
10. QR code to electronic paper "The Dial"
11. Tina - Parent Square, can select who info goes to through Power School – one form of communication to all or different school groups. Goes directly to email. Can schedule parent/teacher conferences through this. Streamlines process
12. Is there a tech person at Central Office? Who is public info person?
13. Karlen – need to talk to SI about all this. Needs to be something CO does

d. Equity - Nancy

- i. Did not hear back from SI regarding Equity letter that asked who do we contact when asking certain questions or getting clarification for different policies and decisions
 1. NG – include Linda in followup letter
 2. Nadine should be involved in everything and should know what people are asking or looking for. Can't make policy but can make suggestions regarding policy. Doing work around equitable grading and leveling
 3. Systems issue. Need the 9th grade counselor - did not work without one. Disconnect between HHS and HMS, want to make sure students are placed in classes they can handle
 4. Should not rank students - HHS does it by decile, not rank
 5. NG – want to reorganize GPA process and leveling system
 - a. Tina – what does that look like for the teachers
 - b. GPA in this system not equitable
 - c. All leveling can not go away
 - d. Looking at weight attached to the leveling
 - e. All parties -students, teachers, parents - should be involved
 - f. Committees will be created after first of year
- ii. Decision for gym not being weighted for incoming 9th graders - who made it and how?
 1. Director of PE and CO staff
 2. How are some decisions made one way and others another? Purpose of Equity letter to clarify this
 3. Tracey – decisions done in good faith

4. BOE update - Mariam

- a. Redistricting will be happening
 - i. BOE Workshops happening, public comment sessions
 - ii. Equity issue
 - iii. Want SGC included

5. BOE Meeting

- a. Traffic Commissioner hired – developing traffic calming policy
- b. Karlen wants to talk to them about traffic in front of HS
- c. Need letter from HHSGC

6. Next meeting January 23, 2023 @ 6pm. Subcommittees should meet before next meeting.

7. Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm