

Hamden High School (HHS) School Governance Council (SGC)
Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2023

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

Members Not Present: Tracey Jacobson, Janice Mira-Keenan, Cathy Solomon, Tyika Terrell

Admin Present: Nadine Gannon and Scott Trauner

BOE Representative Present: none

Superintendent Rep Present: none

Guest Speaker: Diana Theriault

1. Welcome – Karlen Meinsen

- a. Called meeting to order at 6:03pm
- b. Approval of December Meeting Minutes
 - i. Sarah motioned to approve meeting minutes. Gina seconded. All in favor
- c. CT Public Act No.10-111
 - i. What is the purpose of the GC? Originated from this law. From CT Association of Boards of Education: Created by State of CT Education Reform Law to enable parents, school staff, students, and community leaders to work together to improve student achievement in the state's lowest performing schools
 1. Analyze school achievement data and school needs relative to the improvement plan for the school.
 2. Reviewing fiscal objectives of the draft budget for the school and providing advice to the principal of the school before such schools budget is submitted to the superintendent of schools.
 3. Participate in the hiring process of school principal or other administrators of the school by conducting interviews with candidates and reporting on such interviews to the superintendent of schools.
 4. Assisting the principal of the school in making programmatic and operational changes for improving the schools achievement, including program changes, adjusting school hours and days of operation and enrollment goals for the school.
 5. Develop and approve a school compact
 - a. Was done several years ago
 - b. Outlined what parent's role is
 - c. Maybe need to resurrect compact, revise, resend, make it accessible digitally
 6. Work with the Principal of the school to develop, conduct, and report an annual survey of the parents, guardians, and teachers on issues related to the school climate and conditions.
 7. Provide advice on any other major policy matters affecting the school to the principal of the school except any matters relating to provisions of any collective bargaining agreement between the exclusive bargaining unit for teachers pursuant to section 10-153b and local or regional boards of education.
 - ii. Need to change our focus as a council to follow these guidelines
- 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, with the following exceptions, shall be subject to a vote of removal from the council. Members who miss a meeting due to illness or other reason for which they have given prior notification to the Chair, shall not have this meeting counted towards their allotted absences. 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. The chair shall notify the member of the vote of removal by email.

- i. Nancy motioned to add this to Bylaws. Tina seconded. All in favor.
- ii. Amendment passed
- iii. Important to have a protocol for this situation because need people to be actively involved

2. Guest Speaker: Diana Theriault - President of the PTA Council

- a. Council made up of Diana and representative from all PTA's in town
- b. In person district wide event at HMS to highlight HMS and HHS. Working with Mrs. Bailey who is working with district leaders. District and PTA supporting with activities
 - i. Purpose is for Hamden elementary parents to see what HMS and HHS has to offer
 - ii. Would like HS students to volunteer. Clubs. Dance team performance. HHS band
 - iii. Planned for Feb 23, but may postpone to late spring or fall. Want more time to plan
- c. Sarah: Great PR event for HHS
- d. Nadine supports this event. Can it be done at the HHS so people can see what HHS has first hand? Can see culinary, nursery school, etc. Spring would be better. Can do activities outside.
- e. Karlen: Have students perform. Food. Cheer team. Sports teams. Musicians. Involve students
- f. Tina: Have it like a carnival with games and interaction that are related to sport and club
- g. Karlen: Town wide art exhibit was at HHS - coordinate with this?
- h. Diana: There will be town wide art exhibit at HMS, but Leslie Della Valle does not want to combine with this. Reach out to her for ideas on this event. Each group will plan its own piece so not overwhelming for one person. Would be happy to move this to HHS, possibly use courtyard. Agree spring will be better - will pick another date
- i. Nadine: Will have another Why Hamden event in October.

3. Principal Remarks - Nadine Gannon

- a. Clifford Beers
 - i. Clinic: 21 active students and 8 new referrals. Running in groups. Providing individual sessions with students
 - ii. Care coordination outside of building with families: 18 referrals, 11 active, 4 assigned
 - iii. CB happy to attend any meeting to present what they are doing. Let them know when
 - iv. Progress monitoring CB: Report to CO. Do communicate with Nadine but she is not in charge of program. Will get info on their progress and how they monitor themselves and the impact they have on the students
- b. Exams going well. Second semester starts on Wednesday with no homeroom. Can find schedule in Google Classroom or PowerSchool
- c. Roll out Program of Study, formerly known as course catalog. Ms. Morbidelli (Tran), Mr Cocchiola and Directors have been working on the document. Looking to go to print. Ms. Gannon just received it to review. More direction for students - a blueprint for their 4 years
- d. Public Act 10-111. Next generation accountability system has been in place for a few years. Just received results from last year. At next PD on Thurs teachers and staff will be looking at trends from last 3 reports. Did not have one 2019-20.
 - i. Category 3 this year. Cat 1 is the best. Were a Cat 2 before pandemic.
 - ii. Chronic absenteeism is major problem.
 - iii. Nadine will send Karlen what each indicator is and how accessed. Model based on growth. Need to look at the data. Teachers need to give opinions on solutions and what to focus on. Doing everything they can to combat absences
 - iv. Karlen: Will take time
 - v. Nadine: Data will look different after this year. Participation is important part. Kids are at a different place this year. Still coming off year of COVID. Willing to sit with sub-committees to discuss
 - vi. Mia: Big difference between last year and this year. Feels more normal. Fewer problems. School climate even better than before COVID
 - vii. Kevin: More calm. Learning how to take midterms
 - viii. Nadine: Striving to be Category 1. Accountability is focus for Superintendent. Used to provide programs for help with SAT - hope to bring these back
 - ix. Nadine: BOE changed the criteria to be able take AP classes. Providing kids more

opportunity to take AP so more kids are exposed to taking a college class. Get points for how many take APs and whether they get a 3, 4 or 5 on AP test

- x. Karlen: need to remember kids who are at other end of the scale - need to talk about programming for those students as well

4. Sub-committee reports

a. Mental Health - Vicki

- i. Talked about Q's want to address with CB. Nadine emailed them and read off answers
- ii. Discussed MH surveys from last year
- iii. Students have concerns:
 - 1. How accessible is CB to students?
 - 2. How are students able to access info regarding program?
 - 3. Who determines who can access it?
 - 4. Referral process?
- iv. Proactive interventions instead of reactive
- v. Description of relationship between CB and HHS
- vi. De-escalation room status? Staffing an issue?
 - 1. Nadine: CB is in room used for it last year. Staffing is a problem.
- vii. Nadine: Teachers, Social workers, Counselors, Psychologists have met with CB and told how to make referrals. PPS staff the ones to make referrals so there is order in process. Will put in writing and have teachers put in Google Classroom so students know about services and how they can get access
- viii. Nadine: All teachers met with CB so know process. Talked about the process with CB and Cornell Scott. Created a tree of services of who and when regarding services. Everyone but the students know how to access them. Nadine will put info on school monitor. Mia to send a reminder

b. Career pathways - Susan

- i. Would like to report next month. Were not able to meet this month
- ii. Q for Nadine: Is Program of Study document ready?
 - 1. Nadine: Not yet. Will be reviewing this week
 - 2. Susan: Will the selection of courses be different? How will it be rolled out?
 - 3. Nadine: Asked for there to be sequencing of courses in area of interest. Will be looking at it tomorrow with directors and Mr. Cocchiola
 - 4. Nadine: Rollout is - teacher recommendation, students going to Powerschool to make selections, families will have a few days to look over courses, juniors meeting with their counselors. Looked at models from other districts
 - 5. Susan: More availability to electives for freshmen would be helpful and having schedule in hand before end of school year

c. Climate and Culture - Katie

- i. Will present at next meeting
- ii. Kevin and Mia went to last Dragons United meeting. Mr. Thomas will let them know how can support

d. Equity - Nancy

- i. Superintendent responded to letter sent by Equity committee. This response prompted more Q's and clarification
 - 1. Karlen sent email to SI asking for clarification of some of his responses
 - a. Who constitutes "HHS Administration"?
 - b. Principal's Roundtable: This is Ms. Gannon's group - does not involve SI or CO. Volunteer - ask for liaison from each department to check-in with their department for concerns.
 - i. Suggested making new bell schedule a few years ago
 - ii. Keep communication open between Nadine and rest of the school
 - iii. Share concerns and ideas

- iv. Problem solving working group - meet monthly
- v. Talk about operational processes
- vi. Not all teachers know who their reps are. Nadine will get list and make sure liaisons are reaching out to whole department
- vii. Meet after school. Informal. Positive
- viii. Teachers can contact Nadine anytime. Don't have to wait for round table to bring up concerns
- ix. Will meet at end of Jan and make sure all departments are represented

- 2. Hope Mr. Highsmith or Ms. Tran can come to next meeting to discuss
- ii. Working on new set of Q's for SI and admin regarding Equity

5. BOE update - Mariam

- a. Not present

6. Future work

- a. Karlen went to traffic authority meeting
 - i. State legislatures are going to look at Dixwell Ave
 - ii. Want to make sure intersection in front of HHS is looked at
 - iii. Traffic calming policy being developed and implemented
 - iv. Intersection of Dixwell and Rt 15 dangerous - will be looked at
 - v. Needs whole redesign
 - vi. Karlen will continue to go to these meetings
- b. Karlen watched policy sub-committee meeting
 - i. Looking to update policies, eliminate those that are unnecessary - thorough sweep
 - ii. No new policies presented
- c. Watch BOE, sub-committee and LC meetings
 - i. Budget: Need to make sure HPS is not flat funded again

7. Next meeting February 13, 2023 @ 6pm. Subcommittees should meet before next meeting.

8. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm