

Hamden High School Governance Council (HHS GC)  
Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2023

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

**Members Not Present:** Julie Stewart, Tyika Terrell

**Admin Present:** Nadine Gannon and Scott Trauner

**BOE Representative Present:** Mariam Kahn

**Superintendent Rep Present:** Gary Highsmith

**Guest Speaker:** Clifford Beers -

### 1. Welcome – Karlen Meinsen

- a. Called meeting to order at 6:06pm
- b. Welcome to Cathy Solomon - new GC member. Christopher Wuerth will be joining as new member but could not make it tonight.
- c. Approval of January Meeting Minutes
  - i. Vicki motioned to approve meeting minutes. Gina seconded. All in favor
- d. Bylaws being revised for digital age: meetings via Zoom, voting online instead of by mail. Will email to all to review and comment
- e. Karlen did training for SGC's on CAFE website. Handed out copy of CT Public Act No. 10-111 that pertains to SGC. Main purposes:
  - i. Overarching purpose: Improve student achievement
  - ii. School climate – safe, nurturing environment. High standards. Emphasis on all students
  - iii. Help make changes to school community
  - iv. Members should build strength for what the GC is doing – advocates for HHS and GC among parents, teachers, community. Need to get positive out there
  - v. Community members do not have to live in Hamden but have to be active in the community
  - vi. Clarity in what trying to accomplish
  - vii. No biases or preconceived notions
  - viii. Active listening. Do thinking at meetings. Participate
  - ix. Always put students first
  - x. Open meetings - we offer ours on Zoom
  - xi. Collaboration. Share knowledge.
- f. Looking at data from Next Generations accountability document – Karlen read through it
  - i. Student is more than a test score - even in community
  - ii. Multiple ways to assess data at high school level
  - iii. Involves all teachers
  - iv. Attendance
  - v. Mental health needs
  - vi. Staff is looking at the data to pinpoint needs, strengths, weaknesses

### 2. Principal Remarks - Nadine Gannon

- a. Continuing discussion on Next Generations accountability document
  - i. Last faculty meeting broke teachers into groups of 20+ teachers, different content areas in each group
  - ii. Looked at indicators and what being assessed on
  - iii. Data about growth, 3 years ago were category 2, after pandemic down to 3 out of 5
  - iv. Staff were given all 12 indicators. Will go back and dig deeper
  - v. Looking at trends for last 3 years and recommendations for improvements
  - vi. ELA - first indicator. Looking at bringing back baseline analysis of where students are
  - vii. Talked about SATs. Used to have after school SAT program and SAT prep course
  - viii. Answer is in the house. May need to bring some programs back

- ix. Absentees still major concern
  - 1. Implemented loss of credit policy
  - 2. Now have 3 clerks for 4 houses – third will focus on attendance. Will make calls home for 3 consecutive absences
- x. SI has brought Next Gen to the table. Focus on it. Looking at moving data based on Next Gen accountability
- b. SRBI coordinator – working on next steps, assessments of students
  - i. Collaboration with 9<sup>th</sup> grade team
  - ii. Ongoing process. Always looking at data
- c. Climate and culture continues to be positive
- d. Data will look different for this year
- e. John H – SRBI – One person is not enough – need more to address issues. Leveling and weighting still an issue. New guide did not address these issues. There was no discussion. Parents need to be part of discussion. Systemic problem. HECA should be its own academy. Issue needs to be addressed. Gateway incoming criteria is HHS outgoing criteria. Ethical issue. HECA is taking teachers that are needed elsewhere. Send students in program to Gateway. Could have kept vocational classes. Need SpEd classes. Should not be teaching these college classes at HHS. Students may be acting out because do not have the classes they need. In 2000 AP was not separate strand. Majority do not take test or do not pass. More kids take these courses and so need more AP teachers which takes away from others.
  - i. Karlen – when staff is looking at data this is the time to work these items out
  - ii. Nadine - leveling is being looked at by Linda Tran. Being looked at deeply. Not where it needs to be
  - iii. John H –Who was consulted on these decisions? Same place 21 years later
  - iv. Karlen – this is the time to look at this. More of a group discussion
- f. Karlen – In Next Gen document had links to solutions and resources
- g. Gary- No truancy officer. Residency officer – checks if they are Hamden residents
  - i. Attendance – January absentee rate down. Parental responsibility. Calls and letters go out. Can't send this to the court.
  - ii. SRBI- looking at it K-12. Title 1 schools have 2<sup>nd</sup> SRBI. Need to see what that looks like.
  - iii. Not teaching reading at HS. Teaching English. Difficult budget season. Reducing positions now. Can Hamden still provide same resources? Can't hire anyone new.
  - iv. Math lab can be an intervention. Need to figure out way to get help during school, not afterschool

### 3. Guest Speaker: Clifford Beers

- a. CB reps: Cora Manzori, Jennifer Charles, Jamila Bello, Alvado Morgan, Rosario Borbosa, Devanna Campbell
- b. System committed to bringing in CB. Providing services to students and families
- c. Passed out referral guide
- d. Care coordination, not clinical, but work in conjunction with each other - best impact. Wrap around approach. Go to family home. Holistic. Try to get to underlying needs. Pull in all supports. Child and family team - have meeting every 30 days. Teach how to advocate. Address basic needs first – food, utility, housing, clothing
- e. Looking at absenteeism as well
- f. 23 referrals for HHS, 12 families actively receiving help.
- g. CB will help decide what kind of services are needed
- h. Referrals done electronically
- i. Address complex needs. Go to home
- j. Nadine – streamlined through SW – they make recommendation
- k. Scott- houses have meeting and discuss if referral needs to be made
- l. Jamila and Jennifer at HHS as Care Coordinators
- m. Alvado at HHS as clinician
- n. List of students that need to be referred - will meet with them
- o. If not in school can't reach in school. Try outreach program
- p. Put up posters. Tried electronic method.

- q. Alvado has 4 students in consultation stage and 21 active. One trauma group formed
- r. Trauma support and services
- s. 5 referrals this past month
- t. Need consent to start - can be a barrier. Need parent to sign off
- u. Can students self-refer? Alvado prefers it goes through SW. Meets with students one-on-one.
- v. Care coordinators are mostly doing home visits.
- w. Not all students have both services, but many do.
- x. If Alvado is full can go to Cornell Scott (CS)
- y. CB work longer school day and all year long
- z. Can continue to meet over the summer.
- aa. Intakes are 90 minutes. Try to meet family where needs are
- bb. How long does it take to get into a student's house? No waitlist currently. Try to engage with family so know what is going on
- cc. IICAPS has a waitlist. Clinician and case manager.
- dd. IICAPS=Intensive in-home and child adolescent psychiatric services
- ee. SW not authorized to do clinical piece so refer to those authorized.
- ff. Gary: Degree of dysregulation not anticipated. Needed to provide clinical services so engaged CB. SW, school psychologist role is not to do clinical services.
- gg. Nadine: Student's team needs to know if they need or want support
- hh. Vicki: Is consulting psychiatric still onboard? No
- ii. CB at HMS
- jj. CB can refer to their psychiatrist
- kk. Can provide many services including Functional Family Therapy
- ll. Nadine: CB presented at faculty meeting
- mm. Mia: met with Alvado, CS, Nadine, SW - making a tree as to who to contact when. Hope to make info available to all students via Google classroom
- nn. Nadine: Families are aware of services
- oo. Cathy: What if a student refuses help?
  - i. Could speak to Alvado directly and he helps with referral
- pp. Karlen: CB should attend more staff meetings so staff are continually aware they are available. Should be a trauma informed school. Trauma always shows up
- qq. CB offers Professional Dev training opportunities for staff.
- rr. Gary: many opportunities to learn about CB and why there. Fortunate to have CB, CS, SW, School Psychologists
- ss. Nadine: HHS had many losses over the year/summer and CB was here. Providing opportunities.

#### 4. Sub-committee reports

- a. Mental Health - Vicki
  - i. CB presentation
- b. Career Pathways - Susan
  - i. Will follow up with Linda Tran about Qs they have
  - ii. Leveling, equity, course selection
- c. Climate and Culture - Katie
  - i. Will present at next meeting
- d. Equity - Nancy
  - i. Focused on policy for grades and participating in Athletics and Fine Arts events - make it more stringent than the CIAC requirements which are in the Green and Gold Guide. Want to make a statement that academics are the most important aspect of HS
  - ii. John H - Students need to be held accountable for grades. Was always a one "F" rule. Now students have up to 4 "F's" - maybe because of pandemic. Colleges look at their grades and students need to know this at outset of HS
  - iii. Tracey – policy now that no student can play with 4-5 "F's". Football team having great success with after school tutoring program. Coach holds the students accountable weekly. Have success with academic progress
  - iv. John – Knows students who played football who are in this situation. Students not

required to go to tutoring program. Has student sit out until grades are brought up. There are not checks and balances.

- v. Tracey - Are you looking to put in policy different than the CIAC's?
- vi. Nadine – We already have a different one - student can not play if have more than 1 “F”. Changed back to this since pandemic. If 2 “F’s” off the team. Many students had to hand in stuff this week. Are we proposing no “F’s”?
- vii. Karlen - Currently, student can have 1 “F” and 3 “D’s” so focused also on GPA.
- viii. Tina – Checks and balances during semester, not just at time of report card
- ix. Tracey - What if a student did not turn in an assignment and has an F that week?
- x. John – Student would be benched until grade comes up
- xi. Tracey – policy should include supports. Some students need the sport to stay engaged in school. Shouldn't just be consequences
- xii. John – would be a time out for students to get support and get situation under control. Coaches can be abusive and can use students to have a winning team.
- xiii. Vicki - If committee wants policy to be more stringent - do you know what it is yet?
- xiv. Tina – Make sure all coaches are checking.
- xv. Scott – some coaches are not in school.
- xvi. John- not all coaches do the same work. Athletic Dir should be checking. Some coaches allow the multiple “F’s” some do not - inconsistent
- xvii. Karlen - Take look at inconsistencies, write up policy
- xviii. Nancy - started writing policy. Don't know all the parts or everything that is going on so it is challenging
- xix. Nadine – Could be challenging because could be inconsistent among teachers' grading and assignment and equity of that. Participating in sport or activity is privilege not a right. Teachers need to update grade book within 5 days. Likes standard being high. Need to work out details to get accurate grade.
- xx. Nancy - Don't necessarily want the student off the team. Want grade brought up before they can continue to play. If there are coaches that are not teachers, how do they monitor the grades?
- xxi. Scott - Not sure
- xxii. Nancy - Is the athletic director monitoring it?
- xxiii. Talk to Mr. Dyer – invite him to the next Equity meeting

## **5. BOE update - Mariam**

- a. Will email report

## **6. Future work**

- a. N/A

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

8. Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm