

Hamden High School Governance Council (HHS GC)  
Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2023

**Members Present** (alphabetical order): Tina DeAmicis,,John Hanna, Tracey Jacobson, Charleen Lazaro, Karlen Meinsen, Kevin Mensah, Janice Mira-Keenan, Gina Parillo, Susan Schultheiss, Vicki Simiola, Chris Weurth

**Admin Present:** Eric Jackson, Scott Trauner

**BOE Representative Present:** none

**Superintendent Rep Present:** Gary Highsmith

**1. Greeting – Karlen Meinsen**

- a. Called meeting to order at 6:03pm.
- b. Reminder of the mission and purpose of the Council
- c. Tina DeAmicis will be taking on role of vice-chair, and Susan Schultheiss will move into role of secretary

**2. Hamden High School Update – Principal Jackson**

- a. Principal Jackson updated the Council on the beginning of the school year, which he feels is “off to an amazing start”. Students are responding well to routines. Four assemblies have been held, and students made aware of available resources.
- b. In terms of Academics, there will be classroom walkthroughs on a monthly basis, with focus on learning targets and student discourse.
- c. In terms of Operations, Mr. Jackson emphasized drop off and pick procedures. There are still vacancies for Spanish, Culinary, and Marketing. The Math specialist position will not be refilled. Next week will be Safety Week, and Open House will be held on 9/21.
- d. In terms of Community, Principal Jackson spoke about upcoming Hispanic Heritage Month, and trying to bring the PRIDE poster “to life”.
- e. The suggestion was made to post all presentations made at student assemblies to each year’s Google Classroom (e.g. Class of 2025).
- f. Follow-up questions were asked about ALICE training and number of security guards (10).
- g. Karlen requested clarification on voting for the open student slot on the Council. Suggestion was made to include voting in the next Advisory meeting at HHS – early October.

**3. Announce Subcommittees – Karlen Meinsen**

- a. There will be 3 subcommittees this year: 1) School Achievement/Leveling Subcommittee; 2) School Data and Climate Subcommittee; and 3) Parent Involvement/Outreach Subcommittee
- b. Karlen listed requirements for the subcommittees – choosing a chair, keeping brief minutes and attendance for each meeting. The chair will share information from the subcommittee at each full Council meeting.
- c. After discussion about equity being embedded in the mission of each subcommittee, the Council agreed that it needed to be made more explicit. The Council agreed that each subcommittee’s first task will be to add language to show how equity will be focussed on in that subcommittee.
- d. Prior to choosing subcommittees, other issues were raised and discussed: policy decisions being made outside of policy committees; changes to Special Ed

learning strategies classes, and lack of promised Special Ed curriculum.

- e. Council members selected the following Subcommittees:
  - i. School Achievement/Levelling: Tracey Jacobson (chair), Sharleen Lazaro, Janice Mira-Keenan, Chris Wuerth, Kevin Mensah, Vicki Simiola, John Hanna, Gina Parillo
  - ii. School Data and Climate: Susan Schultheiss (chair), Tina DeAmicis, John Hanna
  - iii. Parent Involvement/Outreach: Tina DeAmicis (chair), Karlen Meinsen.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25.