

Hamden High School Governance Council (HHS GC)
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2023

Members Present (alphabetical order): Tina DeAmicis, Crystal Fields, John Hanna, Charleen Lazaro, Karlen Meinsen, Kevin Mensah, Janice Mira-Keenan, Gina Parillo, Heather Porto, Susan Schultheiss, Chris Weurth

Admin Present: Eric Jackson, Scott Trauner, Loretha Felton

BOE Representative Present: none

Superintendent Rep Present: Gary Highsmith

1. Greeting – Karlen Meinsen

- a. Called meeting to order at 6:07pm.
- b. Reminder of the mission and purpose of the Council. Karlen emphasized that data is a priority.
- c. Approval of minutes: Motion to approve made by Janice Mira-Keenan, seconded by Principal Jackson

2. Hamden High School Update – Principal Jackson

- a. Nov. 1 is the end of the first marking period. Leadership team meets once/week. They look at D and F reports, behaviors, students who are struggling.
- b. Recently had 3 hour PD. Looked at social/emotional questionnaire that will be administered Nov. 14. Also worked on clarity in teacher learning targets and increasing engagement through discourse.
- c. PSAT will be administered Oct 17. Some seniors will be going off campus for college/career exploration.
- d. Teacher conferences held last week.
- e. PBIs committee met. Goal is teaching desired behaviors and good decision-making, which is part of building a positive school culture.. Committee is developing ways to incentivize this. Tina DeAmicis gave summary of committee work, including giving out tickets to be redeemed in January for schoolwide event.
- f. There will be a student/staff/parent survey on school climate. This will be used as baseline data. Follow up question on whether there will be a post survey?
- g. Homecoming Dance is coming up, with food provided by culinary students, and the pep rally on 11/22.

3. Subcommittee share out

- a. Data Subcommittee developed this mission statement: The overarching goal of our committee is, through data collection and analysis, to identify, acknowledge, and propose solutions to inequities that create barriers to student success. Subcommittee also began its discussion on what data currently exists, and what data it would be possible to start collecting.
- b. Leveling Subcommittee: Did not meet.
- c. Parent Involvement/outreach Subcommittee: Beginning to look at updating student compact. Discussion on social media presence, to emphasize the many positive things happening at HHS. Would need a point person for this. Principal Jackson added that this would probably need to be a stipend. Superintendent Highsmith commented that he is currently working with legal counsel on this issue to address all liability issues. Tina DeAmicis stated that she has an

excellent model from a school in Florida.

- d. Superintendent Highsmith spoke about Legislative Council meeting he was attending on funding for new boilers and roof. Also, chromebooks are breaking or are too old and can't handle new software and will need to start being replaced.

4. **Data Presentation/Discussion**

- a. Principal Jackson provided a handout: "Patterns and Trends from Deep Data Dive: Standardized Assessments. The handout contained data from 2019-2023, and included SAT, NGSS, Attendance, and Chronic Absenteeism.
- b. Trends/issues identified during meeting:
 - i. Need data correction for second half of second page (male, female, high-needs);
 - ii. Science scores have increased
 - iii. Chronic absenteeism is very high for seniors. There was a discussion of how coding absences could inflate this percentage. Discussion on whether there was a correlation between this high rate and graduation rates. Principal Jackson stated that the goal is 92-94% daily attendance rate.
 - iv. John Hanna voiced his concerns about lack of special ed curriculum and 20 minute classes.
 - v. Principal Jackson: Goal is to have HHS scores exceed state average within the next 2 years.
 - vi. Principal Jackson spoke about how admin is looking at ways to be creative with building space and student needs. For example, he is exploring ways to repurpose the old woodshop area to perhaps be an in-house alternative program. Other ideas being looked at: forging partnership with fire, EMT, police in terms of career exploration; developing an AP Capstone Diploma program. Overall, we need to make school relevant to all students.

5. Future Work/Watchdog: This agenda item was not addressed due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Schultheiss