

Hamden High School Governance Council (HHS GC)  
Meeting Minutes  
November 20, 2023

**Members Present** (alphabetical order): Tina DeAmicis, John Hanna, Tracey Jacobson, Karlen Meinsen, Kevin Mensah,, Gina Parillo, Heather Porto, Aryan Singla, Susan Schultheiss, Chris Weurth

**Admin/HHS staff:** Eric Jackson, Loretha Felton

**BOE Representative Present:** none

**Superintendent Rep Present:** None

**1. Greeting – Karlen Meinsen**

- a. Called meeting to order at 6:05pm.
- b. Karlen reported that two members have resigned: Janice Mira-Keenan and Vicki Simiola. There are now 2 teacher vacancies, 1 parent vacancy, and 1 community member.
- c. Approval of minutes: Motion to approve made by Tina DeAmicis, seconded by Gina Parillo

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

- a. First quarter has ended. Admin team has compiled a list of students with one or more F's Admin team is looking at attendance, behaviors, and grades to identify students who are in need. The goal is to reduce the number of Fs and increase attendance. There were hundreds of students on this list, particularly 9th graders.
- b. Counselors will be doing a presentation on credits.
- c. In process of forming a schoolwide attendance team that will focus on chronic absenteeism
- d. An assembly for seniors will be held shortly on FAFSA, and information will be given to parents as well. This is being organized by Ms. Felton.
- e. Why Hamden event is scheduled for January (specific date TBD).
- f. Principal Jackson is looking into bringing the AP Capstone Diploma Program to HHS.

**3. Subcommittee share out**

- a. Parent Involvement/Outreach Subcommittee: The Subcommittee revised the School Compact for Achievement and provided copies for the full Council to read and comment on. Council members provided specific feedback on several of the bullets, and asked questions on what it meant to “provide interim reports to students and families regarding academic progress”. The Subcommittee will next revise the Contract based on the feedback received.
- b. School Data Subcommittee: The subcommittee met this month to prioritize data needs. The top need identified was attendance, and the Subcommittee will be providing Principal Jackson with a list of data questions. Principal Jackson invited the Subcommittee to be part of the attendance committee that is being formed to look at chronic absenteeism. The subcommittee also looked at the decline in math scores.
- c. Leveling Subcommittee: The subcommittee looked at a range of issues that were discussed in this order: 1) Student access to GPA. One recommendation was that students should have access to their GPA at the end of each marking period; 2) Use of Naviance. It was reported that it is an expensive program that

is currently being underutilized. 3) Leveling of electives, including health. Some electives have prerequisites. Is this equitable? Can health be unleveled? This was discussed last year as well. 4) Class rank. Some highschools have done away with it. What are the pros and cons of this? Question that needs to be discussed further is whether leveling is best for students?

Next meeting is scheduled for December 18.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Schultheiss