

Hamden High School Governance Council (HHS GC)
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2023

Members Present (alphabetical order): Tina DeAmicis, John Hanna, Sharleen Lazaro, Karlen Meinsen, Kevin Mensah, Donald Moses, Aryan Singla, Susan Schultheiss, Chris Wuerth

Admin/HHS staff: Eric Jackson, Scott Trauner

BOE Representative Present: None

Superintendent Rep Present: None

1. Greeting – Karlen Meinsen

- Called meeting to order at 6:05pm.
- Karlen welcomed a new community member, Donald Moses. Melissa Kaplan will be joining as the BOE rep but was unable to attend tonight due to prior commitment. The SGC is still in need of one more parent and teacher.
- Approval of minutes: Motion to approve made by Tina DeAmicis, seconded by Chris Wuerth

❖ **Hamden High School Update – Principal Jackson**

- Academics: Upcoming professional learning session will continue to focus on equity, discourse, and rigor. Also planning ahead for January and the beginning of the course selection process for next year.
- Math teacher will be leaving as of the end of December. A new English teacher and culinary teacher has been hired, and the admin is looking to interview 2 marketing teachers.
- Mr. Jackson and Mr. Trauner held their second attendance team meeting, and will be aligning with the SGC subcommittee. One area that will be addressed is coding of absences. Also, the district has purchased a digital platform, Everyday Labs Pro that will allow HHS to look at attendance data, reasons, and obstacles.
- There was a discussion on parent accountability/working with parents and families. Comments/questions: role of DCF, capacity of HCLC, efficacy of home visits. There is currently no truancy officer. Director of Security, counselors, APs all do home visits.

❖ **Subcommittee share out**

- **Leveling Subcommittee:** Minutes from 11/20 subcommittee meeting were shared. Following topics were discussed again:
 - GPA and class rank. Should class rank be eliminated? Other schools in the area have done this (Hand, Branford, Amity).
 - Health class is leveled. If health is unleveled and also offered to freshmen, this would help scheduling issues for 9th and 10th graders. This issue has been addressed numerous times by the SGC. Principal Jackson stated that conversations have been had on this issue, and that there need to be fewer study halls.
 - Discussion on consolidating/combining levels for electives, and whether there need to be prerequisites for some electives. Mr. Hanna asked whether deleveling will increase or decrease equity?

- **School Data Subcommittee:** The subcommittee met with Principal Jackson before today's meeting. Answers to questions that the subcommittee submitted earlier in December will be available soon
- **Parent Involvement/Outreach Subcommittee:** Karlen brought 100 copies of the updated School Compact.

4 Next Steps

- Principal Jackson suggested that the SGC pick one issue at a time, and dive into it deeply at future meetings. The Council selected **class rank** as the first topic. What are the arguments for and against? What does the research say? The goal is for all members to come to the January 22 meeting prepared to discuss. Recommendation was made to look into inviting Coordinator of Counseling to present to the group at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16

Respectfully submitted by Susan Schultheiss