

Hamden High School Governance Council (HHS GC)  
Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2024

**Members Present** (alphabetical order): Tina DeAmicis, Crystal Fields, John Hanna, Tracey Jacobson, Sharleen Lazaro, Karlen Meinsen, Kevin Mensah,, Heather Porto, Susan Schultheiss, Chris Wuerth

**Admin/HHS staff:** Eric Jackson, Scott Trauner. Loretha Felton, Brooke Stanziale

**BOE Representative Present:** Melissa Kaplan

**Superintendent Rep Present:** None

**1. Greeting – Karlen Meinsen**

- Called meeting to order at 6:05pm.
- Karlen welcomed Melissa Kaplan as the new Board of Ed rep. Principal Jackson introduced Brooke Stanziale, Coordinator of Counseling and Career Pathways.
- Approval of minutes: Motion to approve made by Chris Wuerth, seconded by Tracey Jacobson.

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

- Academics: Midterms have just started, after having been pushed back one day. Day 1 was successful.
- Why Hamden High event was held, with about 200 attending. For next year, will look at other feeder schools in addition to HMS. Karlen suggested looking into doing future events earlier in year, before private school process has begun.
- Brooke Stanziale gave update on master schedule. Scheduling process for next year has begun. Group discussion on : 1)getting information about which courses fill up and need additional sections/teachers; 2) having more guidance for students and families on choosing courses and electives that align with career pathways. Question was asked whether there are assessments for students that can help identify what they are passionate about and skilled at, and identify potential careers. Naviance was again mentioned as an important tool that is underutilized.

❖ **Subcommittee share out**

- **Leveling Subcommittee:** Met via Zoom on January 8th to discuss class rank
- Subcommittee members conducted their own research and also had guest speaker. The consensus was that there were far more cons than pros in keeping class rank. The subcommittee discussed class rank in terms of equity issues, negative impact on students, and potential limitation on course selection if students feel they need to select courses at a certain level. Most colleges do their own GPA calculations out of 4.0. The subcommittee recommended a motion to discontinue the practice of reporting class rank for the 2024-2025 school year. Principal Jackson asked the subcommittee to submit a formal recommendation at the next meeting that includes the merits of both sides, so that he can bring it back to the school and district.

- **School Data Subcommittee:** Met on Jan. 22, prior to SGC meeting. Principal Jackson had provided answers to some of our attendance data questions. Chronic absenteeism has decreased from 31% to 21% when comparing December 2022 to December 2023. Pre-pandemic rate was 17%. The subcommittee posed question of what is HHS's ultimate goal for attendance? Are additional staff needed to accomplish this? Principal Jackson stated that they are looking right now on the 53 "ultra absent" students. Question was raised on how many of these students are no longer in district.
- **Parent Involvement/Outreach Subcommittee:** No update.

#### **4 Other topics**

- .Melissa Kaplan gave an update on HECA program status. Current students are grandfathered in and Gateway will honor its commitment to those students.
- Chris Wuerth stated that he had not received a response to his email regarding student access to their GPA. Admin stated that this will be looked into.
- Budget process for next year has begun. This is an opportunity to advocate for what HHS needs and to support equity.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18

Respectfully submitted by Susan Schultheiss