

School Governance Council Meeting Minutes September 22, 2025

Date: September 22, 2025

In attendance: Eric Jackson, Tina DeAmicis, Chris Wuerth, John Hanna, Lorelee Crowder, Emily McClain, Muriel Drake, Sharleen Lazaro, Faith Howard, Loretha Franklin, Margret Otieno, Mubarra Elahee

Meeting called to order: 6:05 PM

Adjourned: 7:00 PM

Welcome & Introductions

- Meeting began with introductions and review of agenda.
- Emphasis on starting and ending meetings on time.

School Updates

- **Busy Start to the Year:** Freshman orientation in August; teachers led relationship-building lessons during extra orientation days.
- **Class Assemblies:** Shared updates and expectations for being active members of the school community.
- **Open House:** Successful turnout; future consideration for families with multiple students' schedules.
- **Safety Week:** Included announcements and practice drills for various security scenarios.
- **Staffing:** Currently fully staffed; hiring a dean of students for the 9th grade team.
- **Enrollment:** Down ~70 students from last year; current enrollment just over 1,600.

9th Grade Focus

- Data review from last year revealed concerning trends.
- New supports include:
 - Daily common planning time for 9th grade teaching team.
 - House model with administrator, 2 guidance counselors, social worker, and psychologist.
 - Priorities: academic progress, attendance, and reduced suspensions.
- **Attendance:**
 - First period attendance flagged as a problem.
 - Pilot schedule rotation (first three periods rotate: ABCD) aims to spread out absences and improve energy levels.
 - Data collection underway to measure effectiveness.

Student Behavior & Discipline

- Shift toward teachers managing tardiness to free administrators for building presence.
- Clarifying **minor vs. major infractions**; collecting data on interventions.
- Restoring instructional time lost to misbehavior is a key goal.

Middle School Alignment

- New middle school principal (Mr. Trauner) prioritizing preparation for high school expectations.
- Concerns raised about social promotion in middle school and lack of alignment with credit-earning requirements in high school.
- Need to strengthen executive functioning skills before 9th grade.
- Future SGC discussion: supports for students not meeting promotion benchmarks at earlier levels.

Governance Council Business

- Review of **bylaws**: Council advises principal on improving student achievement.
- Terms: up to 4 consecutive two-year terms.
- **Officer Roles**: Faith & Lorelee (Co-Chairs), Tina (Secretary), Charlene (Timekeeper).
- Next meeting: **October 27, 2025**.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- SIP established last year; previously absent.
- Goal: finalize by October 27, 2025.
- Areas of focus:
 - Math, English, and Science achievement
 - Attendance rates
 - Discipline rates
 - ELL supports
 - High-need student supports
- Action: develop **SMART goals** and measurable steps for improvement.

Other Business

- **Student Success**: Loretha emphasized CT RISE priorities and need to exit “low performing school” designation.
- **Cell Phone Policy**: Concerns about enforcement; importance of consistent expectations and data collection.
- **Late Games**: Faith raised concerns about students arriving home at 11 PM and resulting tardiness; explore rescheduling options.

NEASC Accreditation

- Emily & Tina are co-chairs of NEASC self-reflection process.
- Five overarching standards (school culture, learning, supports, resources).
- All staff assigned to committees; steering committee in place.
- Surveys sent to students, staff, families—need higher parent response rate.
- Process:
 - Review foundational elements and evidence.
 - Collect and select best artifacts.
 - Draft narratives for self-reflection.
 - Visiting committee will validate findings.
- SGC will stay engaged and informed throughout process.

Action Items / Next Steps:

- Finalize SIP at October 27th meeting.
- Collect and review 9th grade attendance and tardiness data.
- Increase parent survey responses for NEASC.
- Explore options for athletic game scheduling.