

Hamden High School (HHS) School Governance Council (SGC)  
Meeting Minutes  
April 25, 2022, 6pm (on Zoom)

**Members Present** (alphabetical order): Frank Dixon, John Donahue, Katie Gurski, John Hanna, Mia Hoffman-Kamrat, Elizabeth (Liz) Marini, Karlen Meinsen, Kevin Mensah, Nancy Restivo, Susan Schultheiss, Julie Stewart, Tykia Terrell, Judite Vamvakides

**Admin Present:** Nadine Gannon

**Members Not Present:** Andrew Hull, Vicki Simiola

**Guests:** none

**BOE Representative:** Mariam Khan

**1. Welcome – Frank Dixon**

- a. Called meeting to order at 6:10pm

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Nancy Restivo**

- a. Susan motioned to approve the March meeting minutes. Karlen seconded. All in favor.

**3. Principal's Remarks – Nadine Gannon**

- a. SAT and NGSS (Science Test) completed this week for juniors. Working on make-ups for students who missed it
- b. May is AP testing month
- c. BOE student representative position: 25 students applied. Superintendent makes the decision
- d. Blood Drive: 18 pints
- e. 8<sup>th</sup> grade tours on April 12 and 14
- f. Earth Day was April 14 in the courtyard
- g. Parent/teacher conferences will be virtual – Central Office (CO) decision
- h. Equity work with Dr. LaSalle of UCONN
  - i. Prof Development day on Thursday will focus on PBIS and look at rules and regulations
- i. Implemented 9<sup>th</sup> grade credit retention program 2 weeks ago
  - i. M,T,W afterschool
  - ii. Provides students an opportunity to pass
- j. Credit recovery for 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade
  - i. M,T, W afterschool
- k. Final will happen – content from Quarters 3&4
  - i. ½ days
  - ii. Nadine has requested they start on 5/14, T-F of that week and following M,T,W be for additional support for struggling students
- l. Proposing summer school program for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders – they can earn ½ credit to get acclimated to HS, 4 weeks, 30-40 students
- m. Alternative programming – need to know what is happening
- n. COVID #'s are rising

- o. Karlen:
  - i. Changes in last 6 years have not been for the better – dress code, rules and discipline policy, cell phone usage, adults have no authority, standards
  - ii. Credit recovery program: If students can't come or participate during the day why would they come afterschool? Cost?
- p. Nadine:
  - i. HHS teachers in CRP making same as if covering a class
  - ii. BOE decides dress code, Nadine shared concerns about changes with BOE
  - iii. Cell phone policy: Teacher needs to tell students their policy
    - 1. Distraction during academic time. Working with PBIS to address this. Seeking advice from SI and BOE
  - iv. Does not know if metal detectors are staying. Admin and teachers are there for 1 hour every morning to deal with this.
  - v. Students in attendance in recovery program are in school during the day, they are just not passing
  - vi. Will be meeting with SI about attendance – wants to update policy. It's hard to have a policy with COVID
- q. Susan: What % actually doing credit recovery program?
- r. Nadine: Call home, Mandatory attendance. Will get number
- s. Susan: Who targeting for summer program?
- t. Nadine: Targeting those who have been struggling in 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- u. John H: Suggested cell phone policy for the hallway
- v. Nadine: Working on that at PD on Thursday

#### 4. Board of Education Report - Mariam Khan

- a. Hamden Heroes
- b. Superintendent Awards
- c. Considering weighing exams and college prep with skill building and creativity – how rebuild post-covid, being supportive without sacrificing rigor and growth for students without lowering bar for students
- d. Credit retention and summer school
- e. Dress code and cell phone policies before Mariam came on board, need to foster better culture
- f. Not sure if metal detectors are staying – need policy, unfair to staff
- g. Superintendent selection
  - i. Consultant meeting this week
  - ii. Would like more of the community involved
  - iii. Need vision and long term policies
  - iv. How selected? Need to be held accountable, how work with SI
- h. BOE student applications
  - i. Current student rep spoke about racism
  - ii. Needs more support/ another student rep
- i. Budget reviewed month ago – flat funded, needs to go through finance committee

- j. Plans to visit HHS soon
- k. Frank D: Fortunate to have our BOE rep reporting in to us
- l. Karlen asked what support the student rep needs
  - i. Mariam: Only one rep, check-in with her, and invite to meetings
  - ii. Nadine: Wants a 2<sup>nd</sup> rep, which is a BOE decision. Next year there will be two - a senior and junior
- m. Karlen asked that a HHS SGC member be a part of the SI search committee. Mariam agrees with that request and will work on it

## **5. Council and Administrative Remarks – Liz Marini**

- a. May is usually our last meeting
- b. Frank D and Liz leaving. Need to elect/nominate new president for next year. If interested contact Liz or Nancy
- c. Have June meeting to set up election
- d. Need to recruit new parent and teacher members now
- e. Ask Ms. Cogan at HMS to send message out to rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents
- f. (2) two year terms allowed
- g. Can newly elected shadow current president? Past president always available for questions via email. Shared drive & shared docs turned over
- h. Will place notice in HHS Dragon Update for parent and teacher positions
- i. Last meeting will be June 13 @ 6pm via Zoom

## **6. Committees Review**

- a. Education/ Counseling - John Donohue
  - i. Did not meet but focusing on data collection for afterschool recovery program
- b. Safety/ Operations/ Communication
  - i. Joined with Mental Health Committee
- c. Mental Health /Supports - Karlen
  - i. Went over student survey results
  - ii. New CT law: Mental Health days for students
  - iii. Need more MH support: Social worker or psychologist for regular education students
  - iv. Students need Guidance counselor to be consistent all 4 years
  - v. Grading policy for participation in sports needs to be revised to not allow student who have 4/5 F's to play
  - vi. Alternative Programming outside of HHS needed for behavior and vocational
  - vii. Decisions on grading should be discussed as a committee
  - viii. Need to be involved in SI search
  - ix. Need to draft follow-up letter regarding MH advisor for district. We received no follow-up response from initial letter. Want to include need for regular education social worker and grading policy
  - x. Frank D: Jody came to a meeting as response
  - xi. Nadine: Can't participate in sports if failing classes. Need to pass 4
  - xii. John H: Rule was 1 F policy. CICA policy is need to pass 4 but if

- taking 7 can fail 3. HHS needs to be clear on policy and should go back to 1 F policy
- xiii. Nadine: This is a conversation with SI and CO. Was changed because of the pandemic but want to go back to pre-pandemic policy. Will talk to Mr. Dyer regarding this
  - xiv. John H: Shouldn't follow CICA policy. Kids need better grades and higher GPA. HHS policy should support that
  - xv. Frank D: What more can SGC do?
  - xvi. Karlen: Sent letter at beginning of year. Need human resources for MH. Answer to initial letter in writing. Where is COVID money?
  - xvii. Frank D: Will resend initial letter
- d. School Promotion/ School Climate - Katie
- i. Julie joined this committee
  - ii. Made action plan
  - iii. Will meet with Admin this week on how to move forward with ideas
  - iv. Spirit week with "Spirit Hallways" suggested for May 16-20
  - v. Teacher/student event during Pep Rally
  - vi. DJ Fridays – 50 cent donation for Karaoke during lunch
  - vii. Each class design class t-shirt and wear at Pep Rally – working on where to order them
  - viii. Hype up Spirit hallways

## **7. New Business**

- a. Seniors exempt from final if have A
- b. Tyika: How do students get recognized/selected?
  - i. SI student of the month recommended by teachers
  - ii. Student of the month for HHS coming back next year. Parents come for breakfast to celebrate nominated students
  - iii. Current awards for seniors only via recommendation
  - iv. Senior scholarships
  - v. Many awards have a criteria
- c. June meeting
  - i. If interested in being president contact Liz or Frank by 5/9. Will chose at May meeting
  - ii. Liz and Nancy will do timeline for applying and electing new members. Want new members by June meeting
- d. Karlen asked that we stay on top of SI search and that we reach out to have member on that committee. Wants transparency with process

## **8. Adjournment – Liz Marini**

- a. Nancy made motion to adjourn meeting at 7:25pm. Katie seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting May 16 at 6pm