

Hamden High School (HHS) School Governance Council

Minutes: April 20th, 2020 (on Zoom)

Members Present: Frank Dixon, Principle Nadine Gannon, Corinne Castro, Erica Tamsin, Evelyn Cumberbatch, Nancy Restivo, Greg Theriault
(Please Note: this member-present list was not noted at the time of the meeting; this is a reconstructed list in Sept-Oct 2020 and thus may not contain all members who were present; apologies to anyone present who was not included.)

- 1) Welcome & Housekeeping - *Frank Dixon*
 - a) Discussion of whether to keep recording; Frank said probably not good; Erica brought up that students here, so not so good; decided to just keep minutes
- 2) Approval of Minutes (Nov, 2019 & Jan 2020) – *Corinne Castro*
- 3) Principals Update – *Mrs. Gannon*
 - a) Getting on-line; handing out laptops, getting Wi-Fi to all
 - b) Monitoring attendance everyday
 - c) Focusing on 20-30 kids in each grade who are not FU as of 2 weeks ago; now after vacation will see how doing
 - i) Corinne asked if skews towards certain demographic; Ms. Gannon said that she has not seen data on this; will get answer for her; kids who were disengaged before are disengaged now
 - ii) Question about homelessness and food insecurity; has not heard about students becoming homeless, but more and more people coming to get food, so struggling more
 - d) Academic Changes:
 - i) Cancelling Finals
 - ii) Re-weighting this year
 - (1) Prior to Co-Vid 19; Pass/Fail – (NCAA) Pass would be lowest passing grade; but yesterday Pass would be 2.3 – but if lower GPA then would not use it.
 - (2) State all over with this; school thinking about how can best serve kids – thinking about keeping numerical grades and having much input from teacher
 - e) Gannon – keeping contact: calling all kids/families (20 per night), and her videos
 - f) Will be sending out coaching to help teachers with figuring out the work load to assign
 - g) Timing:
 - i) Prom Postponed; when Lamont moved open date to 5/20, looked at 5 open dates in August
 - h) Graduation – try everything not to have virtual graduation; doesn't see in-person happening soon; commissioner of education – all decisions are local, but consult Lamont's emergency declaration; consider options including postponement, virtual, how to recognize students
 - (1) Reached out to Central Office staff to survey families what possible
 - (2) Get feedback from Mayor and Board chair
 - (3) Thinking hear V, S, Mayor, Principle; and hear name called; if not allowed to come together.
 - (4) Also consider curbside graduation; shut down Dixwell
- 4) Board of Education Report

- a) No one here from BoE
- 5) BOE Equity Board Report
 - a) BOE Equity Meeting
 - b) Committee
 - i) Frank updates on last meeting; Saturday, round-table, with many factions of the town (fireman, etc...); head of meeting is gathering info
- 6) Subcommittee Reports
 - a) EDUCATION/COUNSELING –
 - i) Nancy spoke; focused on issues for CV situation
 - (1) Committee met to discuss grading during corona- discussed Pass/Fail issue; came to consensus that having Pass with distinction is option for the A/B students
 - (2) Prior to CV – were discussing vertical alignment of curriculum
 - (a) Erica discussed about more collaboration among grade levels to try to increase coordination in CV situation
 - b) SAFETY/OPERATIONS
 - i) Mark spoke (sorry, didn't catch)
 - c) COMMUNICATION
 - i) Erica reached out to Christ Palombo – about sign in front of HHS; have been able to put electronic signage in front of building, but not optimal; Ms. Gannon said looked into it and it would be \$40,000 – Frank asked where can see one – North Branford, Cheshire, Wilbur Cross, Hill House
 - d) MENTAL HEALTH/SUPPORTS
 - i) Eve spoke about a MH SC meeting that occurred 3/10/20 covering:
 - (1) General Thoughts about what MH SC should address
 - ii) What has been/Is being done/Needs to be done at HHS regarding MH that MH SC can assist with
 - iii) Some Identified Issues to Address and a To Do List
 - 1. (Minutes available upon request)
 - e) SCHOOL PROMOTION/SCHOOL CLIMATE
 - i) Question if any clubs active at this time? Ms. Gannon said that she would check it out – Hamden not allowing Zoom/on-line meeting platform
 - f) GUIDANCE
 - i) Corinne – reached out to Dan Cocchiola – to discuss student scholarships (page was 2019, not 2020); he said he would get out the opportunities; she expressed disappointment and concern about guidance – kids had 2 weeks to work on them
 - g) BUDGET
 - i) Eve spoke about Budget SC meeting that occurred 3/13/20 covering:
 - (1) Goals of Budget SC
 - (2) Preliminary To Do List
 - 1. (Minutes available upon request)
- 7) Old Business – see above

8) New Business – see above

9) Adjournment – *Frank Dixon*