

Hamden High School (HHS) School Governance Council (SGC)

Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2022, 6pm (on Zoom)

Members Present (alphabetical order): Frank Dixon, John Hanna, Mia Hoffman-Kamrat, Andrew Hull, Liz Marini, Karlen Meinsen, Kevin Mensah, Nancy Restivo, Susan Schultheiss, Vicki Simiola, Julie Stewart

Admin Present: Nadine Gannon, Scott Trauner

Members Not Present: John Donohue, Katie Gurski, Tykia Terrell, Judite Vamvakides

Guests: none

BOE Representative: Mariam Khan - not present

1. Welcome – Liz Marini

- a. Called meeting to order at 6:04pm
- b. Frank Dixon moving to St. Thomas

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Nancy Restivo

- a. Susan motioned to approve the May meeting minutes. Julie seconded. All in favor.

3. Principal's Remarks – Nadine Gannon

- a. Exams start tomorrow and all week
 - i. Next week for students who need to do makeup work
- b. Vigil for Elijah was last Thurs from 7:30-9:00
 - i. Invitation only
 - ii. Portrait by student
 - iii. Gift cards for family
 - iv. Brick made for courtyard
 - v. Memory box
 - vi. Poem read by student
 - vii. Bubbles
 - viii. Closure for kids
- c. Discussing cellphone policy
 - i. Superintendent to make committee of students, staff and teachers to discuss
- d. Metal detectors
 - i. Discussing next steps since not sustainable
 - ii. Nadine will let Karlen know when meeting happens
- e. 9th Grade Transition Program
 - i. Begins 6/27 along with credit recovery program for grades 10-12
 - ii. No bussing
 1. No comment from mayor
 2. Will reach out to Superintendent
 3. 40 students invited to 9th grade program
 4. Need letter stating, "Learned transportation not provided."
 5. Is it in next year's budget? Should be in it

- f. Vicki: Where the \$11 million for COVID relief went
 - i. Nadine: Spent a lot last year. Submitted a budget a few months ago
 - ii. Frank: Hamden needs to do a better job soliciting money from the state. Need to hold Central office, BOE, Mayor accountable to get money
 - iii. Karlen: Will speak to BOE
- g. Prom, Six Flags, Senior events went well. No Pep Rally
- h. Clifford Beers has been amazing, will meet with them next week
- i. Scott: Junior and Senior awards happened
- j. Karlen: Superintendent Leadership profile announced tomorrow
 - i. Public not allowed to be a part of that interview process, only BOE. Will reach out to them with questions
 - ii. Vicki: Chris Melillo, Asst. Superintendent also needs to be replaced

4. Board of Education Report – Mariam Khan not present

5. Council and Administrative Remarks – Liz Marini

- a. New teacher member update: Brandon LaFavor, Elizabeth Young and Dante Gonzales showed interest
- b. New parent member vote has not gone out yet
 - i. What is the timeline? How will they be contacted?
 - ii. Karlen: two weeks and she will contact

6. Committees Review

- a. Education/ Counseling
 - i. No report
- b. Mental Health /Safety - Karlen
 - i. Did not meet
 - ii. Accomplishments: Pulling in outside people, survey for students, follow up on teacher survey
- c. School Promotion/ School Climate
 - i. Spirit week
 - 1. No hallway decoration or pep rally
 - 2. Katie did DJ in café
 - 3. Kevin did survey to come up with ideas
 - a. Culture day most popular and Dress as teacher day
 - 4. Karlen suggested putting date of pep rally on calendar at beginning of year

7. New Business

- a. Karlen, new chair comments
 - i. Thanks to Frank and Liz
 - ii. Give HHS staff kudos and thanks
 - iii. Next year want a 3 step process
 - 1. How many students will this help?
 - 2. Communication
 - 3. Consolidating sub-committees
 - 4. Representation – reach out

- 5. Need to be working together with the BOE and Legislative council and hold them accountable
 - 6. Superintendent needs to be connected to SGC
- b. Superintendent Goehler said budget was flat funded and could not get money for summer bussing. There are increases in spending but not budget
 - i. Frank: Why flat funded? And why for so many years?
 - ii. Nadine: Furlough days to not layoff anyone. Flat funding not paying bills. Need to find money
 - iii. Karlen: Need to reach out to BOE
 - iv. Frank: Focus on child and needs
 - v. Karlen: Wednesday talking about selling Wintergreen building – where will money go?
- c. Frank and Liz made parting remarks
- d. Karlen: Would like to meet in person next year and SGC should have representation at BOE meeting

8. Adjournment – Frank Dixon

- a. Nancy made motion to adjourn meeting at 7:08pm. Vicki seconded. Meeting adjourned.