

Hamden High School (HHS) School Governance Council (SGC)
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2022

Members Present (alphabetical order): Tina Deamicis, Katie Gurski, John Hanna, Mia Hoffmann-Kamrat, Tracey Jacobson, Karlen Meinsen, Kevin Mensah, Janice Mira-Keenan, Sarah Northrop, Gina Parillo, Nancy Restivo, Vicki Simiola, Susan Schultheiss

Members Not Present: Tyika Terrell, Julie Stewart, Judite Vamvakides

Admin Present: Nadine Gannon and Scott Trauner

BOE Representative Present: none

Superintendent Rep Present: Gary Highsmith and Linda Morbidelli

Guest Speaker: none

1. Welcome – Karlen Meinsen

- a. Called meeting to order at 6:05pm

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Nancy Restivo

- a. Sarah motioned to approve the October meeting minutes. Gina seconded. All in favor

3. Principal Remarks - Nadine Gannon

- a. Wonderful start to year. Climate and culture improved.
- b. Working with BOE policy committee about metal detectors. Students going through metal detectors everyday. If come in at 7:30am will be late to class
- c. Approved to have 10 security guards, including Officer Battle who is supervisor of security for district. Process of interviewing.
- d. Standard of behavior high. Everyone part of success.
- e. Great spirit. Students attended away West Haven football game to support team
- f. 2nd marking term: SRBI coordinators, administrators and house teams looking at grades. Taking strong look at students that struggled and providing additional interventions for them - working with Emily McClain and Ms. Morbidelli
- g. Cell phones a challenge but many teachers enforcing policy. Should not be out during academic setting
- h. Clifford Beers and Cornell Scott presented during last PD mtg Nov 3. Spoke to staff about services. Working on service map as to where kids get recommended to go as it relates to their services. Working together.
- i. Karlen: Are you able to tease out of struggling student data as to why they are struggling and design responses to that? Can we get them in classes that are their level?
 - i. Nadine: Yes, it is teased out. Many variables.
 - ii. Scott: Throughout first quarter run D&F and attendance reports - Emily McClain, SRBI coordinator. Look at as a house team to determine what barriers are. Better idea now that first quarter has ended. May be attendance – most significant.
 - iii. John: Truancy officer – don't have one. Need one. If no consequence then won't go. State has left responsibility to school system. Need to push as hard as can to get them in the building.
 - iv. Scott: Some don't come, some come but don't go to class. Attendance policy comes into play. Easier to deal with students in the building. May have little support from family or may also be struggling to get student to school.
 - v. Karlen: May be a need for one. May be happening at MS and may be better to address this earlier
 - vi. Sarah: Is there anyone else who is able to visit families?
 - vii. Scott: Staff has but not necessarily their job
 - viii. Tracey: Clifford Beers (CB) can do that via wrap around services. Need referral
 - ix. John: May be limited because primary responsibility is therapy.
 - x. Nadine: CB has 6 referrals for care coordinator. Families need to be willing to participate. Need an Attendance Officer because it relates to truancy, tardiness, inability to get to school. Can't always get to school on time because have to get younger sibling to school

- house counselors have addressed this issue for them. House team works together to work on referral for those students
- xi. Tracey: 8-10 clinicians from CB at PD presentation. One assigned to school.
- xii. Gary: Different aspects to CB – Trauma response is one. Contract with CB and HHS – 2 care coordinators and one embedded clinician. Care coordinators are working with families. Teasing out referral process. Attendance issues may not trigger CB referral. Mental Health would. Looking to increase prog with grant, but because CT ED Dept could not commit personnel could not submit application. Trying to get that qualifier omitted. Trying to get more clinicians
- xiii. Sarah: What does attendance data look like and what additional support is needed for outreach?
- xiv. Nadine: There is a need for additional support. Admin - 4 of them with over 400 students each. Extremely full plates
- xv. John: May need to write State Dept. DFC says if child refuses to go to school, parents can't be held accountable. State could hold child accountable with court order
- xvi. Gary: Courts were getting flooded so now they don't want to deal with it. So pushed back to school
- xvii. Nadine: Dealing with 1700+ kids and product of pandemic. There is a population of students who can't and won't get here.

4. Sub-committee reports

a. Career pathways - Susan

- i. Difficult for Guidance Counselors (GC) to meet with students in a regular way. Want to come up with concrete recommendations to improve accessibility .
 - 1. Tracey: Currently no homeroom and Connections is 3rd period with classroom teacher. Only way to access students is to call them down individually or Google Classroom. Suggest going back to homeroom schedule by alphabet.
 - 2. Nadine: Have homeroom schedule - just need to know when GCs want it. Reimplemented this year. Have it first day of school and first day of 2nd semester.
 - 3. Tracey: Asked for Connections to be alphabetical.
 - 4. Nadine: Focused on building connection in Connections. Hard to do that if meet every two weeks for homeroom - more connection with teacher that has students every day
 - 5. Tracey: Homeroom connection strong if have it everyday for 4 years by alphabet. Is it possible to have homeroom everyday?
 - 6. Nadine: No. Can have more homerooms - just let need to know when needed
 - 7. Tina: Connections and Homeroom should be different
 - 8. Gary: If do homeroom, may be below instruction time
 - 9. Nadine: Teachers want operational things separate from Connections
 - 10. John: Should have social scientist come in and measure effectiveness. Find certain programs are not effective. Time on task best indicator of success. Do survey research and see what students are saying about feeling connected
 - 11. Mia: Feedback from students - mixed what teachers do during Connections - better if teachers gave one discussion question for students to discuss. Some teachers don't do the work.
 - 12. Scott: Unpredictable from room to room. Trying to manufacture connections in Connections may not work either.
 - 13. Gina: Seniors in Special Ed have not heard of Naviance. Where do they learn about it and Common App?
 - 14. Tracey: Did lesson in English classes. Counselor access to students is limited.
 - 15. Nadine: Propose number of homerooms you need, send dates.
- ii. Susan: Concept of electives and how precious they are. How many students are signing up that can't get in? Which are overloaded and which under loaded? Environmental sustainability - new and needs to be promoted as a career
 - 1. Nadine: 1,2,3 choice when picking. Can't have multiple sections of certain

- classes. Many Req need to be met, so less time for electives.
 - 2. Linda: Directors run into these challenges, might not have enough students to run. Working on funneling students into certain pathways. Advertising and marketing electives to those that may be interested. Challenge trying to address.
 - 3. Susan: Might get study hall instead of elective
 - 4. Tracey: Freshman should take health. Might help the elective issue. Better if earlier in their HS career. Unlevel health.
 - b. Karlen: Welcomed Tina Deamicis, new teacher member, to SGC
 - c. Mental Health didn't meet
 - d. School Promotion - Katie
 - i. Linking with Dragons United Club to promote school climate and promotion and PTSA. Collaborating.
 - ii. Potluck planned. Being pushed to Dec. Need approval.
 - iii. Sarah: What would attribute change in attitude to?
 - 1. Kevin: Clubs getting together.
 - 2. Nadine: Kids advertising clubs. Student Ambassadors sitting in Embassy
 - 3. Kevin: Students engaging more. More calm. Restrictions. Attendance.
 - 4. Mia: Coming out of pandemic last year - underclassmen struggling. This year more enforcement
 - 5. Nadine: Upperclassman leading by example. Supporting one another. Admin has reorganized. Getting support from SI office. Strict with expectations. Sporting teams supporting each other. Gil on Go. Homecoming. Pep Rally
 - iv. Karlen: Parents would like to see more positive marketing. Looked up HHS FB page. Posts should be going on it daily. Parent started it in Nov 2019 - wants to turn it over to SGC or PTSA, maybe school climate committee. Katie be teacher point person?
 - 1. Sarah: "Why HHS" event for parents of 8th graders
 - 2. Nadine: Working on it. In Dec.
 - 3. Karlen: Staff member should be in charge of FB page - need to make sure post appropriate and relevant material
 - 4. Nadine: Can use things from Hamden Dragon Update that celebrate students
 - 5. Katie: Can the school do this? Protocol?
 - 6. Nadine: Check who is in photo if have permission to post
 - 7. Tina: Make part of website instead of FB so fewer places to go.
 - 8. Kevin: Newspaper still happening. Posted on website. Can potentially post there
 - e. Equity - Nancy
 - i. Working on policy and procedures letter to be sent out.
 - ii. Karlen: Discuss at Dec meeting. Will share to whole council for comment before sending out
 - iii. Katie: Clarification on letter and when will letter be ready?
 - iv. Nancy: Clarification on how all policies and procedures are made for HHS. Want to send it out in the next few weeks
 - f. Karlen: Keep record of subcommittee meeting minutes. Can be a running document
5. SGC members should try to attend BOE or Legislative Council meetings. Second Tuesday of month. Join by Zoom. Next one is on Dec 13. Can attend BOE subcommittee meetings as well. Equity Subcomm should go to Equity BOE meeting.
 6. Next meeting Dec 12 @ 6pm. Subcommittees should meet before next meeting.
 7. Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm