

School Governance Council Meeting Minutes

Date: March 13, 2012

Time: 4:00-6:00

Location: Crosby Media Center

Attendance:

Present

Principal

Dr. Louis Padua

Parents

Amy DeSantis, Vice Chairperson

Margaret Rocco

Vernail Walker

Community Leader

Kelly Cronin

Teachers

Crystal Caouette, Chairperson

Mike Sullivan

Marines Wilson

Ryan Vassar

Matthew Corcoran, Secretary

Not Present

Silvia Freeland

Maria Garcia

Issue I: Question about adding items to the agenda, Vassar per bylaws, 5 days prior to meeting. Vassar requests clarifying process for changing agenda.

Issue II: Review and approve minutes. Motion to approve, Corcoran. 2nd, Cronin, Unanimous in favor.

Issue III: Update on parents, community membership. Corcoran to contact absent parents.

Issue IV: Mod IV of the Governance Council training, Rocco, Powerpoint distributed.

Issue V: Education Liaison for the superintendent, Mary Ann Merrill

Review of governance council training, CHS parents and chair have attended

4/24 Final training session Wilby HS

Role and responsibility of SGC and school compact

District Improvement Plan in development

CHS School Improvement Plan will follow

Council will to support in drafting of SIP

Issue VI: Proposal to review CHS Bell Schedule, Caouette

Description of current system; end of the day announcements lead to a loss of 5 minutes of class time for period 7, the equivalent to a loss of 20 class periods of the course of a year. Proposed to cut 5 minutes from homeroom and extend it to 7th period.

Desantis; What takes place during homeroom?

Dr. Padua: Bell schedule set by B.O.E. The Council is moving away from the intended purpose of SGCs.

Caouette: Wilby HS has a different bell schedule

Walker: Questioning use of instructional time in general, starting class on time, students engaged in class.

Sullivan: Is this related to collective bargaining?

Vassar: Changing bell changes lunch schedules

Motion to advise to Dr. Padua to investigate change to bell schedule.

General dissatisfaction with motion, request for motion to be retracted.

Motion to retract, Corcoran. 2nd, Vassar

Unanimous vote in favor.

Issue VII: Student access to media center, Perez

Many students are concerned about being able to use the library; students required to have pass from teacher stating the assignment; there are many valid reasons for using library other than assigned work.

Desantis: Son was denied access because his assignment was not specific enough

Vassar: Media center closed for CAPT

Wilson: clarify use for CAPT, appreciate people's patience.

Vassar: Teacher robo-sign passes for students

Wilson: Capacity for library is over 100

Dr. Padua: Background information: new librarian, some miscommunication problems, everything clarified at department chair meeting. NEASC said students should have more access to the library. Current policy as of department chair meeting: students allowed to enter without work assignment, using regular CHS pass. Some limitations of access for period 5 due to overcrowding.

DeSantis: Asks about donating periodicals to library

Corcoran: explains that library would appreciate donations; it does not have access to discounted rate that private individuals do; offer to put her in contact with librarian.

Vassar: Staff need to be made aware of current policy.

Motion to recommend to announce to staff about changes to library policy, Vassar. 2nd, Perez

Unanimous in favor.

Issue VIII: Student Motivation, Micah Small

Would like to see rewards for student academic achievement, not just positive behavioral support.

Wilson: teachers and departments doing own honor roll and student of the month; perhaps a rewards breakfast for students with a 90 average.

Others: General support for idea of rewarding students, possibly starting committee to do so.

Corcoran: PBIS committee already in place and effective; perhaps suggesting this to them.

Motion recommend Micah Small and Marcos Perez to PBIS committee to act as liaisons for the Council,

Sullivan. 2nd, Vassar. Unanimous vote in favor.

Issue IX: Room for tutoring center, Corcoran

9th grade math teachers have proposed setting up a tutoring center. With William Rice, district coordinator for Mathematics, they have identified computer based programs for assisting students in need of remedial support. Teachers have volunteered using duty time to act as tutors. They only need space.

Multiple members of council: room 308E, JROTC room, is not currently being used.

Corcoran: We should hear from JROTC teachers about the room.

Dr. Padua: Commends math teachers for their efforts. Exploring using 308E and tech ed. Storage space

Walker: Students are failing and no one provides notice. Parents need to be notified. Teachers need to reach out to parents.

Vassar: Parents should seek out that information.

Add above topic to next agenda.

Issue X: Bulldog Academy, Vassar

PowerPoint on the creation of a special academy for “at-risk” student; purpose of academy and design; changes in behavioral support, class structure.

Caouette: Presentation interrupted. The Council’s charge is to make general recommendations to principal, not to state exactly how programs should work.

Vassar: Council spent a lot of time talking about changes to bell schedule; it should be able to discuss this.

Corcoran: Padua is most qualified to design program. Wants assurance that some of what will follow in presentation is based on research.

DeSantis: Literacy academy at Wendel Cross, now model for the district, was not based on research and is working well.

Padua: The school is already looking at potential models. Similar to Bulldog Academy proposal.

Issue XI Status report on Council Recommendations, Padua

General sketch of chain of command in district. Vassar presented dress code issue to climate committee. Keeping 9th graders: Superintendent has asked secondary principals to look into loss of instructional time due to exams, CAPT testing, ½ days. 4/1 District Improvement Plan begins to roll out; based on state decisions, meeting requirements for additional money, restructuring central office.

Vassar: Dress code proposal was not well received by assistant superintendent. Mr. Vassar was not pleased by comments of district climate committee.

Issue XII: Items for next agenda:

Padua: Budget is handled by central office, not school. School budget not to be reviewed by Council.

Parent involvement policy / School Compact

School Climate Surveys

DIP / SIP

Discussing student achievement

Follow up on Issues

Motion to adjourn, Wilson. 2nd, Small.

Unanimous vote in favor.