

Crosby High School Governance Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 7, 2011

Time: 4:00-6:00

Location: Crosby Media Center

Present

Principal

Dr. Louis Padua

Parents

Maria Garcia

Amy DeSantis

Margaret Rocco

Vernail Walker

Community Leader

Kelly Cronin

Teachers

Mike Sullivan

Ryan Vassar

Marines Wilson

Crystal Caouette

Matthew Corcoran

Students

Marcos Perez

Micah Small

Not Present

Kim Quinones

Silvia Freeland

4:08pm Call to Order

Roll Call (see above)

I. Issue: Review and approve minutes from 1/10/2011

Motion to approve, Vassar; 2nd, Corcoran. Unanimous vote in favor

II. Issue: Review of Membership

Corcoran: Welcome to Vernail Walker, parent member

Report of contacts: Silvia Freeland changed shifts and is unable to attend, her husband may join Council

Kim Quinones said she was no longer interested in being a member of the Council, was told she can resign or be removed via vote, said she preferred removal.

Motion to remove Kim Quinones from School Governance Council, Sullivan; 2nd, Vassar

Unanimous vote in favor. Caouette: per bylaws, vacancy will be filled at next regular election.

III. Issue: Discussion of Community members,

Restatement of definition of community leader and need for a second to serve on the council. No additions at this time

IV. Issue: Officer Elections

Secretary, Vassar nominates Corcoran, Sullivan 2nd, Corcoran accepts

No other nominations for office. Unanimous vote in favor

Vice chair, Wilson nominates DeSantis, Rocco 2nd, DeSantis accepts

No other nominations for office. Unanimous vote in favor

Chair, Rocco Nominates Caouette, Wilson 2nd, Caouette accepts

No other nominations for office. Unanimous vote in favor

V. Issue: Review of Governance Council Training

Caouette: All slides from two sessions in binders for parent / community members. Next session 2/16.

Sign up sheets distributed. Rocco and DeSantis will attend.

VI. Issue: CAPT Score presentation

Dr. Padua: Presentation from faculty day in August: 2011 CAPT Scores; proficiency increases from 2010;

comparison with other WPS high schools, state; subgroup analysis; strength of cohort from Wallace.

Vassar: CHS losing top students from Wallace

Dr. Padua: Building of new career high school to serve students rejected by KTHS

Small: Remarks on gender differences in CAPT scores

Dr. Padua: Discrepancies between CMT and CAPT troubling. Students making goal on 8th grade CMT failing Eng. 10

Wilson: Clarifying DRG based comparison

Walker: Use technology to appeal to students, especially those behind grade level

Corcoran: Walker's suggestion currently being pursued by Math dept.

Wilson: CMT is very different from CAPT

VII. Issue: Proposal for keeping 9th graders

Corcoran: Releasing 9th graders is a loss of valuable instructional time; CMT scores are not translating to CAPT success; Lack of CMT data for 20-25% of 10th graders in 2011; review of approaches of other districts; acknowledging the challenges of organization and short timeline.

Dr. Padua: Needs careful planning; potential union issue; superintendent concerned about CAPT / CMT calendar, possible changes; little time remaining to ensure a safe, orderly environment.

Vassar: concerned about a lack of concrete plans.

Corcoran: Options were presented to Dr. Padua; explanation of those options.

Caouette: The role of the council is to make recommendations for policy; it is up to the administration to accept policy and decide on how and when to implement policy.

Rocco: parents want to see kids in school; elementary do not dismiss k-2 non testers

Sullivan: supports proposal but not enough time to prepare for this year; concern about office referrals; recommends starting next year.

Caouette: other towns keep students; at least give students study halls.

Dr. Padua: Schedule approved by B.O.E. Will make recommendation to assistant superintendent, superintendent.

Cronin: Plant the seed with the recommendation to the B.O.E., perhaps it will become city wide policy.

Walker: Implementing next year gives 8 months for students to accept that they stay.

DeSantis: make recommendation to B.O.E., beyond the scope of the Council.

Motion to recommend to principal policy to keep 9th graders during CAPT in a manner that he see's fit,
Corcoran; 2nd, Sullivan. Unanimous vote in favor.

VII. Issue: Students from Crosby district attending other schools.

Perez: knows of students attending Kennedy and West Side who should be at WMS, CHS.

Rocco: Parents can request for students to attend other school. SOAR outperforming ACE

Corcoran: Past valedictorian of KHS lived in CHS area

Dr. Padua: History of SOAR, ACE. CHS trying to align ACE and AP. ACE students felt AP selection was limited by ACE design.

DeSantis: Personal success story of former ACE student

Corcoran: Questioning QPA from ACE. Class rank.

DeSantis and Caouette: Ace still given greater weight.

VIII. Issue: Dress Code

Vassar: Presentation on dress code. Mr. Vassar and role of Council on issue. General state of CHS. Dress code policies of top high schools in CT. Dress code as source of problems in school: write ups, suspension, conflicts between teachers and students. Systematic response to each of the claimed benefits of dress code. Seeks to present to B.O.E. on removing dress code for teachers and students.

General sentiment of the council: very well reasoned presentation, generally in favor of proposal.

Rocco: Teachers should still have a professional dress code.

Walker: Agree with Rocco. Teachers need to model professionalism

Vassar: Disagrees with Rocco and Walker

Corcoran: Motion to approve Vassar's proposal limiting scope to students and broadening it to city-wide.

Vassar: Objects with amending his proposal.

Caouette: Clarifying procedure for amending proposals, role of council for making recommendations to principal who decides on how to act on them.

Motion to recommend the principal act towards removing the dress code as it is currently stated in the student handbook and replacing it with a simpler, more refined one. –Vassar; 2nd Sullivan

Amendment to limit scope to only student dress code and to broaden it to city wide—Corcoran; 2nd, Walker
Motion so amended, passes unanimously.

IX Issue: Forming of subcommittees on school climate

Subcommittee #1: Wilson, Corcoran, and Caouette to poll students and teachers

Subcommittee #2: DeSantis and Rocco to poll parents

X Issue: space for math tutoring center

Dr. Padua will work on this

XI Issue: Changing daily bell schedule to make up for end of the day announcements

Caouette will present at next meeting.

XII Request from Walker: Announce Family Empowerment Conference 3/24 at NOW, Inc.

XII Issue: Items for next meeting

Amend Bell Schedule, Caouette

Student Access to Media Center, Perez

Bulldog Academy, Vassar (20 mins)

Student Motivation, Small

Status Reports on Council Recommendations: Dress Code Modification, Keeping 9th graders for CAPT

School Climate/Perception Results – Subcommittee Reports

Member Discussion for Methods to Improve Student Achievement

Next meeting 3/13/2012

April meeting: 4/17/2012

Motion to adjourn at 6:04 pm, Wilson; 2nd, Vassar

Unanimous vote in favor