

# School Governance Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 17, 2012

Time: 4:00-6:00

Location: Crosby Media Center

## Attendance:

### Present

#### Principal

Dr. Louis Padua

#### Parents

Amy DeSantis, Vice Chairperson

Vernail Walker

Maria Garcia

#### Teachers

Crystal Caouette, Chairperson

Mike Sullivan

Matthew Corcoran, Secretary

#### Students

Micah Small

### Not Present

#### Teachers

Marines Wilson

Ryan Vassar

#### Parents

Silvia Freeland

Margaret Rocco

#### Community Leader

Kelly Cronin

#### Students

Carlos Perez

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

Issue II: Contact with parents. Corcoran left voicemail messages. Dr. Padua requested emails be sent.

Issue III: Parent Compact.

Caouette did not get to speak with Gretchen Flaherty, Parent Liason. DeSantis clarified what a compact is, how it details responsibilities of teachers, administrators, parents, and students. Dr. Padua has a copy and will provide for next meeting. Compact included on documentation for Title 1 funding.

Issue IV: Student and faculty climate survey.

Corcoran explaining what had happened with survey sent out and retracted.

Dr. Padua: the survey sample he provided was a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> draft of a survey that started much more simply. Only after trust was built among staff and student body, and after much more simply survey lead to those questions for clarification did it take that form. We should begin with a simple three question survey.

DeSantis: include one open ended question, could shape future surveys.

Corcoran presented "School Connectedness Survey" and research supporting efficacy.

As a group consolidated survey to the following:

Do you feel a part of Crosby High School?

Do you feel safe at school?

Do you feel you are treated fairly at school?

Corcoran: Survey this year or wait until next year? Track individual responses with student ID

Dr. Padua: wait until next year for pre and post assessments. No tracking. General consensus of agreement.

Corcoran: Vice principals took issue with teacher survey for the following reasons. 1) Wanted to know what would be done with it. If it would serve a purpose or just give a voice to discontent. Some teachers stated to Corcoran they did not feel comfortable with the survey, felt it was asking them to evaluate administration or had an inherent negative slant. 2) VPs stated that if they were being evaluated, then they should be done so individually, not generically.

Dr. Padua: A simple survey should be used first. We must build trust before digging deeper. The survey given was done so at Wallace after a rapport was established between teachers and administration.

Consensus to use same three questions as for students, Corcoran would type up for next meeting.

#### Issue V: DIP / SIP

Dr. Padua: Dr Ouellette would present reform plan / DIP tomorrow to administration, expected to include restructuring of central office. Dr. Ouellette stated she is looking for the best talent in the district and focusing on student achievement. Our SIP will be driven by the DIP.

Sullivan: Will the BOE have to approve the DIP? Yes.

#### Issue VI: Discussion of Methods for Improving Student Achievement

Caouette: Council should narrow its focus

Dr. Padua: DIP will call on us to look for ways to improve student achievement through instruction, structure, culture, student motivation.

Garcia: Question about teacher evaluating and guiding students to appropriate careers.

Caouette: Career center tests 9<sup>th</sup> graders, questions efficacy of tests

Corcoran: Advisory meant to address Garcia's concern.

Dr. Padua: STEM career fair at CHS, Caouette elaborates.

Malloy's plan calls for individual student success plans (SSPs) beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> grade to get students ready for college and careers using 21<sup>st</sup> century learning expectations, capstone project.

Corcoran: SSPs envisioned to be ushered through advisory.

DeSantis: Troubled by how students do in math, graduation rates. Questions the quality of advisory, how well are the advisory performing. Advisors unaware students are failing.

Caouette: Advisors should have access to student grades to better guide students.

Corcoran: Some faculty against advisory and want it to fail; some want to succeed but as with any new initiative are learning to do it well; some performing very well.

Walker: Concerned teachers are overwhelmed with amount of students in advisory.

Caouette: Lessons need to be reviewed.

Corcoran: Original advisory committee brought together many views from the building; they should reconvene to assess and redirect advisory. The concept is good, but the execution needs improvement.

Dr. Padua: Advisory is a home run and we are sticking with it, though we can improve how it is working.

Corcoran: Returning to DeSantis' concern for graduation rates, failure is too common at CHS. It does not motivate students to change. We need a system of interventions for failing students that we can document. When a student fails a class we should be able to show multiple attempts to correct.

Walker: Teachers should engage students with activities, make learning interesting for them, let them visualize ideas.

Caouette: Threat of failure does not motivate her students, they learn because they want to.

DeSantis: Failing students are overlooked. Some teachers ask why even bother with them.

Corcoran: Ms. Walker's ideas are great, tier 1 interventions, and all should strive for that level. Not all disciplines allow for the most engaging lessons at all time, but it is a good goal. We also need tier 2 interventions for those students who are failing despite good instruction.

Walker: Also concerned about honor students not getting homework but receiving 95s in class.

Corcoran: Need to respond to students who are learning quickly. Classes not challenging enough. Top performers at school not performing high enough on SATs, reaching Goal on CAPT, getting into schools they want to.

DeSantis: Using Progressbook helps her keep her kids on track, weekly progress reports at home. We should bring Progressbook access into advisory. Not all progress reports are reliable; some teachers not entering grades into Progressbook.

Garcia: Parents a problem, not supporting learning.

DeSantis: Many reasons why parents have a problem with maintaining involvement in education: some parents are drop outs, some have other kids to care for, many have multiple jobs.

Dr. Padua: Many parents make sure children are working, though they do not make it to open house.

Walker: Some have serious problems at home, domestic violence.

Dr. Padua: We need to step up for those students. We need to create a culture of caring for kids.

#### Issue VII: Status Report on Council Recommendations

Dr. Ouellette wants to increase instructional time in HS. All students will stay during testing time next year. Midterms are over. Half days removed from calendar.

Question about data team time, especially for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.

Dr Padua: Dr. Ouellette wants more target PD

#### Issue VIII: Items not originally on the agenda

Caouette: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade science labs, lab scheduling. Too much content for current system, students would benefit from gaining lab skills, recognizing scheduling problems and cost.

Dr. Padua: Money is an issue. New labs require long term planning, but are NEASC priority. Committed to investigate the issue.

DeSantis: Concern over students writing skills, especially business and professional writing.

Others: General life skills.

Corcoran: Those are currently a part of some curricula and part of advisory.

Small: Need for a time keeper for Council to ensure all scheduled topics get fair time.

Motion to nominate Micah Small to be time keeper for the Council, Corcoran. 2<sup>nd</sup>, DeSantis

Unanimous vote in favor.

Caouette: Adding classes or class time for 9<sup>th</sup> grade English and Math. Students struggling with basic skills.

Dr. Padua: Dr. Ouellette asked principals to examine block scheduling.

Corcoran: concern for the need for PD to adjust to it.

Dr. Padua: was initially resistant to block scheduling at WMS until teachers were prepared for the shift.

Issue also addressed through Math Lab, space is identified for next year. Reading teacher to be added for next year, may act as instructional coach or as classroom teacher.

#### Issue IX: Agenda for next meeting 5/15/12

Continue with same agenda items from this meeting

Training from 4/24

Student liaisons to PBIS

Summer meetings