

**Houston County High School
School Council
Minutes of July 28, 2009**

The Houston County High School (HCHS) School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 6:00pm. The meeting was held in the Media Center, 920 Highway 96, Warner Robins, GA 31088.

School Council Members Present:

Sherrri Freeman, Principal
Andy Rodriguez, Chairperson
Charla Gregory, Secretary
Cherri Nix
Rex Lewis
Angela Fussell

School Council Members Absent:

Alyson Keenom
Miriam Spornhauer

Call to Order:

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was distributed and posted IAW the Open Meetings Act. Moved, seconded, and carried that the School Council approves the agenda as amended.

MOTION: Sherri Freeman **SECOND:** Cherri Nix

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of June 2, 2009 were read and posted IAW the Open Meetings Act. Moved, seconded, and carried that the School Council approves the minutes as amended.

MOTION: Charla Gregory **SECOND:** Angela Fussell

Recognition of Visitors:

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez recognized visitors to the School Council meeting:
Will Ray, HCHS Assistant Principal for Instruction
Barbara Matheny, Co-chair HCHS Student, Teacher, Parent Organization
Patricia Rodriguez, parent

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez also welcomed newly elected Houston County High School

School Council members Rex Lewis, teacher representative, and Angela Fussell, parent representative, to their initial council meeting.

Principal's Report

Principal Sherri Freeman passed along the following valuable information:

*School starts August 4. We are currently fully staffed with 156 teachers (to include five new faculty members) & are expecting 2332 students.

*Other dates of note include orientation for ninth graders on August 3 from 6– 7:30pm, Open House tentatively scheduled for September 1, and Homecoming on October 23.

*Updating School Improvement Plan will become the Balanced Score Card (August 17, 2009).

*Teachers are planning for the seven-period-day with academic opportunities.

*AYP Results (available at GADOE.org). Ms Freeman went over the 2008-09 results with those in attendance. HCHS made AYP! Additionally, she compared/contrasted the results with the 2007-08 school year.

*AP testing results increased from 60% of students scoring a 3 or above in 2007-08 to 65% in 2008-09. Highlights include 53% scoring 3 or better in Chemistry, 60% in Physics B, 60% in Government & Politics, 70% in Calculus AB, 71% in World History, 82% in English Literature, 83% in Biology, 84% in US History, and 96% in Psychology. Mr Will Ray will forward the numbers of students enrolled in AP courses for the coming school year.

*EOCT results revealed the following: Math I (limited results) 44.53% pass rate, Algebra I 32%, Geometry 78%, 9th grade Literature 90%, American Literature 94%, Biology 84%, Physical Science 87%, US History 74%, and Economics 80%.

Unfinished Business

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez referred council members to the Ongoing and Open Items in the June 2, 2009 minutes:

*Improving communication within our community. Strive to update the school's calendar linked on the public website to provide more information on upcoming school activities. Ms Freeman will look at possibility of linking calendar on school's intranet to public website. Additionally, she passed along that updating the website will transition with technology personnel changes. **ITEM ONGOING**

*Increasing parental/guardian, student, faculty and staff involvement & support. HCHS's Student/Teacher/Parent Organization is up and running. All are invited to join. **ITEM ONGOING**

*Creating more opportunities for student involvement. Continue to look for ways to

allow for more student involvement in extra curricular activities in school as well as in the community. A method of tracking participation was discussed. More to follow with the upcoming school year. **ITEM ONGOING**

*School-wide surveys for students & parents. Ms Freeman passed along that departing seniors will be asked to take an exit survey. Mr Rodriguez will also continue the idea of parent and student surveys with the upcoming academic year. He discussed the following sample survey that our parents at Title 1 schools take:

Title 1 Parent Satisfaction Survey

Please take a few minutes to answer this survey to share your satisfaction with your school. Your responses are anonymous and appreciated.

1. Please read each statement below, and indicate how much you agree or disagree.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
My school has high expectations for student achievement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know the curriculum/academic requirements for my child's grade level.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am informed on a regular basis about my child's academic progress.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am kept informed about school programs including Title I notifications.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have been informed of opportunities to participate in the school, such as PTO, School Council or Parent Action Team.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am comfortable talking with administrators and teachers at my child's school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School administrators and teachers welcome parental involvement and volunteerism.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have the opportunity to provide input in the decision making process at my child's school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child's school offers workshops or activities that educate/inform parents about the curriculum and educational goals.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am informed in a timely manner about parent activities and events.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent activities and workshops are offered at various times.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The parent activities and opportunities are useful and beneficial.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child's school provides various activities/events that allow me to volunteer my time and services.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall, I feel I am welcomed in my child's school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am aware of the Parent Resource/Information Center located in your child's school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am familiar with the systemwide "Be There" parent involvement campaign.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. In general, how do you feel we can improve your child's education?

3. How do you think family and community involvement can be improved at your school?

The council members will be solicited for their input concerning the survey's method of employment, formulation of questions, target audience, etc. **ITEM OPEN**

New Business

The following items were introduced:

*Council Vacancy. Chairperson Andy Rodriguez passed along that he accepted the resignation from council tendered by Cindy Smith. An election for a parent representative will be held on August 20 at 6pm in the Media Center to fill the unexpired term. Canvass those eligible for their interest in running for school council. **ITEM CLOSED**

*Meetings for the Coming Year. In accordance with our council's by-laws, the council meets no fewer than six times each school year. Based on feedback received from a previous council member, Chairperson Andy Rodriguez proposed that the members consider amending the by-laws to allow for meetings once per month. At the next scheduled regular meeting, the proposal will be brought up for vote and then the meeting dates will be set for the coming year. **ITEM OPEN**

*By-laws Review. In addition to the preceding proposal, the members were asked to review the by-laws for any other amendments, changes, additions or deletions. **ITEM OPEN**

Council Members Open Forum

*Mr Rex Lewis will look for more community business involvement in our school and its programs.

*Mrs Charla Gregory had questions about the school's athletic program's funding and distribution of resources to the various sports.

Comments from Guests and Visitors

*Mr Will Ray informed those present that he will be an available resource for the council on all matters under his purview.

*Mrs Patty Rodriguez passed along that the STPO will man an information booth at the upcoming 9th grade orientation night on August 5 and the open house on September 1.

*Mrs Barbara Matheny said that there will be a meeting of the STPO on July 30 at 6pm in the Media Center. Regular meetings will occur on the first Monday of every month again at 6pm in the Media Center. All are invited to attend.

Future Meeting Dates

There will be an election on August 20, 2009 at 6pm in the Media Center to elect a parent representative to fill the unexpired term of a member who resigned. Only those eligible to vote will be asked to attend.

The next regular meeting will be on August 25, 2009 at 6pm in the Media Center.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chairperson Andy Rodriguez addressed the School Council to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Sherri Freeman **SECOND:** Rex Lewis

Respectfully submitted,

//signed//
CHARLA GREGORY, Secretary
Houston County HS School Council

//signed//
ANDY RODRIGUEZ, Chairperson
Houston County HS School Council