

**Houston County High School
School Council
Minutes of December 8, 2009**

The Houston County High School (HCHS) School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 6:00pm. The meeting was held in the Media Center, 920 Highway 96, Warner Robins, GA 31088.

School Council Members Present:

Sherri Freeman, Principal
Andy Rodriguez, Chairperson
Cherri Nix, Vice Chairperson
Angela Fussell
Rex Lewis

School Council Members Absent:

Charla Gregory, Secretary
Miriam Spornhauer
Deanna Moore
Alyson Keenom

Call to Order:

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Reflection:

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 unanimously that the School Council approves the agenda as amended.

MOTION: Rex Lewis

SECOND: Cherri Nix

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of October 8, 2009 and November 10, 2009 were read and posted IAW the Open Meetings Act. Moved and seconded School Council approves the minutes as amended. The October 8, 2009 minutes were approved for final publication at this time as the By-Laws Review issue was clarified.

MOTION: Sherri Freeman

SECOND: Rex Lewis

Recognition of Visitors:

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez recognized visitors to the School Council meeting:

Helen Hughes, Member Houston County Board of Education
Betty Riley, parent

Laura Chitester, parent
Doreen Trask, parent
Bruce Trask, parent

Houston County Board of Education Member's Comments

Board member Mrs Helen Hughes shared time with the council and visitors by speaking to issues she's encountered during her approximately six months on the board: the system's financial budget, personnel furloughs, and the rezoning process. As to the rezoning, Mrs Hughes indicated that there may be a second proposal, but that is not definite. The board will vote to approve the final rezoning during a meeting on January 28, 2010. Mrs Hughes also answered questions posed by those present: rezoning is the greatest challenge she's faced since election to the board; criteria used to draw proposed rezoning boundaries; and that all Board of Education meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, are open for public attendance and she encouraged all to attend. Finally, Chairperson Rodriguez and Principal Freeman thanked Mrs Hughes for attending the school council meeting and sharing her time with those in attendance, and invited her to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Principal's Report

Principal Sherri Freeman discussed HCHS's School Improvement Plan (SIP) and passed along that it is a living document addressing recommendations, as necessary. The SIP will be posted to HCHS's website for public access. Ms Freeman also reviewed our students' results on the Georgia High School Writing Test and compared them to previous years, as well as to system and state results. Finally, Ms Freeman also recognized State Champs Houston County Sharks and Co-Captain Min Soo Kim, HCHS, on a great season.

Moved and seconded that School Council approves the School Improvement Plan.

MOTION: Cherri Nix

SECOND: Angela Fussell

Unfinished Business

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez referred council members to the Ongoing and Open Items in the October 8, 2009 minutes:

*Improving communication within our community. The flow of information to/from all stakeholders continues in an outstanding manner: website, marquee, county's legal organ & other print media, public access television, "robo-calls," emails, et cetera. Strive to include special events on the school's homepage, e.g., holiday concerts. **ITEM ONGOING**

*Increasing parental/guardian, student, faculty and staff involvement & support. HCHS's Student/Teacher/Parent Organization (STPO) is organizing an Ice Cream Day for Juniors and a school-wide Winter Festival to be held in February. All are invited to attend STPO meetings with the next meeting scheduled for January 4, 2010 at 6pm in the Media Center. **ITEM ONGOING**

*Creating more opportunities for student involvement. Continue to look for ways to allow for more student involvement in extracurricular activities in school as well as in the community. A

volunteer is solicited to construct a rubric to capture student volunteer involvement within the community and compile data. **ITEM ONGOING**

*School-wide surveys for students & parents. Continuing the idea of parent and student surveys during the academic year. The council members are asked for their input concerning the survey's method of employment, formulation of questions, target audience, etc. **ITEM OPEN**

*By-laws Review. Changes, additions and deletions to the HCHS School Council's by-laws were reviewed. Moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that the School Council approves the by-laws as amended. **ITEM CLOSED**

MOTION: Rex Lewis

SECOND: Angela Fussell

*Annual School Council Training. In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-86(b), in addition to initial training of new council members, we will request that the Houston County Board of Education central office provides additional training programs to school council members annually to assist members in the performance of their duties. Training could be provided in, but not limited to, the following areas: required reports, development of council's vision statement & goals, distribution and discussion of school principal selection process, and so on. This item will be deferred to a future date after the Board of Education finalizes system rezoning. **ITEM OPEN**

*Establishment of a "Council of Councils." We will request that the Houston County Board of Education central office provide for a "council of councils" whereby representatives of each of the school system's school councils meet periodically to discuss items of concern/interest affecting their respective communities. Examples follow: county-wide student code of conduct, methods to increase parental/community participation, keys to improving standardized test scores, et cetera. This item will be deferred to a future date after the Board of Education finalizes system rezoning. **ITEM OPEN**

New Business:

Member Angela Fussell discussed recent negative events that occurred: fights and graffiti. **ITEM CLOSED**

Member Rex Lewis discussed the possibility of forming a guitar and strings club. He has taken this as an action item and will report back on any progress. **ITEM CLOSED**

Future Meeting Dates

The next regular meeting will be on January 12, 2010 at 6pm in the Media Center. Following meetings will be held at the same time and place on February 9, March 9, April 13, and May 11.

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//
CHERRI NIX, Vice Chairperson & Acting Secretary
Houston County HS School Council

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