

**Houston County High School
School Council
Minutes of January 12, 2010**

The Houston County High School (HCHS) School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 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
Miriam Spornhauer
Alyson Keenom

School Council Members Absent:

Charla Gregory, Secretary
Deanna Moore
Rex Lewis

Call to Order:

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Reflection:

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez initially called for a moment of silence for the victims of the Haiti earthquake then 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 written.

MOTION: Sherri Freeman

SECOND: Alyson Keenom

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of December 8, 2009 were read and posted IAW the Open Meetings Act. Moved and seconded School Council approves the minutes as written.

MOTION: Cherri Nix

SECOND: Angela Fussell

Recognition of Visitors:

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez recognized visitors to the School Council meeting:

Dr Brian Christensen, Assistant Principal, HCHS
Laura Chitester, parent

Principal's Report

Principal Sherri Freeman passed along kudos for the following:

- Houston County High School earned the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation as one of only 35 K-12 schools from 16 states recognized for making an exemplary commitment to a comprehensive school counseling program.
- HCHS was recognized with a Bronze Award from The Governor's Office of Student Achievement for outstanding academic performance.
- Mr Wally Shaw, Houston County High School music teacher, has been named Georgia Music Educator of the Year by the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA). He will be presented the award on January 29, 2010 in Savannah at the GMEA conference. The presentation will take place during the general session before a large assembly of music educators.

Ms Freeman then yielded to Dr Brian Christensen. Dr Christensen distributed copies of the school's safety plan to those present and provided an excellent overview of ten safety measures: class meetings, supervision, advisement lessons, working lockers, announcements, student code of conduct, consistent plan implementation, automated calling system, K-9 drug sniffers, request for additional surveillance cameras. It was suggested that all incoming freshmen parents receive an overview of the safety plans during freshmen orientation.

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. Information sharing between all stakeholders continues in an exemplary manner except the calendar button on the school's homepage doesn't allow access to its contents. **ITEM ONGOING**

*Increasing parental/guardian, student, faculty and staff involvement & support. HCHS's Student/Teacher/Parent Organization (STPO) is organizing a Winter Festival to be held in February. Illustrations of the organization's t-shirt were passed among those present. All are invited to attend STPO meetings with the next meeting scheduled for February 1, 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. Continue 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**

*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:

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez requested that Ms Freeman look into "The Voice's" advertiser policy. **ITEM OPEN**

Future Meeting Dates

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

Adjournment:

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

MOTION: Alyson Keenom

SECOND: Miriam Spornhauer

Respectfully submitted,

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

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