

**Houston County High School  
School Council  
Minutes of March 9, 2010**

The Houston County High School (HCHS) School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 6:00pm. The meeting was held in the Media Center, 920 Highway 96, Warner Robins, GA 31088.

**School Council Members Present:**

Andy Rodriguez, Chairperson  
Cherri Nix, Vice Chairperson  
Alyson Keenom  
Rex Lewis  
Deanna Moore  
Angela Fussell

**School Council Members Absent:**

Sherri Freeman, Principal  
Charla Gregory, Secretary  
Miriam Spornhauer

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez called the meeting to order.

**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 unanimously that the School Council approves the agenda as written.

**MOTION:** Rex Lewis

**SECOND:** Deanna Moore

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of February 9, 2010 were read and posted IAW the Open Meetings Act. Moved, seconded and carried unanimously that the School Council approves the minutes as amended.

**MOTION:** Cherri Nix

**SECOND:** Rex Lewis

**Recognition of Visitors:**

Chairperson Andy Rodriguez recognized visitors to the School Council meeting:

Karen Manion, parent  
Vickie Peoples, parent  
Carrie Lovell, student teacher

## **Report of Principal**

Acting in Principal Sherri Freeman's stead, Vice Chairperson Cherri Nix passed along the following:

- Houston County High School was recently recognized by the Georgia Partnership in Education as one of fifteen "85/10 Schools" state-wide. HCHS received this distinction by achieving at least an 85 percent graduation rate in 2008 after an increase of at least 10 percentage points beginning in 2004. Additionally, the school sustained 85/10 through 2009.
- Josh Morrison, HCHS sophomore, won first place in the state in his competitive division, Junior Varsity Policy Debate, at the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association Tournament. Both Josh and teammate junior Kyle Yarborough qualified to attend the National Forensic League championships this June in Kansas City.
- Chris Stagg, HCHS senior, is the 2010 Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) student for the Houston County School System. He will next compete at the region level. Chris selected Laura Byrd as his STAR teacher, the educator who has been most instrumental in his academic development. This is the sixth time she has been selected as a STAR teacher.
- The Georgia High School Graduation Test will be administered March 15 thru 19.
- The system's Student Opinion Survey was distributed and it was discussed that it could be used as a template to construct our own student/parent/teacher survey.

## **Unfinished Business**

Chairperson Rodriguez referred council members to the Ongoing and Open Items in the February 9, 2010 minutes:

\*Improving communication within our community. All available communications channels are used to keep the public informed on activities taking place at HCHS. Outstanding! **ITEM ONGOING**

\*Increasing parental/guardian, student, faculty and staff involvement & support. HCHS's Student/Teacher/Parent Organization (STPO) held its Bear Bazaar on February 27, 2010. All funds raised will support the school's programs, activities, and projects. Joining the STPO were representatives from the school's Drama Club and Football Booster Club. The STPO's next event will be the Inaugural Running Bear 5K Road Race and 1M Walk scheduled for May 22. Additionally, all are invited to attend STPO meetings with the next regular meeting scheduled for April 5, 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. **ITEM ONGOING**

\*School-wide surveys for students & parents. See same subject above in Report of Principal. **ITEM OPEN**

\*Establishment of a "Council of Councils." Chairperson Rodriguez met with the system's Assistant Superintendent of School Operations to advise him of the possibility of forming the

Council of Councils. Depending on the interest of other schools' school councils, an organizational meeting could be scheduled for some time in mid-April. Andy will report on progress, if any, at upcoming meetings. **ITEM CLOSED**

\*The Voice's advertizing policy. Chairperson Rodriguez informed that Ms Freeman spoke with the sponsor-teacher. **ITEM CLOSED**

**New Business:**

None

**Members' Comments:**

A lively discussion by all members present addressed the Governor's teacher merit pay proposal. Perspectives from teachers' and parents' points-of-view were shared.

**Visitors' Comments:**

Mrs Manion and Mrs Peoples both shared that they were in attendance because they wanted to know what the council did. They also indicated that they'd attend future meetings, when possible.

**Future Meeting Dates**

The next regular meeting will be on April 13, 2010 at 6pm in the Media Center. The following regular meeting of the school year will be held at the same time and place on May 11, 2010. Additionally, a special meeting for elections to the school council to fill expiring members' terms will be scheduled for mid- to late-May. Two parent representatives, one business parent representative, and one teacher representative will be elected. Appropriate notice will be provided when the date is firm.

**Adjournment:**

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

**MOTION:** Cherri Nix

**SECOND:** Deanna Moore

Respectfully submitted,

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

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