Houston County High School, School Council Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2011
4:00 P.M.
Media Center

School Council Members Present:

_X_Michelle Masters

_X_Deneen Trask

_X_Jeff Grange

_X_Debbie Schwanebeck

_X_Karen Manion

_X_Melanie Watson

_X_Wesley "Del" Martin

_X_Angela Fussell

_X_Carrie Sharples

Meeting Notes:

Meeting was called to order at 4:06 P.M.

Inspiration by: Deneen Trask

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by: Deneen Trask

Review and Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Carrie Sharples
Second: Debbie Schwanebeck
Unanimous

Approval of Minutes (Sept. 8, 2011)

Motioned to approve as amended: Deneen Trask
Second: Karen Manion
Unanimous

Recognition of Visitors

Kathy Brown and Rose Powell

Reports from Council Members

- Karen Manion recognized HCHS received Region AAAA All Sports Awards. Suggested the school display the various awards HCHS in a trophy case.
- Dr. Michelle Masters stated that HCHS is in the process of finding a way to display the awards in a central location. She also stated that if the SPLOST passes, HCHS would look into purchasing a trophy case if possible.
- Deneen Trask recognized Mrs. Bronwyn Jardin and the drama class for inviting Lake Joy and Perdue Elementary School to the performance of "Alice in Wonderland", Thursday, November 10.

Old Business

- Deneen Trask thanked Del Martin for providing the revision of the school bylaws.
- Deneen Trask informed councilmembers where to place bylaws in councilmember notebooks.

New Business

- Angela Fussell addressed the concern of the disjointed effort with the community about sponsorships. She questioned if there is a better way for HCHS to approach the community to sponsor school clubs and programs. She stated she would like to see a package of different level (gold, silver, etc.) sponsorship listed for all to see. Mrs. Fussell also suggested maybe a sponsor could even provide or build a trophy case.
- Mrs. Kathy Brown suggested that as a councilmember business representative, Mrs. Fussell could assist in communicating to the local businesses. She states that the council is where we discuss these concerns.
- Dr. Michelle Masters recognized the suggestions of the floor and informed us that the reason there is not a one package deal is to provide each club or program with their own funds raised through the community. She also stated that HCHS could work on providing a pamphlet of support sponsors and distribute these pamphlets throughout the schools.
- Mrs. Fussell also suggested placing the pamphlets in local businesses.
- Debbie Schwanebeck added the pamphlets would be a way for students to know where funds are going towards and for community recognition. She stated that this would also prevent too many clubs from contacting the same companies.

- Dr. Michelle Masters suggested that the coaches and advisors need to be a part of the discussion and come up with a list of sponsors.
- Deneen Trask suggested that we continue this topic to the next meeting where teachers, advisors, and coaches can add input.

Report of Principal

- Updated Test Scores and AYP
  - Dr. Michelle Masters stated she had received the updated test scores which included summer testing and graduation. She reported that HCHS scores increased in every area with SWD making tremendous strides as well as Economical Disadvantaged in Math. She recognized the staff for their hard work and providing workshops, remediation, and the Extended Year Program. She expressed concerns that though graduation rates after summer had increased, there is still a concern in the graduation percentage for Economically Disadvantaged. Their test scores remain high but many are not making it to graduation. The HCHS Better Seeking Team is discussing ways to improve.
- Remediation and Enrichment Schedules
  - Assistant Principal, Rose Powell, discussed the Georgia Department of Education's secondary assessment transition plan which was adopted in the spring. She shared a matrix created by the GaDOE as an overview of the phase out of the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) and an increased weight on the End of Course Test (EOCT). All students will continue to be required to take and pass the Georgia High School Writing Test.
  - Rose Powell further explained the two different cohorts of students currently enrolled and the testing requirements for each. Cohort 1, students entering grade nine for the first time during the 2011-2012 school year and beyond will not take the GHSGT but will be required to pass the GHSWT; and Cohort 2, students currently in high school, who entered grade nine for the first time between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2011 may exempt a content area GHSGT requirement with a passing score on one of the same content area EOCTs. A detailed letter will be sent home second semester explaining each student's individual requirements.
  - Mrs. Kathy Brown asked if parents would receive score results from the EOCT.
  - Rose Powell responded yes and stated that student's transcript also display the student's EOCT results.
  - Asst. Principal, Powell acknowledged the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Festival which took place at HCHS on Friday and Saturday October 28 and 29. The festival was coordinated by Assistant Principals,

Dr. Todd Pryby and Will Ray; and CTAE Director Barbara Wall, and Instructional Technology Director, Jan Grace.

- Mrs. Powell announced that HCHS is collaborating with Mercer University to help students explore and prepare portfolios on gacollege411.org, which is an online mentoring system to assist students and parents in selecting a college, applying for admission, and planning for financing higher education. Mercer is also facilitating workshops through Princeton Review to help HCHS students prepare for the SAT.

- Dr. Masters added that many freshmen are not aware of gacollege411.org and this opportunity could assist freshmen becoming more familiar with the site. She also noted that the SAT workshops are limited to 50 students.

- Mrs. Kathy Brown stated her concerns with the math changes regarding the integrated math curriculum and the Common Core. She expressed her concern with schools implementing the one while colleges will expect Discrete Math (Integrated vs. Discrete).

- Dr. Masters explained the difference between Integrated and Discrete Math and stated that Georgia is in the process of adopting the Discrete CCGPS version. She also stated that those students currently in integrated GPS math courses will continue the Integrated Math Curriculum. HCHS will communicate changes to parents as soon as these changes have been adopted.

- Adjournment

  Motion: Deneen Trask

  Second: Angela Fussell