

/Houston County High School, School Council Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2011

6:00 P.M.

Media Center

School Council Members Present:

Michelle Masters

Deneen Trask

Jeff Grange

Debbie Schwanebeck

Karen Manion

Melanie Watson

Wesley "Del" Martin

Angela Fossell

Meeting Notes:

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M.

Inspiration by: Deneen Trask

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by: Deneen Trask

Review and Approval of Agenda

Motion Jeff Grange

Second Debbie Schwanebeck

Recognition of Visitors

Kathy Brown, Anthony Lunceford, and Rose Powell

Reports from Council Members

- Debbie Schwanebeck recognized teacher, Shayna Brown for the Homecoming Court procedures and process.

- Karen Manion observed student pride at the first home game and stated it was refreshing to see.
- Dr. Michelle Masters recognized Mrs. Maureen Martin and the Social Studies Department for exhibiting artwork that was created by students in Pennsylvania who were in school on September 11, 2001 only miles away from Flight 93 crash site. The exhibit is on display in the Mall area of the school in remembrance of September 11 and in honor of Patriot Day. In addition, Mrs. Martin's Humanities class created the patriotic theme out front with red, white, and blue bunting wrapped around the flag poles.

Old Business

a. Review Meeting Dates

- Thursday, September 8, 2011 @ 6:00 P.M.
- Thursday, November 3, 2011 @ 6:00 P.M.
- Thursday, January 19, 2011 @ 6:00 P.M.
- Thursday, March 15, 2011 @ 6:00 P.M.
- Thursday, May 10, 2011 @ 6:00 P.M.

b. STPO

- In response to Kathy Brown's inquiry about the formation of the STPO from the August 2011 meeting, Deneen Trask reported that she reviewed previous school council minutes and did not find any official business whereas the STPO was formed as a subcommittee of the school council. She stated that she then contacted Mr. Andy Rodriguez, former chairperson of the school council and he confirmed that the STPO was not set up as a subcommittee of the school council, but was formed by parents for student support purposes. Ms. Trask also stated that she was informed by several parents who formed the group to support the student body, which was allowed by the former principal. Mr. Rodriguez declined any recognition for STPO.
- Angela Fussell defined the school council as dealing with academics, school improvement and operations whereas, the STPO, she stated, was a way for parents to be more involved and an opportunity for parents to support events such as Open House. She stated the purpose (of STPO) was to help fill gaps to assist the student body.

Approval of Minutes (Aug. 18, 2011)

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

Report of Principal

- School Discipline Policy
 - Dr. Michelle Masters stated she had received a request for her to address the athletic code of conduct and student discipline policy. Dr. Masters, along with Anthony Lunceford, Director of Secondary Operations from the Central Office, took questions regarding school discipline policy.
 - Karen Manion expressed her concern of students who are rumored to be in trouble with the law outside of school and playing sports. Mrs. Manion asked what was the school policy for addressing such issues with students. Mrs. Manion also expressed her concern that if the school does not address out of school behavior with consequences then the athlete's behavior off the field would be overlooked.
 - Dr. Masters stated that it doesn't matter if a student is an athlete or not, her expectation is for all students to be held accountable for their actions.
 - Mr. Lunceford emphasized that in order for the school system to take action regarding student behavior off campus, it must consider factual information. In addition, Mr. Lunceford mentioned the school system actively utilizes Crimestoppers of Middle Georgia to provide a method for students to report crimes anonymously.
 - Mrs. Kathy Brown stated that there is a State hotline available through the Georgia Department of Education that students can anonymously use as well.
 - Dr. Masters stated that Houston County High School strives to be safe, consistent, and fair regarding student discipline matters. She expressed that she has an open door policy and asked that any further concerns be addressed with her.

New Business

- Houston County High School, School Council Bylaws
 - Motion to approve: Deneen Trask
 - Second: Debbie Schwanebeck
 - Unanimous: Bylaws adopted

Adjournment

Motion: Jeff Grange

Second: Debbie Schwanebeck