

Hightower Trail Middle School Council Minutes
September 4, 2018

Members Present:

Laura Montgomery	Sarah Chaloupek
Pam Buchalter	Melody Stout
Tara Riddle	Penny Kilpatrick
Cara Dominick	Susannah MacKay

1. Call to Order
Meeting called to order by Laura Montgomery
2. Pledge of Allegiance
All stood and recited the pledge
3. Council Officer Elections
 - a. Susannah MacKay-chairperson
 - b. Tara Riddle- co-chairperson
 - c. Sarah Chaloupek-secretary
4. New Business
 - a. Code of Ethics
 - i. All members present signed the Code of Ethics
 1. Discussion regarding confidentiality as well as mandated reporting
 - a. All reports go to counseling the department initially for the counselors to follow up and make determination.
 - b. State Website www.gsci.org/training.html
 - i. Members referred to website for information regarding school council responsibilities.
5. Council Meeting Dates for 2018-2019
 - a. The following dates were established for School Council Meetings
October 2, November 13, February 5, March 5, March 26, May 7

Members of School Council to represent at BLT meetings at HTMS
Oct 3 – Susannah MacKay
Nov 14- Sarah Chaloupek
Jan 23- Pam Buchalter
March 6- Cara Dominick
May 1- Tara Riddle
6. Proposed parent meeting dates to discuss EOG/RI/IOWA data and significance to promotion policy

- a. 8th grade- Oct2
 - b. 6th grade- Oct 4
 - c. 7th grade- Oct 9
 - i. Discussed time and agreed that an 8:30 am start to parent meetings could encourage increased attendance.
 - ii. Discussion regarding communication timing with announcement of meeting dates to occur this week with multiple outlets including
 - 1. An email directly from Laura Montgomery
 - 2. Teacher blogs
 - 3. Remind
 - iii. Discussed alternative ways for parents to be present including a Facebook live video and possibly recording of the meeting for future viewing
7. Other Business
- a. School Profile Dashboard
 - i. Handouts given and demographic breakdown of HTMS explained
 - 1. County reconfigured FTE formula allotment which resulted in 3.5 FTE's lost for HTMS
 - 2. Due to FTE changes, class sizes increased slightly.
 - 3. Classes are at a standard class size of 33
 - b. Vertical Teams in Cobb County
 - i. Meeting of leaders from elementary school feeders, Hightower and Pope with emphasis on growth mindset for all schools.
 - 1. 8th grade counselors already planning for growth mindset emphasis
 - 2. School Council to sponsor a Growth Mindset Meeting at Pope HS
 - c. Parent Involvement
 - i. Brainstorming for increasing parent involvement at HTMS
 - 1. Discussed ideas included small groups, focus groups, grade specific panels with question and answer sessions
 - a. Ideas for panels include: myths debunked, bus/carpool/dismissal protocols, Connections, Meeting the Assistant Principals
 - 2. Ideas for reaching more parents include
 - a. FB live
 - b. Texting questions in to SC representative
 - c. Question of the week in Husky Headlines
 - d. Increasing Social Media presence with posting of short videos with admin answering frequently asked questions