

HTMS School Council Meeting Minutes - Oct. 21, 2015

Attendees: Michele Bauer, Brad Bebee, Adria Casey, Garrett Grashuis, Lauren Grey, Laura Montgomery, Tara Riddle, Julie Thomas, Beth Weiss Absent: None

Agenda Item	Action Req'd	Notes
<p>Old Business</p> <p>a) Approval of minutes from last meeting</p> <p>b) Dress code action item</p>	All	<p>a) Minutes approved</p> <p>b) We discussed that the statement that Laura drafted was appropriate but directed towards the student body and not staff teachers. Laura will discuss the performance standard and expectations for how to discuss dress code violations with a student at the at the staff meeting on Wed.</p>
Principal's report	Laura	<p>Laura reviewed updates to the strategic plan and provided information about the new milestones test. The strategic plan continues to be tweaked to provide more specific criteria and standards. The council expressed the need to clarify the contributing factors behind the drop in the Key Trend Data, particularly in the on-track for graduation data.</p> <p>Laura also discussed that the stakeholder satisfaction evaluation tool changed from 2013 to 2014, which was a contributing factor in the lower score. HTMS did respond to student survey data that indicated that many students could not identify a safe adult to talk to about concerns. The school has created the PAL program to augment the Sources of Strength curriculum. Working with the PTSA, the HTMS is starting an awareness campaign to help students identify trusted adults.</p> <p>Laura shared that the state legislature has placed the Quality Based Education (QBE) program on the 2016 agenda. It is important for stakeholders who wish to share their input to submit letters or emails by early 2016 so that their opinion is taken into consideration when the state makes decisions about the continuation of QBE. Last year, Cobb County contributed \$134 million to the state fund and received no money/benefits in return. The council discussed conducting a public informational meeting for parents and community members to explain QBE and explain how parents can share their opinions to state officials. Tara suggested contacting representatives of the PTSA, School Councils and Foundations to organize and communicate the session. Laura offered the use of HTMS' facilities for a meeting location.</p>
<p>New Business</p> <p>a) Discuss School Strategic Plan</p> <p>b) Attendance Policy & Consequences</p> <p>c) Set 2015 Council's goals</p> <p>d) Assign rep for Nov. BLT meeting</p>	All	<p>a) Laura has not received the Milestones testing data yet, although she did receive a sample report. Laura plans to host several informational sessions for parents. Council members offered to provide input for a cover letter which explains the how to interpret the report and provides context. There will be an effort to ensure that the letter is written in an easy-to-interpret fashion (i.e. at-a-glance, infographic style.)</p> <p>b) The state attendance policy has changed and under the new policy, schools lose some funding when a student misses more than 7 days, even if the absences are excused for illness or religious holidays. Based on a review of past years' attendance, HTMS had more than 50% of students who would have been in violation of the new policy. This would have a significant impact on school funding.</p>

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New Business (Cont.)		c) The Council decided to focus on two goals for the year: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Communication of Georgia Milestones reporting to parents ii. Communicating factors which impact school funding (including QBE and attendance) d) Michele will be the School Council rep at the next BLT meeting
Adjourn		Next meeting – Wed. Nov. 17

Action Items

Action Item	Owner	Due Date	Status
Provide teachers will a statement to explain the dress code policy and what to say to a student when he or she violates the policy. Review the statement with teachers during an upcoming staff meeting.	Laura	10/21	Completed
Provide council members with a sample milestone report and a brief list of key points to communicate with parents. This info will be sent home through members' children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members will provide feedback about key points to communicate to parents in the report cover letter via email about ways to communicate the report. Focus should be on making it easy to read and understand – Use REPLY ALL feature so that we can have an online discussion. 	Laura <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 	10/21 (Council members' input within 24 hours)	Open
Provide draft statement explaining the score drop of the 2014 on-track to graduation score on the Key Trend Data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members will provide feedback via email about ways to communicate the report. Use REPLY ALL feature so that we can have an online discussion 	Laura <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 	End of week – 10/23 (Council members' input within 24 hours)	Open
Contact key stakeholder representatives (PTSA, School Council, Foundations, etc.) at East Cobb high schools, middle school and elementary schools to plan and advertise a January joint informational sessions. All council members will assist as needed. Planning will take place outside of the school council meetings and we will report on progress.	Tara	Community info session to be held 1/16	Open
Select council member to attend Nov. BLT meeting (in Tips room or Media Center)	Michele	11/17	

Status: New, Open, Deferred, and Completed