

Hightower Trail Middle School Council Meeting Minutes - Sept. 16, 2015

Present: Brad Bebee, Adria Casey, Garrett Grashuis, Joni Myler, Tara Riddle, Julie Thomas, Beth Weiss Absent: Michele Bauer, Lauren Grey, Laura Montgomery

Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Notes
1. Call to Order	Tara Riddle	
2. Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions	All	
3. Principal's report & Introduction	Joni Myler	<p>Laura had to attend another meeting and Assistant Principal, Joni Myler attended in her place. Joni presented the overall state-wide standardized test results that the school received this past week. The new test standards were higher and included more writing for math, science, English and social studies sections than the previous state-wide test.</p> <p>Overall test results were significantly lower in all categories state-wide. HTMS expects that our school scores will be passing but that there will be fewer students in the highest level, which is now called distinguished learners. This is similar to the "exceeds standards" category.</p> <p>Council members discussed the test, the information that teachers received in order to prepare and the level of information they will receive about test results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that the Council can work with Administration to present the results in a more visual format so that people can more easily compare results to average state scores. • The council would like to help communicate the reasons behind the HTMS scores that decreased because of the state reporting structure. It was suggested that we should provide specific information to help parents have a more accurate picture: state that 186 children who took high school level courses were excluded from the results.
4. Old Business a) Approval of minutes from last meeting b) Dress code action item	All	<p>A. Minutes approved</p> <p>B. Joni distributed a statement that Laura wrote for the teachers to read to the students. It was decided that the intent of the last meeting was for the administration to communicate to the teachers instead of the students. The concern is that some teachers are telling girls that their clothing is inappropriate because it is distracting to boys, rather than stating that it is non-professional.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Laura will discuss with teachers how to talk to students about dress code violations, specifically that discussions should focus on the policy and the importance of creating a professional learning environment and not described in terms of gender.

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<p>5. New Business</p> <p>a) Review School Strategic Plan</p> <p>b) Set 2015 Council's goals</p> <p>c) Assign rep for Oct. BLT meeting</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>A. Joni reviewed the 2015-16 school plan and answered questions.</p> <p>B. The council discussed the new attendance policy which is more strict and holds parents responsible for their child's attendance. HTMS has a higher than normal number of unexcused student absences which affects school funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Members agreed that they would like more information about the attendance policy changes at the next meeting in order to consider it as an annual goal. • ACTION: Council members would like to review the school plan independently and learn more about the attendance policy changes before establishing annual goals. • ACTION: Council members request that information be sent in advance of meetings so members can review and prepare. This will help us use meeting time more efficiently. <p>C. Tara will attend the Oct. 28 BLT meeting</p>
<p>6. Review action items</p>	<p>Julie Thomas</p>	<p>See below</p>
<p>7. Adjourn</p>		<p>Next meeting – Wed. Oct. 21</p>

Action Items

Action Item	Owner	Due Date	Status
Provide May meeting minutes for vote	Laura Montgomery	9/16	Complete
Publically post information (signs, Husky Highlights) about upcoming Council meetings – Coordinate with Windsor McFadden	Julie Thomas, Tara Riddle		Ongoing
Assign council rep. to attend the Sept. BLT meeting	Beth Weiss	9/30	-Complete
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 Montgomery	10/21	Open
Prepare briefing about changes in attendance policy at next meeting. Provide any reading materials to members in advance so they can prepare questions.	Laura Montgomery	10/21	
Review School Strategic Plan and bring suggestions for Council 2015-16 goals	All	10/21	

Status: New, Open, Deferred, and Completed