

Site Council Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2017

In Attendance: Kathy Kaczor, Beth Kitsos, Dan Hickey, Sarah Emilio, Dan Faircloth, Karen Szarak, Larry Trevette, Shannon Pettis, Michelle Maginnis, Isabela Yepes, Rachel Spencer.

Previous minutes accepted unanimously.

Turnaround Site Visit: As HHS is a level 3 school, DESE is providing support from an outside agency to evaluate the school on four standards: Leadership, Shared Responsibility, and Professional Collaboration; Intentional Practices for Improving Instruction; Student-Specific Supports and Instruction to all Students; and School Climate and Culture. The goal of this visit is to reinforce what the school is doing well and highlight areas for improvement by reinforcing what good teaching, leadership, and culture look like. The district will be contacting the community regarding this.

Once the Site Visit is complete and the assessment has been given to the school, HHS will be developing a "Turnaround Plan." This plan will become this year's "School Improvement Plan."

HHS is applying for two more CVTE programs. In submitting the applications the school seeks approval from existing programs within 25 miles. Methuen signed off on our application for the Web Development program. Whittier Technical did not sign off on our application for the Medical program but local hospitals have written letters of support and currently the programs available only meet 28% of the current demand.

ELA MCAS tutoring ends next week. Math MCAS tutoring begins March 28th through May 11th. Possible "Bio Bootcamp" upcoming.

Back on Track (BoT) Program currently underway to help 12 current struggling freshmen make it through to become sophomores next fall. Last year was the first year for this program and it was 70% successful. Criteria includes teacher recommendations and parent conferences. Students are also encouraged to participate in a summer program.

Gateway Program assists repeat freshmen to find success. Students are shown multiple options to continue their education: Extended Day Program, HiSet (former GED), Reintegration to HHS, Online Schools (Tecca, Youthbuild, Greenfield Academy), or letting the student know they can return for re-engagement when they are ready.

Gateway Cities: Classical Academy highlighted in Boston Globe article about "School Districts in Affordable Cities to Watch." Also shared was an article about how "School system's rank shouldn't be the only factor" in choosing where to live. Having a support system and good quality of life is also valuable.

Stakeholder Survey: Discussed current survey questions as well as possible methods to ensure the best possible outreach to the community. Discussed student input and possibility of adding student questions. Survey currently on hold until district approval is forthcoming. Current questions:

1. How can we improve parent conferences so that more parents can feel involved and the communication is more effective?
 - location of meetings, joint meetings?
 - duration of meetings

- timing of meeting during the quarter vs end of quarter
 - ease of meeting (food, transportation, exhibitions)
 - alternatives to parent/teacher night
 - communication about parent/teacher meetings.
2. What issues do you see with the current cell-phone policy?
What changes are needed to the current cell-phone policy?
 3. How can we improve outreach to families so that families can effectively use the portal, find out about important meetings and events, connect with services? Are there other locations to reach more families?
 4. How do we address the non user fee costs of participating in sports/extracurricular events to facilitate participation for all students?

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 4, 3:00 - 4:00