

Minutes for the School Council Meeting
Veterans High School Council
November 18, 2020

The Veterans High School Council met in regular session on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 7:15 a.m., in room 1203 - 340 Piney Grove Road, Kathleen, GA 31047.

Council Members Present:

Julie Andrews, Amy Barbour, Angel Brown, Bill Connelly, Denisa Davis, Gary Garrard, Megan Jones

School Council Members Absent:

none

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Angel Brown, chairperson, called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Brown led the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

3. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Barbour distributed the agenda pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Denisa Davis motioned to accept the agenda, and Megan Jones seconded. The vote was unanimous.

4. Approval of Minutes

A vote to approve the minutes from January 22, 2020 was taken. Gary Garrard motioned to approve the minutes, and Julie Andrews seconded. The vote was unanimous.

5. Recognition of Visitors

No visitors were present.

6. Recognition of School Council members

Mrs. Angel Brown, chairperson
Dr. Amy Barbour, principal
Mrs. Julie Andrews, teacher representative
Mrs. Megan Jones, teacher representative
Lt. Col. Bill Connelly
Mrs. Denisa Davis
Mr. Gary Garrard

7. Presentation(s) to School Council

There were no presentations to school council.

8. Report of the Principal

- 20-21 School Year Start
 - Student Enrollment – distance learning and in-person

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Veterans High School Council
November 18, 2020

- School operational procedures
- COVID safety procedures
- COVID case reporting
- School Safety Plan
- Student discipline rates
- Staff supports

Dr. Barbour reviewed the beginning of the school year, noting VHS had a strong and positive start despite COVID impacts. She reviewed enrollment numbers, daily school operational procedures (6 period day, activity adjustments and daily procedures), and COVID safety procedures.

In reviewing COVID procedures, she discussed the limitations on group gatherings, cleaning routines for all areas, adjusted lunch procedures, and student grouping/material use limitations in the classroom. She discussed mask use, and remarked students have been incredibly compliant and responsible. Disposable masks are available in the main office and the med tech's office. She further discussed the processes in place for school level tracing and student quarantining as 10 days for a positive case and 14 days for a contact. She explained the use of seating charts, teacher verification, bus seating/videos, lunch procedures, and activity processes necessary in tracing protocols. She explained the parent contact process for both close contacts and the school community as a whole. The callout system is being used for COVID communication, and Dr. Barbour remarked she is using the email system for other communication needs. She stated there have been around 20 positive cases in the school community, which is remarkable for a facility with around 1400 present students and around 200 employees daily.

She reviewed the updates in the school safety plan for COVID needs and the adjustments made to fire and safety drills. She discussed school safety as still being the number one priority, from traditional safety needs to COVID related needs.

Student discipline numbers are low, with less than 70 referrals for the school year. Most referrals are with the freshman group as they adjust to the high school setting and expectations.

Dr. Barbour discussed staff supports in place for all the work our staff is doing, including Thank You Thursdays, First Friday donuts, regular and transparent communication, and the importance of relationships with peers, students, and parents.

Dr. Barbour also discussed the distance learning enrollment window for family choice for learning choice for spring. She remarked that around 410 students were on distance learning for first semester, and as of this date, 92 have requested to return.

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- Graduation Rate Gains!

Year	VHS	District	State
2017	92.1	87.6	80.6
2018	91.0	88.0	82.0
2019	89	88.4	82.6
2020	96.7	89.6	83.8

Dr. Barbour celebrated the current graduation rate, and its nearly 8 point gain over the prior year. She explained that students with disabilities who can remain enrolled until they are 21 have now been waived to the cohort that aligns with their IEP guided graduation date, when they previously have counted against graduation rates. She remarked that this is a celebration of the staff's hard work to support student needs and get them to graduation as a vehicle through which they have post-secondary options.

- Facilities update

Dr. Barbour stated the construction projects were approved at the November board meeting, and that construction had started with fencing and removal of the bus ramp awning as of 11.16.20. She explained transportation adjustments needed to accommodate the construction (AM and PM bus needs and locations and two bell dismissal). She explained the multipurpose addition would house additional practice gym space, locker room spaces, and weight facilities, and the target completion is fall 2021. The classroom addition is a simultaneous work site, which would add about 60 classroom spaces including special education rooms, CTAE lab spaces, and science lab spaces. It is estimated to be completed in summer 2022.

- Celebrations

- 20-21 School Year Start
- Student activities
- Students/Staff of the Month

9. Old Business

No old business was reviewed.

10. New Business

20-21 School Council Dates: 1.20.21, 3.3.21, and 4.21.21 – The adjusted school council dates were approved.

11. Executive Session

None held

12. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the school council, the meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Angel Brown. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 20, 2021.