

Minutes for the School Council Meeting
Veterans High School Council
September 18, 2019

The Veterans High School Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 7:00 a.m., in the media center - 340 Piney Grove Road, Kathleen, GA 31047.

Council Members Present:

Steve Atkins, Amy Barbour, Angel Brown, Mark Byrd, Anissa Driggers, Megan Jones, and Neal Musmanno

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. Mark Byrd motioned to accept the agenda, and Neal Musmanno seconded. The vote was unanimous.

4. Approval of Minutes

A vote to approve the minutes from April 18, 2019 was taken. Steve Atkins motioned to take the vote, and Anissa Driggers seconded. The vote was unanimous.

5. Recognition of Visitors

None

6. Recognition of School Council members

Returning School Council members were recognized, and thanked for their service. Mrs. Megan Jones was introduced as the new teacher representative, elected by the staff, to replace the teacher representative position vacated by Kaci Whiddon.

7. Presentation(s) to School Council

None

8. Report of the Principal

- 18-19 Student/School Data (handout)
Dr. Barbour reviewed all 18-19 end of course assessment data, including five year trends for levels 2-4 performance and levels 3-4 performance in comparison to Houston County and state data. Advanced Placement and End of Pathway data

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was reviewed, as well. AP course offerings, overall performance rates, and the impact of dual enrollment on all data was discussed.

- 19-20 Strategic Measures of Student Success (handout)
The VHS 19-20 strategic plan was reviewed. Dr. Barbour discussed the connection of the focus areas and measures to the state's CCRPI assessment. She then explained the trend score attainment in place for each measure. The targets are pre-set, as a 3% gain of the margin between the last score attainment and 100%. Dr. Barbour then discussed the process of determining school level actions by the content teams and departments, and the leadership team's identification of the actions needed by the school. The final SMOSS will be reviewed with the full staff in the 9.19.19 faculty meeting, and its actions and measures will be monitored through content teams and the Better Seeking Team. It will be a point of report at School Council.

- 19-20 school year start
 - New staff members
VHS has 8 new staff members this year, replacing teachers who resigned or moved to other positions. All eight staff members are experienced teachers who have already started to make great contributions to VHS. VHS did not receive additional teacher allotment for the 19-20 school year.

 - Student Enrollment
Current enrollment was reported as 1722, with 415 seniors, 415 juniors, 436 sophomores, and 456 freshmen. The October 1 Full Time Enrollment (FTE) count was discussed as being the checkpoint for GHSA classification for the 20-21 school year.

 - School Safety
Dr. Barbour discussed the countywide initiative of the Anonymous Alerts app, through which students and parents are able report any safety concerns. The school did an email for all parents and pushed the app with students in class meetings. The app is anonymous, and all reports go directly to school administrators. There is a reply function where more information can be obtained, as needed, with the reporter, if he/she selects the option. As of 8.27, VHS had 10 reports; as of 9.17, VHS had 18 reports. All reports are investigated and result in action via conference, parent contact, or discipline, as needed. The app reporting requires notes for the resolution and indication of credibility. Dr. Barbour discussed having received some credible self-harm or counseling needs, but also reported some false or incomplete/invalid reports. Overall, the resource is valuable to support school safety in a non-threatening way.

Dr. Barbour also discussed a rumored threat on 8.23.19, where students reported there was a threat on the pep rally. Dr. Barbour discussed what

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was reported as a student threat; 10-15 students were interviewed, and one student was named. That student was interviewed and searched, but there was no threat or credibility, and there was no safety threat. The student discussion traced back to bus discussion, but no true start or beginning could be identified. School Operations were informed, and no action was taken to disrupt or stop the normal school day. Dr. Barbour discussed the importance of students and parents reporting any concern as soon as possible versus participating in talk, social media, or rumor that can perpetuate and disrupt school.

Dr. Barbour also discussed the callout on 9.4.19 to inform parents of an incident in the student parking lot when two students were approached by an adult, which resulted in an arrest off campus. The students reported the incident immediately to administration, and the school resource officer, the Sheriff's Office, and School Operations were immediately informed. The accused left campus; school was not disrupted and a code was not called as there was no danger or threat. Dr. Barbour commended the SRO, school administration, the Sheriff's office, and School Operations for their diligent and swift work in concert to respond to the situation. Dr. Barbour did a call out to inform parents about the situation that afternoon. Mrs. Brown remarked that the publicized news story was misleading, which contributed to parent and student responses. Mr. Musmanno asked if the school could do a press release. Dr. Barbour indicated that the office of Community Relations does press releases, but are involved in all parent communication on emergencies, and were involved in the callout process. There were five parent visits and about 10 parent calls as a result of the situation questioning school safety plans.

Dr. Barbour reviewed the school safety plans, drill procedures, and administrative duty processes in place to support school safety. Mark Byrd commended the school staff, the SRO, Sheriff's Office, and School Operations for their responses and for the lack of disruption to school. He further indicated that the responses indicated the safety plan processes are successful and used appropriately, and the rest of the school council members concurred.

- Professional Learning Communities – teacher/student impact
Dr. Barbour reviewed the professional learning processes in place to support teacher and student learning, and how those processes support meeting the strategic plan to continue student growth and improvement. She further discussed the SOAR (Seeking Opportunities for Advancement and Reinforcement) schedule, where Tuesdays/Thursdays students have opportunities for extra help, remediation, or enrichment activities throughout the school for 35 minutes. The SOAR schedule for the coming week is live on the website on the prior Friday, and students choose their

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locations. Teachers review the plan and options with students the beginning of each week, and administrators are available in the halls to support students on those days. Parents are encouraged to visit the plan online and discuss options with their students.

- Facilities update
Dr. Barbour met with the architect, Mr. Thublin, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Bullard with regards to the school additions in August. The target start for the multipurpose building is September-October 2020, with the classroom addition beginning in January 2021. The multipurpose space would relieve facilities needs for wrestling, cheer, adaptive PE, and weight room space. The classroom addition will add needed CTAE lab spaces, science labs, and added classroom spaces. Dr. Barbour will continue to update School Council on this progress throughout the year.

- Celebrations
 - 3 individual state champions in 2019
 - Athletic teams, Fine Arts, CTAE programs, and other extracurriculars are off to a great start!
 - Valued @ the V

9. Old Business

Mrs. Brown discussed looking ahead to gaining more support and contributors for teacher appreciation in spring 2020. Dr. Barbour and Col. Atkins thanked the school council for their contributions and discussed how appreciative the teachers and staff were for the celebrated week last year. Col. Atkins mentioned that ROTC planned to do a breakfast this coming year, and offered ROTC cadets to help school council, as needed, also. Mrs. Brown also discussed the benefits of the Fab lab, and how there are options of projects for teacher recognition through those programs.

10. New Business

Mr. Musmanno asked about the impact of the change in exemption relative to year-long data last year, such as overall pass rates, increased B and higher averages, and gaps, if any, for prior high achievers. Dr. Barbour remarked that overall it was successful, with discipline for ISS/OSS lowering and more students exempting. She further remarked more students, on the whole, appeared to have a more positive outlook on classroom performance. She further discussed the impact of alternative discipline procedures on student achievement through exemption incentives. Dr. Barbour said she would pull 18-19 data for review at the next school council meeting.

11. Executive Session

None held

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12. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the school council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 by Mrs. Angel Brown. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 20, 2019, in the Veterans High School media center.