Hillgrove School Council Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2019

1. Call to Order: President – Mr. Gunn 8:43

2. Members present:

Linwood Gunn, Cerethea Owens-Fontanez, Denise Lodahl, Jan Hair, Chantal Howard, Angela Stewart, Sonya Cook, Toyia Austin, Beckham Sawyer

3. Pledge of Allegiance – School participation

4. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting – Beckham Sawyer approves, Denise Lodahl 2nd

5. Report of the Principal:

Course Selection process issue in August

- Overall district numbers are lower – students dictate admins, clerks, teachers, etc
- Course selection is starting now, issues come when students try to change in August
- 10 days after school starts is the allowed time to change courses
- Mrs Stewart has been sending info in Hawk Highlights to get parents & students to talk about course selection early on, not later.
- Mrs Cook – students should have brought home their course request sheets
- Course Offerings – why? Who is it serving? What benefits to students? Trying to get a committee together to discuss this. Student interest will be considered, Staff also. Department teams will have input.

Senior Capstone & Exam Exemption plans moving forward

- Exam exemptions will remain the same for Spring 2019. - 90/A or higher, & less than 5 absences.
- Teachers have a deadline to tell students that they are exempt from the finals.
- We have 97% attendance rate at Hillgrove
- Missing review classes before finals is not a big deal as far as attendance numbers & money for the school. It’s up to the parents & students.
- Senior project/capstones: $5500 - $6000 is spent to feed the staff & judges each year
How can we keep capstones & keep the community involved if we don’t feed them? Culinary arts cooks the food to feed them. This money use to be in the budget but was taken away when Mrs Stewart came to Hillgrove, so Mrs Stewart needs to find the money from somewhere else. Trying to do it in the daytime might reduce the costs, but will we have less community participation if it’s in working hours? School council members thought moving it to the daytime would not affect community involvement.

**Student Behavior – Proactive measures**

- **March 27th – Face time**
- Vaping is still an issue, nationwide – Data from 2011 - 2018—3.6 million using ecigs which leads to 37% smoking. Most popular is the juul (looks like a usb) Nicotine may affect the areas of attention & learning studies are showing
- Admins are checking the restrooms on a regular basis & being proactive about stopping the vaping in the stalls.

6. Old Business Topics:

7. New Business Topics:

- Jan Hair – does lower district numbers open Hillgrove up to school choice? Hillgrove is the most requested school in West Cobb. We have a lot of CCSD employee children. Numbers are so high that we don’t have school choice seats open.
- Mr Gunn – traffic – school council can approach school board to help alleviate the traffic. DOT & Cobb county have looked into it. Matt Shuffle in the SPLOST department has helped at Lovinggood. Maybe he can come to the next meeting.
- Cereetha Owens-Fontanez – putting grades in (previous issue discussed) Mrs. Stewart will remind teachers
- **Work session meetings for admins** – admins check blogs, grade books, check their team meeting notes & they send feedback to the teachers at the end of the meeting.
- **Denise Lodahl** – “PE we don’t do anything” from kids. Testing – teacher gives a review & the kids don’t do it, as a sub she sees this.
- **Mrs Stewart** – student apathy is real. Teacher came to her concerned about the strength of how the students are writing. Beginning of the year, sometimes is on auto-pilot because of high test scores.
- **March 28th** – 2:30 – 3:30 school council can come visit in homeroom classes, practice run of senior projects. Hawk Hour that day.
- Need help for pre-spring break cook out for staff- March 28 – time TBA
- Mrs Stewart would like badges for school council members
- Jan Hair – May 9th – Red Day at Keller Williams – Looking for projects for 200 volunteers giving back to the community.
8.  Adjournment 10:06

9.  Next Meeting – April 25th

Hillgrove School Council

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Angela Stewart, Principal