

School Governance Council

Torrington High School

2/26/14 (First meeting)

3:30-4:30

Teacher Members Present: Mary Demarchi, Jamie Rowland, Christine Del Bene

Absent: Mike Tyler and Andrew Marchand

Parent Members Present: William Battle, Jim Lamoin, Joe Friscia

Administrators: Eric Baim, Derek Bonnett

Minutes

Facilitator and Minutes: Derek Bonnett

- Review of state generated materials for School Governance Council (SGC) Responsibilities and Election Procedures
- Mr. Friscia began open discussion of materials by stressing the importance of a full council and offered to begin recruitment to fill four parent vacancies via Facebook communication, phone calls (Robo-call).
- Mrs. Demarchi raised a question about the "advisory" capacity of the SGC and stressed the importance of receiving pertinent school data prior to the decision-making process so that the council could properly advise Mr. Baim.
- Mr. Battle commented upon state mandates relative to various demographics and questioned how the SGC might address them.
- Mr. Baim stated that the SGC's purpose was to create a culture where more stakeholders were involved in the decision-making process for THS.
- Mr. Bonnett made a suggestion that the terms for the elected teachers and parents on the council begin that day since the first SGC meeting was held on 2/26/14. The council accepted this.
- The next order of business was to determine meeting times and dates going forward. Mr. Battle recommended Wednesdays. The council discussed district and professional obligations which might conflict with meetings. Monday was suggested as a second possibility. Mr. Lamoin requested a later date as his only preference for work purposes. The council agreed on Monday meetings from 4:00-5:00PM.
- Mr. Friscia asked that the council members commit to one meeting per month to start in the interest of greater continuity. The council agreed meeting more frequently than the state suggested would be beneficial toward creating a stronger SGC. Monthly meetings were agreed upon with the option to reconsider later on.
- Mr. Baim also stressed the timeliness of these meetings to coincide with a similar time frame as the decision-making process for such matters as school budget and school climate surveys.
- The next meeting was set for Monday, April 7, 2014 from 4:00-5:00 PM

- The conversation turned to the filling of two student non-voting members. Mr. Lamoin recommended tenth and eleventh grade students to maintain their membership to the council. Mrs. Rowland defended the validity of using older students, who have more time at THS for input purposes.
- Mr. Baim offered to have administration begin the process of student elections and committed to have the two students in place prior to the April 7 meeting. He planned to consult the THS Student Council on the matter.
- Additionally, Mr. Baim urged council members to research and consider possible bylaws prior to the next meeting so that we can begin putting them in place.
- Meeting adjourned.