

Minutes

Make a Difference at Your School!

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCILS

Ansonia High School
School Governance Council
AHS Media Center
October 30, 2019
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Attendance: Sarah Ahearn, Gabe Balonze, Wendy Chin, Erin Corso, Christine Davis, Amy DeFelice, Paul Giansanti, Laura Lane, Rob Lisi, Maliqa Mosley-Williams, Sue Nargi, Laura Palmer, Karen Phipps, Dennis Proto, Idalis Martinez, Dorca Rodriguez, Rose Marie Saleh

Absent: Allison Wynus

Welcome: Karen Phipps welcomed all council members and introduced new parent members, Gabe Balonze and Rose Marie Saleh.

Minutes: Minutes from the September 25, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Class Advisor

Proposal: AHS science teacher and class advisor, Vincent Wynne, spoke about the challenges of fundraising. Fundraising is a sense of urgency, as it helps to defray the cost of junior and senior year events. Mr. Wynne proposed to the Council to have each student pay class dues. Other high schools charge class dues such as Derby, Seymour and Shelton. Mr. Wynne proposed that starting with the Class of 2024, dues should be charged as follows each year: Freshmen \$40, Sophomores \$30, Juniors \$20, Seniors \$10. Mr. Wynne stated that we need to start thinking now about future events. His philosophy is “parts amount to a whole.”

Mr. Giansante proposed that for the next SGC meeting Mr. Wynne draft a proposal that can be presented to the BOE by a SGC parent member. Mrs. Lane suggested Mr. Wynne also prepare a list of activities per year, so families know the cost upfront. This may help justify the need for class dues.

Mrs. Crooks explained that Mr. Wynne and Ms. Cruz are putting together a Google Share Drive, so students are aware of their class finances. Further, class officers will have the opportunity be in a segment on the Charger News where they explain fundraisers and other happenings for each class.

Idalis believes it would be more effective for students to inform their classmates about fundraisers and the importance of fundraising versus advisors/admins/teachers. Idalis also suggested more creative ways to fundraise. For example, the Music Department is launching an email fundraiser that seeks donations. Mrs. Corso talked

about cash calendars, and Mrs. Palmer explained that the cheerleading and baseball teams currently do this fundraiser. Mrs. Davis suggested that the junior class (Class of 2021) sell graduate lawn signs to seniors as a fundraiser. Mrs. Palmer suggested bringing back the balloon fundraiser at graduation as well. She also suggested looking into selling Super Bowl squares as a fundraiser for parents to run; Derby HS does this. Mr. Balonze suggested that AHS solicit local businesses for funding. Mr. Giansanti explained that the PTSO has suggested the same idea. Local businesses have already supported AHS Yearbook.

Initiatives

Update:

Mrs. Davis stated that a phone conference was held with Dean Hegedus from SCSU. The Dean proposed a potential partnership with SCSU where AHS students enrolled in the Future Teachers course have the potential to earn an EDU 200 credit. This credit will transfer to the four Connecticut State Schools as a general education credit. Required with this credit will be a 20 hour practicum component. Next steps include a sit down with Dr. Adam Goldberg, the Director of Curriculum and Development at SCSU.

Mrs. Phipps gave an update on the Computer Engineering partnership with Gateway. Gateway is currently working with 18 schools and cannot start a partnership with AHS at this time. More professors at Gateway need to be trained before this partnership can occur. The contact is Christine Cherry, a former AHS science teacher, who is strongly promoting this partnership.

Mr. Giansanti reported that he met with the Pharmacy Tech Program committee, and they mapped out a plan similar to the Patient Care Technician Program. It will be an Allied Health Pathway. The aim is to have ten students enrolled, but because of transportation costs, there may be three to five students enrolled in the program. Students will need to find their own transportation to Yale during their senior year. They looked into student city bus passes (\$12.50) and Uber.

Mr. Proto met with a representative from American Seal and Engineering in Orange, CT. They would like to develop a partnership with Ansonia hoping to begin an internship program for AHS students. They will be talking to the AHS engineering students. Mr. Proto also reported that the AHS Pathways team will meet with Fred Gill, adjunct professor at Gateway and talent acquisition manager for Metro North, to discuss Railroad Engineering Technology. Mr. Proto also met with Prestige Industrial Finishing in Shelton, CT. Prestige is a supplier to Sikorsky. They discussed possible internships and funding opportunities for AHS students.

Guidance:

Mrs. Corso stated that the FAFSA Workshop at AHS on October 2 at 6:00 p.m. went well. Diana Draper, director of Financial Aid at University of Fairfield, spoke to parents, guardians and students about the FAFSA. On Saturday, November 2, HCC is hosting FAFSA Day and are giving away five free iPads.

On PSAT Day, Guidance hosted a Common Application Workshop for seniors in the AHS café. Approximately thirty seniors took advantage of this opportunity.

Ms. Chin reported on the October 23rd AHS Open House. Approximately 30 families attended from AMS, Assumption, and High Horizons. Thirteen faculty were present and twenty-two students volunteered their time to highlight what is great about Ansonia. The second half of Open House consisted of parents and potential students visiting the tables and learning about programs, clubs, and classes from AHS students. Mrs. Ahearn said the event was positive and informative. Students were excited to be there, and there was a lot of energy. Mrs. Ahearn suggested extending the invitation to grade 7 students as well. She also inquired about the possibility of offering transportation to families who could not attend due to a possible lack of transportation.

Ms. Chin informed Council members about the College Fair. Seventy-two colleges, community colleges, and trade schools were present. There was positive feedback from the college/university representatives about the AHS faculty and students. Next year, Ms. Chin is looking to change the date of the College Fair after hearing feedback from various representatives about the timing of the event. She would also like to extend the invitation to Tuition Break and ASVAB.

Promoting AHS:

- Ms. Chin is working on creating a student section at AHS sport events. Students will be voting on a t-shirt in advisory on October 30. The t-shirts were designed by Mr. Kingsley's The Business of Sports and Entertainment. Shirts should be available in November.
- Mrs. Corso reported that Guidance has a new Guidance Facebook page to communicate information about upcoming events and due dates. Students will still receive reminder emails from Guidance.
- Mrs. Rodriguez reached out to Channel 8 News who sponsors "What's Right with Schools." This is a pay to promote something positive happening at AHS. Mrs. Rodriguez inquired about the fee, but Channel 8 did not get back to her yet.
- Mrs. Rodriguez informed the Council that the Ansonia Library and Boys and Girls Club can display information about upcoming events at AHS or promotional fliers. She also suggested having information posted on the Ansonia City Hall bulletin board. Mrs. Lane suggested asking local businesses to post information on their bulletin boards as well.
- Mr. Proto explained that business owners are extremely impressed with the atmosphere at AHS and how classes are run. Mrs. Lane commented that there is much excitement in the school and hopes that excitement will build and filter into the community.
- Mrs. Phipps looked into Live Streaming events using Local Live. The cost for coverage for any event on the football field is \$5,700 per year. The cost for coverage of events in the AHS auditorium is \$1,750 per year. Mrs. Phipps said local businesses can help sponsor it or perhaps there is Alliance Grant money that can be used to

cover the cost. Idalisse stated that students will want to participate in student commentary part of the Live Stream, if possible. Mrs. Corso stated that live Facebook can be used for now.

- Mrs. Rodriguez offered to translate any letters or event fliers going home for Spanish speaking families. Maliqa stated that bi-lingual students would be sure to help as well.
- Mrs. Lane explained that one school held monthly parent workshops based on parent feedback from a survey. The survey asked parents about what they needed and what their concerns were about their child. Some workshops included learning disabilities, troubled teenagers, etc. This idea has the potential to increase parent involvement.

**For the Good
of the Order:**

- Mrs. Lane inquired if AHS saw any deterioration in attitude toward the SATs, as some colleges are eliminating SAT requirements. Mr. Giansanti, Idalisse, and Maliqa reported that AHS students take the SAT seriously. Many want to attend a competitive college/university and enter competitive programs that still require a certain SAT score despite being a test optional college/university.
- Maliqa informed the Council that students could bring in extra candy on November 1, which will be donated to veterans and deployed soldiers through the Soldiers' Angels Treats for Troops Program. NHS is sponsoring this event.
- Idalisse asked about the possibility of Guidance looking into the UConn three-week summer course programs. The courses are offered to high school juniors and seniors. The cost is \$1,000 per student.
- Idalisse asked if anyone had an event that they wished to promote or highlight during the Music Department Winter Concert via a video during the intermission. Mr. Giansanti said he would email faculty and staff about this opportunity.

Next Meeting: , 2019
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