

# Minutes

## Make a Difference at Your School!

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### SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCILS

Ansonia High School  
School Governance Council  
AHS Media Center  
January 29, 2020  
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**Attendance:** Sarah Ahearn, Gabe Balonze, Wendy Chin, Erin Corso, Christine Davis, Paul Giansanti, Laura Lane, Sue Nargi, Laura Palmer, Karen Phipps, Dennis Proto, Idalisse Martinez, Dorca Rodriguez, Rose Marie Saleh

**Absent:** Amy DeFelice, Rob Lisi, Maliqa Mosley-Williams, Allison Wynus

**Welcome:** Karen Phipps welcomed all council members.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the October 30, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved. Today's meeting is a rescheduled meeting from December 18, 2019.

#### Class Dues

##### Proposal

**Review:** Mr. Wynne was not present at the meeting, but he prepared a proposal regarding class dues for the Council to review. Wendy Chin questioned what happens to the dues of students who transfer out of AHS. Karen Phipps said we will defer this question to Mr. Wynne to answer. Idalisse Martinez questioned why freshmen have a \$40 fee when many students begin working during their sophomore year. Again, these questions will be brought to Mr. Wynne's attention.

#### Initiatives

**Update:** Mr. Giansanti gave an update on Post University and the Criminal Justice / Homeland Security Pathway. He stated that there will be no fee to students for classes, and teachers are currently submitting their résumés for Post to check their credentials. He also gave an update on the University of New Haven (UNH) Partnership. AHS students can receive a scholarship to attend UNH with a 3.0 GPA. The minimum scholarship is \$18,000 and ranges to \$20,000. Students are able to take one course on campus at no cost and can receive a discount on the UNH Summer Academy.

Mr. Giansanti stated that one challenge that still remains is students' understanding of the pathways and the future opportunities each one holds. Further, parents need to have a clear understanding of the pathways.

Mrs. Phipps announced that the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department will present pathways to students. CTE teachers will award a certificate and Dunkin Donuts gift card to one student to promote the pathway programs and to celebrate CTE Month.

Dennis Proto spoke about creating a “Pathways Room” at AHS. This will be a room where students and outside organizations that AHS is partnering with will meet. This room can also be a place where students meet with college representatives. The room will have furniture and technology. The walls will be decorated with posters and information about pathways. Erin Corso added that it will be a more intimate setting for students to meet with mentors and college representatives. Some schools call rooms like these “College and Career Centers,” but Erin Corso said AHS is focusing on pathways and beyond.

Idalis Martinez commented that she likes the idea of having a space to meet one on one with engineers, electricians, etc. Idalis also inquired if the Pathways Room may be used for interactive workshops.

Mrs. Palmer stated that her son’s friend spoke highly about the AHS partnership with Sikorsky. She also suggested alumni come back to AHS and speak about their experiences and job opportunities. The guest speakers can impress upon AHS students that there are options for them and available internships.

**Guidance:** Erin Corso updated the Council about Decision Day held on December 11, 2019. Six four-year universities were represented. There were 56 acceptances and \$602,000 combined awarded. On February 27, 2020, AHS will host Community College Decision Day. Students will sit with representatives from Gateway, Housatonic, and Naugatuck Valley Community Colleges.

Erin Corso shared that the winner of the cover of the Program of Studies is Rachel Chapman. Rachel created the winning cover on Photoshop in the Graphic Design class. Once the Program of Studies comes is printed, guidance will go to English classes to review offered courses and then will begin meeting with students mid to late February for scheduling.

Erin Corso announced exciting news about PACT – the Pledge to Advance Connecticut. Beginning in Fall of 2020, community college will be free to Connecticut students. To qualify, students must: be a Connecticut high school graduate; be a full-time student attending college for the first time; complete the free federal application for financial aid and accept all awards; remain in good academic standing; and apply and register by July 15, 2020 for priority consideration.

**PSAT Results:** Erin Corso reported that the 9, 10, and 11 grade students took PSATs in October 2019. Currently, faculty are helping students to link PSAT scores to Khan Academy, so students can take advantage of the extra practice Khan Academy has to offer.

We recently had a make-your-own sundae celebration for those students who scored a combined 1,000 points or higher on the PSAT. Approximately 50 students were in attendance.

## **Parent**

**Involvement:** Dorca Rodriguez explained that AHS will host a Welcoming Walkthrough on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The purpose of the walkthrough is to gather data on how welcoming AHS is to students and visitors. The feedback from the walkthrough will allow AHS to create an atmosphere that is more welcoming.

SGC is looking for parents to participate in the Welcoming Walkthrough as well as community members.

Mr. Giansanti gave an update on PTSO. There will be no Post Prom celebration for seniors this year, as there are not enough funds to host this event. PTSO will be able to sponsor a senior picnic and will host Teacher Appreciation Week at AHS. PTSO is looking to sell the yard signs as a fundraiser. The goal is to sponsor one fundraiser per month.

Mr. Giansanti asked SGC parent and community members to repost or share Ansonia Facebook posts, so word gets out about Ansonia High School events and celebrations.

## **Student**

**Engagement:** Wendy Chin ran a spirit shirt fundraiser in an effort to get a student section together at sporting events. With the purchase of a shirt, students would get into all home games for all sporting events for free. Sadly, only 13 students took advantage of this fundraiser. Christine Davis stated that Rob and Chris Lisi also offered to provide pizza for students at a football home game to promote excitement. Rob Lisi also designed a poster to hang up around the school to promote attendance at AHS basketball games.

Mr. Giansanti stated that if we can get students excited and engaged in outside events, then they will most likely be excited about events in school.

Idalisse Martinez suggested promoting sporting events by using footage from rival teams. She also suggested updating the achievement bulletin board case in the main lobby. She suggested showcasing recent AHS graduates, Jesse Brookins or Josh Rodriguez. Erin Corso stated that the guidance interns can work on updating the case.

## **Good of the**

**Order:** Sarah Ahearn commented that there is no feeder program for sports or music at the middle school, and it creates a disconnect for the students when they reach high school. She stated that Assumption School has a sports feeder program for basketball.

**Next Meeting:** February 26, 2020  
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.  
AHS Media Center