BMHS School Governance Council (SGC) Minutes  
December 13, 2016

In Attendance: Patrick Begos, Bridget Boger, Kristen Carrano, Tom Finn, Isabelle Hargrove, Scott Hurwitz, Robert Kane, Suzanne Koroshetz, David Levinson, James MacDonald, Eileen McNamara, Peter Sommer, Chad Southerland, and Irene Surapine

Absent: Maribeth Becker, Neal Konstantin, and Dawn Leeds

Minutes from the November 15, 2016 meeting were accepted.

Pat Begos received quick responses from Mike Barbis and Dr. Adamowski asking that Dr. Adamowski and/or Tom Hamilton attend a SGC meeting to answer our budget questions. Mr. Barbis explained that NPS has more students than in the past and that the City is not funding at the level needed to support these increases. Mr. Barbis hoped we would talk to Common Council members about our population concerns. The BOE has Tuesday evening meetings which conflicts with our SGC meeting nights. Pat will design a survey to determine what dates work for our members. SBK will then work with Pat Rivera to get a date for our meeting. It was suggested that we prepare questions in advance – and give them to Dr. A and Mr. Hamilton prior to the meeting. Scott will make a Google doc to facilitate this.

The budget and population was discussed again. We are hopeful with a year of experience there will be a better system this year.

Scott gave an IB update. BMHS’s December authorization visit went well. The meeting with the three IB representatives, BMHS faculty, Dr. Adamowski, Dr. Conner, Tom Hamilton, Patricia Foley, and Arte Kassimis was very positive. Central Office gave energetic and financial support to our IB program at this meeting. We are hopeful we will be receiving positive news, with some more work to be done, in late January or early February.

David Levinson recommended Doug Adams as our second community member. Mr. Adams is involved with the new Norwalk mall. Isabelle Hargrove added positive comments on behalf of Mr. Adams. The SGC agreed he would be a good addition to our team. David is going to reach out to Doug Adams.

A student discussion regarding the library was held last week. Isabelle Surapine spoke about the information she learned about library concerns and improvements they would like to see made. Concerns included chairs, number of outlets, and inability to just quickly print. Areas of improvement included: use students to tutor during study halls, have a printing only area, have Wi-Fi for the library only, increase flexibility by replacing desktop computers with chromebooks, decorating ideas, being able to reserve and use the small classrooms off the library. It was suggested that GOFUNDME be used to get a color printer for student use. IB may be able to have a separate place in the library. Irene and Scott are going to investigate reasons why the CGS Mac lab has such a strong allure. Jim MacDonald and anyone interested are going to tour New Canaan library on January 5 at 9:30 am.

Happy Holidays to all.

The next SGC meeting is January 17 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat and Suzanne