

**POLICY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: December 1, 2015

Place: Board Room, Havemeyer

Present:

Members: Ms. Barbara O’Neill, Acting Chairman
Ms. Debbie Appelbaum
Ms. Laura Erickson

Other: Dr. William McKersie
Ms. Irene Parisi
Ms. Viviana Conner (arrived 10:45)

The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m.

The minutes from the November 17, 2015 meeting were approved 3-0.

The first item on the agenda was the World Languages monitoring report. There was a discussion of the breadth of data within the district that is available and what should be presented in the monitoring report to measure the goals of the program. There is no CT standardized test for world languages and it has previously been determined that a nationally normed test is cost prohibitive. However, more research is being done regarding online assessments. In response to a question, computer coding cannot be counted as credit towards world language graduation requirements. The district is mulling the concept of giving credit for a language course taken in 8th grade that is equivalent to a 9th grade course since there now is a higher degree of confidence that the course offerings are in alignment.

The new language lab at GHS is enabled for all 7 languages taught at GHS, including ASL. Per Ms. Conner, GHS has the most language offerings in the State of CT. The middle schools do not have language labs; however, applications and use of the chromebooks can perform most of the same functions as a language lab.

There was discussion of the use of online learning tools to augment language classes at GHS which have low enrollment. A question was raised if the high school can be more efficient in staffing in order to allow the introduction of Mandarin at the middle school level.

A discussion followed on summer school opportunities for enrichment in world languages and other opportunities to further the acquisition of speaking skills. Ms. Conner cited the example of a book club for native Spanish speakers at North Mianus School.

Students are able to take more than one language after elementary school but are generally

encouraged to switch languages at transition points (e.g., 5th and 8th grade.)

Ms. Conner commented that there was an exchange program in place this school year with students from Germany. The German students visited GHS in the fall and GHS students will travel to Germany in April 2016. As a side note, Dr. McKersie commented that field trips will continue to operate and he is going to send a notice to the GPS community to that effect.

Ms. O'Conner was reminded that the cover sheet for the World Language monitoring report item should list any recommendations including pilots and proposed staffing changes. These recommendations serve as a signal for budget discussions and are helpful in flagging issues.

The next item on the agenda was an update on E-002, Whole Student Development and suggested Safe School Climate policy. Dr. McKersie will follow up with Mary Forde on including additional language from E-045. There was a reminder that procedures would need to be updated within 30 days of Board approval of the updated policy (effectively allowing 3 months for review since policy revisions are reviewed over two cycles prior to a Board vote.)

There was a discussion of expanding the anonymous tips hotline to the middle schools as well an update on the assignment of a dedicated SRO to middle schools. The anonymous tips hotline requires 24/7 staffing coverage which is under discussion with middle school administrators. Dr. McKersie noted that each middle school does have a designated police officer as a point of contact and that the GHS SRO, Carlos Franco, does spend time at the middle schools.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Erickson

Approved 12/15/15
3-0