

MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
Homewood-Flossmoor High School, 999 Kedzie, Flossmoor, IL
June 8, 2022

In attendance for all of the meeting were Mr. Legardy, Dr. Mansfield, Dr. Wakeley, Dr. Cook, Mr. Richardson and Mrs. Bryant. Ms. Berman and Ms. Hoereth were also in attendance via Zoom video conference.

Mrs. Marilyn Thomas, HF Chronicle was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Approval of Minutes. The May 6, 2022, minutes stand approved as presented.

Comments

Dr. Mansfield spoke briefly on the Southland Career and Technical Center that will be housed in the old Rich East High School for use in the south suburban area. He pointed out that a career center has not existed since 1989 in the south suburbs. He noted that the superintendents from the area have joined on this initiative and have received support from several of the state's legislators as well. The project is still possibly two years out and an update may be given to the full board at the June board meeting. Dr. Mansfield noted that Dr. Wakeley will continue to represent the district regarding the career center as he transitions out and Dr. Wakeley will continue to keep the board informed.

Mr. Legary expressed his appreciation to Dr. Mansfield whose last Planning Committee meeting is today and thanked him for all of his years of service and putting the district on the right track. Mr. Legardy stated that Dr. Mansfield is leaving an amazing legacy and added that it is the end of an era, but the start of an exciting new one for him. Mr. Legardy informed the committee that an updated "pending adoption" manual and a new reference grid will be sent out today to all the board members for their review. The current manual that they previously received should be discarded and he is still targeting the June board meeting for official approval of the draft policies, but noted that if needed, the review can take a little longer.

Dr. Wakeley shared that he has had some informal conversations with the board about a proposed Ombudsman program for H-F students that can be utilized on H-F's campus. Programming in-house will be available for students who experience social/emotional difficulties, attendance issues and academic deficiencies. He also has been working with Dr. Cook who is investigating ways to hopefully fully fund this program through available funds with the hope that no districts monies would be expended for at least a couple of years while they build the program. As they move forward, Dr. Wakeley will continue to provide more information and updates to the Planning Committee.

Board Procedure 3010 – Science Building Project

Dr. Mansfield stated that a presentation will be given as an update to the board at the June board meeting regarding the proposed Science Building Project. He added that Dr. Hester will walk the committee through the process today in regards to Procedure 3010 and the related educational needs. He noted that Dr. Cook already has presented and reviewed the related financial costs at a previous Finance Committee meeting. Dr. Hester gave a very thorough and detailed presentation and explained that they are in the process of revisioning for science and moving towards college and career pathways. By 2025 they will be required to offer students career endorsements. The science standards have changed and they are now aligning with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) which expects students of varying levels of ability to work together in teams to find solutions to problems, record data, write reports, give

presentations, etc.; resulting in students understanding how to collaborate with others and thrive in a team-oriented environment. She added that to know and understand the content and skills set forth by NGSS for high school students, classrooms and labs need to be flexible learning spaces. These new flexible spaces will allow students to explore and do science. Dr. Hester added that H-F students will be provided the same or better high school experience that surrounding districts are now offering with new up-to-date classrooms that allow for more hands-on activities and exposure to resources that are otherwise unavailable. She also spoke on the challenges that exist in the current science classrooms that were originally built for a maximum of 24 students, as well as, the benefits of the larger proposed classrooms to accommodate science students' academic needs. Dr. Hester pointed out that resources from the National Science Teacher Association were included in her presentation. At the conclusion of her presentation, Dr. Hester stated that as they move forward with the goal to prepare students for college and careers, they really need to be able to fully implement different science pathways and be able to have the facilities that allow that space, equipment and safety issues to allow H-F to remain as competitive as possible. Dr. Wakeley suggested that if the committee has any questions to let him know and they can incorporate those questions into the presentation for the full board in June.

Proposed Dress Code Review

Dr. Wakeley stated the proposed new dress code was discussed and evolved with the Parent/Teacher Discipline Committee. Students also were involved in the process after sharing their concerns regarding the school's current dress code back in September. Mr. Fantin stated that when they worked on the proposed dress code, their goal was to ensure that the dress code is culturally responsive and still holds the standards that H-F has come to expect. He also noted that H-F's dress code is antiquated in comparison to other schools' dress codes across the country that are now more liberal and minimalistic. In addition, all efforts are being made to move dress to gender neutral. Mr. Fantin and Dean Brown gave a review of the proposed dress code and a lengthy discussion ensued. Each member of the committee had an opportunity to express their thoughts and share comments. Mr. Legardy voiced concerns related to tank tops and mid-drift tops as to their appropriateness in the school setting. After a very lengthy and extensive discussion on the proposed dress code, Mr. Fantin looked to the committee for direction related to four items that remained in question. The four items were headwear, tank tops/spaghetti strap tops, mid-drift tops to the navel and length of shorts and skirts. It was noted that religious headwear and scarves may be worn, however hoodies and hats would not be allowed to be worn inside of the school. The consensus of the committee was that the headwear, tank tops/spaghetti strap tops, mid-drift tops to the navel and length of shorts and skirts as presented by the Parent/Teacher Discipline Committee would remain unchanged and presented as proposed to the board to vote on at their June 21, 2022 meeting. Ms. Berman applauded Mr. Fantin and Ms. Brown for taking the time to include students, parents, and faculty so their voices were heard and given an opportunity to understand why there is a process and why things were adopted or not. She hopes that students will also help in enforcing this new dress code policy because they were involved in the process that occurred. Ms. Hoereth agreed with the comments that Mr. Legardy and Ms. Berman have made and stated that it is always a good exercise in policy like this to look at it through a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) lens and she feels that was done.

Chair's Closing Remarks

Mr. Legardy thanked everyone for their time and feedback today and noted that it is the last Planning Committee meeting of the year.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.