

Holmes High School

SBDM Special Meeting

Approved Minutes: May 14, 2015

Meeting called to order at 4:33 pm by Scott Hornblower, Chairperson

SBDM Members

Scott Hornblower, Chairperson
Renata Kennison, Teacher Representative
Ashley Lorenz, Teacher Representative
Anthony Magner, Teacher Representative
Julia Riley, Parent Representative
Tarris Horton, Parent Representative
Alvin Garrison – Central Office Support
Davana Herron - Secretary

Agenda: May 14, 2015

1. Roll Call
2. Public Input
3. Committees
4. Parent Concerns
5. Parent Involvement
6. Community Involvement
7. Curriculum
8. Adjournment

1. Roll Call

Present – Renata Kennison, Anthony Magner, Julia Riley, Tarris Horton, Alvin Garrison, Scott Hornblower

Absent – Ashley Lorenz

Others Attending – Davana Herron, Secretary, Members of the Public

2. Public Input – Mr. Hornblower read aloud the Holmes High SBDM Meeting Rules and Procedures. Member of the public who signed up to speak were called and their input is listed below.

- Kelly Merritt – Holmes High School Teacher – Addressed council regarding curriculum. Stated that her contract was not renewed and while she is thankful for the support of so many she does not want her job back. Stated that the Springboard curriculum does not address individual student needs and the senior English curriculum falls flat and is failing students and smothering our teachers.

- Karen Zaino – Holmes High School Teacher – Addressed council regarding teacher retention. Stated that the 11 jobs currently posted represents 1/6th of the certified staff. Stated that faculty are repeatedly dismissed, devalued and disrespected and the jobs posted does not count the ones that will be leaving. Stated that most want to be part of positive change by they are not told where this train is heading. Feels changes are spotlessly, wrecklessly imposed changes. Stated that the faculty wants basic, professional respect.

- Joe Mueller, Sr. – Stated that he has been involved in the school system since 1974 and this is the worst he has ever seen these schools. Stated that the SBDM council has more power than they think. He feels that someone should be available by phone on campus until 5 or 6 pm. Mr. Mueller also stated that Mr. Hornblower doesn't know these kids and he should go into the community and hang out with them on the street corner.

- Ryan Werfleman – Holmes High School student – Addressed council regarding Mr. Hornblower. Stated that the teachers have cared since Day 1. Mr. Garrison doesn't listen to students and Holmes High School is about to lose a lot of students and there may not be a Holmes High School in four years.

- Dawn Ball – Holmes High School Parent and District Employee – Addressed SBDM council on behalf of Christina Morgan regarding curriculum. Stated that page 5 of the course catalog states that "This catalog was created per SBDM (April 2015) to contain all courses listed in the 2014-15 catalog approved by SBDM with the sole exception of courses that were determined to be out of compliance with state regulations or to continue current programs. Some courses may appear different due to the changes at the state level in course title and or number. These adjustments were made by an ad-hoc committee of 2 counselors and 2 SBDM members. This catalog includes proposed courses for the 2015-2016 school year. Final course offerings will be determined by student interests and staffing." This sounds like an abuse of power as all committee meetings are subject to open meeting laws. Stated that AP Human Geography is not available to freshman and AP Chemistry is listed as a class for sophomores.

Dawn Ball – Holmes High School Parent and District Employee – Addressed council regarding curriculum. Stated that parents were asked to attend a meeting with Mr. Hornblower and Mr. Garrison. In this meeting, Ms. Ball states that Mr. Hornblower stated the clusters are unnecessary unless they come out with a certification.

- Christine Heckel – Holmes High School Law Enforcement Teacher - Addressed council regarding teacher qualifications. Stated that she is concerned regarding the quality of instructors being recruited in the CTE program. She has 25 years in law enforcement training and years in teaching experience. She feels that the greatest strength of CTE is field knowledge. The job posting currently listed has different certification requirements than the past and it is her hope that the requirement is the same or greater for the new teacher.

- Cindy Sebastian – Addressed council on accountability. Stated that she worked as an accountant and has completed numerous school audits. She would like to know how teachers are being paid, is there a partnership with Gateway? Are there teachers in the classroom? If there is a partnership with Gateway, will adults be on campus taking classes? If it were up to her she would get rid of SBDM council, we had so many more kids on campus and no police. Stated that she wants to improve the school academically, feels the teachers hands are tied and they have a right to be creative and there are too many levels of kids in some classrooms.

- Bill Wagner – Holmes High School Teacher – Stated that he has enjoyed teaching here at Holmes. He has 35 years of experience as an auto technician and now 4 years of experience as a teacher, he holds his ASE certification. Stated that he is willing to work with the administration to improve.

- Gina Wash – no comment.

- Carolyn Chapman – Addressed council regarding curriculum. Stated that she is a former student, teacher and counselor at Holmes. Ms. Chapman asked why would you get rid of qualified teachers and bring in Gateway? The CTE program is named after her mother, her mother fought for that program.

- Daniele Axtell – Holmes High School Parent – Addressed council regarding PTSA. Stated that that her and her husband are sorry that they have not been more involved and they are heartbroken by some of the stories they have heard. Stated that teachers, students and parents should have a say in how change looks. She is sad that her son did not get to experience a school play or dinner dance and she believes is one of the few constants in some children's lives. At the next SBDM council meeting, Ms. Axtell will ask council to endorse the establishment of a PTSA.

- Missy Howard – Holmes High School Parent – Stated that she has a daughter who is a junior here and a son who is a junior in college. Stated that her son loved his high school experience but her daughter would rather go anywhere else than here because of this school year. Some of the teachers have come to watch their softball game on the weekend and have taken the time and energy to get involved. She believes the kids will benefit from programs that will teach them a trade. She would like Mr. Hornblower to be engaging with the kids in the hallway.

- Gabrielle Clark – Addressed council regarding the teachers. States that the teachers are amazing at Holmes and she came here from Pendleton County. She asked what are you going to do with Gateway teachers?

- Steve Axtell – Holmes High School Parent – Stated that the highlight of his year was hosting a teacher appreciation event last week. States that in the week since he has been inundated with information about teachers who have experienced an entire year of intimidation and they are fearful, afraid and scared. He sees kids that are afraid when they go home and afraid when they come to school that some of the people that make them feel the safest will be gone. States that this is not a healthy atmosphere and not where he wants to keep children to prepare for the future.

- Gina Wash – Stated that she has a fear of Gateway coming in and taking over. Stated that had it not been for Virginia Chapman letting her in the vocational school, she would not have the same life. She stated that we should drive by Gateway during the day and see what’s going into those schools, we don’t want kids being in class with the adults. She feels that this is a safe haven for kids in this area.

5:21 pm – Mr. Garrison left

3. Committees- Mr. Hornblower stated that council decides whether committees are ad-hoc or standing committees. For instance, earlier this year SBDM council was looking at the grading policy and this provided an opportunity for the curriculum committee to look at the grading policy. Mr. Hornblower stated that going forward we will establish committee procedures and do a better job of involving more stakeholders. Mr. Hornblower stated that we welcome the participation, this year we put out notice in the October progress report for committee involvement. There are 4 or 5 committees that all are welcome to be a part of. Mr. Hornblower stated that committee membership will be established with the first 30 days of each year.

4. Parent Concerns – Comments and concerns raised in public input were addressed as stated below.

Mr. Hornblower stated that the vocational programs are intact and he does not have the authority to eliminate them. There has never been a discussion to have Gateway come to Holmes High School. The advanced manufacturing will be done with Gateway through the welding program. Students will take classes here then go to Gateway. We are trying to create flexibility and opportunities for kids. In Covington, 1 in 4 kids live in poverty, businesses are asking for skilled workers in certain areas. There have been no decisions made regarding any of the career clusters and any of those decisions reside with SBDM council, not Mr. Hornblower. Mr. Hornblower stated that he is not a fan of adult students on a high school campus either. Ms. Kennison stated that they have not received anything about Gateway being on campus and she wants to go on record as saying that the welding program would make a dual credit link to Gateway, never the plan for Gateway to come here.

5 and 6. Parent Involvement and Community Involvement- Mr. Hornblower read Parent Involvement Policy. Mr. Hornblower thanked Mr. and Mrs. Axtell for their willingness to reactivate the school PTA. Mr. Hornblower stated that with this kind of support we should have a thriving PTA. Also stated that the Youth Service Center will survey families about what services students need to become better learners.

7. Curriculum- Mr. Hornblower stated that APEX learning is a pilot program on the district level. The district is currently using this pilot program as a means of credit recovery. At Holmes High School it is used in some teachers classrooms to supplement curriculum and will not take the place of teachers or everyday curriculum. The intent is to use as a credit recovery program and moving forward will provide opportunities for more kids. Mr. Hornblower stated that the IB program is intact, AP courses are intact and we don't expect any changes and reiterated that those thing happen with the council and not Mr. Hornblower. Mr. Hornblower stated that the catalog concerns have been worked on with the emphasis of making sure nothing was eliminated or nothing needed to be added. At the last meeting, SBDM council agreed to use last year's catalog and align the courses to state codes. Ms. Kennison stated that the intention was to make sure catalog stayed with the same opportunities as last year. They tried to be as unobstructive and inclusive as possible and maintain the 14-15 catalog and not harm kids and ensure no adding or changing of curriculum. Ms. Riley asked if parents can request hard copies of the catalog? Mr. Hornblower stated that we will make those available by request.

16. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Member Horton. 2nd by Member Magner to adjourn at 5:50 PM.