



Chamblee High School  
Principal Advisory Council Minutes  
November 9, 2021, 7:15 – 8:00am

The Chamblee High School Principal Advisory Council met on November 9, 2021, at 7:15am, via Zoom.

**Attendance/Establishment of Quorum**

**Council Members Present:** G. Barnes (Principal); D. Martin-Gerstle, Chair (Parent); A. Milne, Vice-Chair (Teacher); K. Feaster, Secretary (Parent); K. Landers (Teacher); L. Axelson (Parent), B. Concepcion (Parent)

**Council Members Absent:** none

**Additional Attendees:** N. Kelly (Community)

**Establishment of Quorum:** With 6 (all) voting members present at the start of the meeting, a quorum was established. Call to order at 7:17am.

**Public Comment:**

- K. Yount may join to listen.

**Action Items**

*Approval of Minutes from Previous PAC Meeting*

- K. Feaster distributed the October 12 PAC Meeting Minutes & Summary via email.
- B. Concepcion motioned to approve the minutes. A. Milne seconded the approval. The minutes were approved unanimously.

*Approval of Agenda*

- D. Martin-Gerstle distributed the agenda prior to the meeting.
- B. Concepcion motioned to approve the agenda. A. Milne seconded the approval. The agenda was approved unanimously.

**Informational Items**

*Principal's Report: Principal Barnes*

Enrollment Numbers: 1752 (typical to be down slightly at this time of year. In January expect further decrease due to end of year moves.)

CHS Staffing Update:

- Interviewed special Ed para, was qualified to get their teaching certificate, so hiring as a teacher, once certified.
- Still a need in food service.
- Custodian positions open.
- Counseling Secretary resigned, last day is Friday (far commute). Ideal to have a Spanish speaking individual in this position.



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- Title I parent liaison, started yesterday. Will begin to support Spanish speaking community. This is a huge win! Individual is both a past parent liaison and speaks Spanish.
- Working with county to resolve bus driver issue for route 771 (Redding Rd to Dresden side of Ashford Park, Dresden side of Brookhaven Fields).

Title 1 Update:

- Parent Liaison now in place. Math Coach now in place.
- Software in for use in January to work on credit recovery. Certified teacher uses the software as a tool, not the actual teaching.
- Supplies are ordered and arriving to support the tutoring efforts.

COVID Update

- 1 case last week, relatively quiet.
- Mobile Health Dept Clinic for Covid vaccines & boosters and flu shots. K. Feaster to post further details of the convenience and ease of this each Tuesday in November in front of CHS. Also push info on Facebook.
- Surveillance COVID Testing at the schools rolled out yesterday by the county. Not mandatory, parents must opt in.

*Modified Block Schedule*

- Survey of teachers and staff regarding a different type of schedule in the future for CHS. Results summarized by K. Landers
  - 65 teacher & staff members responded, almost 45% of responses came from those that have been teaching 16 or more years.
  - 43% have taught on a 4x4 block schedule before (indicating they have taught high school at a different school). 36% have taught on an A/B or modified block schedule before. These numbers show that the overwhelming majority have a good understanding of the different scheduling models.
  - There was no overwhelming winner when respondents were asked to choose preferred option for bell schedule. 29.2% responded to keep the current schedule, 32.3% chose a 4x4 block schedule and 38.4% chose either an A/B block or modified A/B block.
  - Preferred schedule options choices were summarized by department.
  - Collected additional concerns. Top concern was how to engage students for 90 minutes. Additional common concerns were loss of planning time, no concerns, 4x4 schedule is not good for classes that rely on having students all year (ex. Yearbook/Journalism, CTAE, AP classes)
- Discussion of A/B Schedule vs. modified A/B. A/B is a 10-day rotation of classes. Modified A/B Schedule may have 1 or 2 days that are full 7 period days. The modified option is not fully defined. Regardless of whether using an A/B schedule or modified A/B schedule would need to determine what the 8th block would be, if taking 4 blocks per day. Potentially a combination of ALT, HR, club meetings, etc.
- Concerns with a 4x4 schedule included a potential year between classes (ex. Spanish I taken in Fall of one year, Spanish II not taken until Fall of next year, with no Spanish in



spring semester). Additionally, an AP class maybe completed a semester before the AP exam is offered.

- A. Milne summarized the math department’s discussions. Almost no support for A/B schedule. With an A/B schedule there seems to be no upside for lower-level students. Lower-level students would have to keep up with 8 classes and must keep up with what schedule is followed each day. There was also not a high level of confidence that scheduling would fix the possibility of having a long break (semester) between consecutive math classes. Consensus throughout the departments is that it would be valuable to visit schools on different schedules to observe and collect feedback on what works, etc.
- L. Axelson questioned how modified A/B would work with Dual Enrollment. This will be worked through as part of any schedule finalizing discussion to allow for the continued support of Dual Enrolled students.
- Students have not yet been polled, but there is currently an article being written by the Journalism class to inform the student body of these discussions and collect feedback. There is confidence that the students understand that more material would be covered in this type of block schedule vs. the amount of material covered during COVID block scheduling.
- L. Axelson suggested that the article could include interviews with college students to better understand what the student workload ‘looks like’ on a block schedule
- Principal Barnes indicated that scheduling for next year is due November 30. The ability to implement any changes by next year is dependent upon which option is chosen. It is difficult to ‘try’ different types of schedules in the next semester as schedule changes, even on a trial basis, require approval at many levels.
- D. Martin-Gerstle wrapped up discussion indicating this is clearly still a work in progress. K. Landers to keep the PAC updated on these discussions.

#### *CSIP*

- Principal Barnes to follow-up with Mr. Felts to ensure CSIP posted to PAC webpage.
- Circle back to this review in December.

#### **Discussion Items.**

##### *CMP Updates – CMP PAC Committee*

##### Ashford Park, German Immersion Program

K. Feaster gave an overview of the German DLI program at Ashford Park

- Program began in the kindergarten class in 2013-2014 school year, inaugural year of students are currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. No German DLI high school students yet.
- German was put in the CHS cluster because CMS and CHS already taught German (Other language programs were added in other clusters, as it was a state sponsored initiative).
- School choice program filled by lottery, 52 spots/year. Preference given to siblings and those in the Ashford Park attendance zone. Program begins in kindergarten. Open spots are filled in only the kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade year.



- In early grades of elementary school half of school day is spent in German classrooms, half in English classroom. As students begin to change classes based on level (around 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade) this model changes and students continue to learn science in German, but other subjects may just be reinforced in German vs German only instruction for that subject.
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade & 7<sup>th</sup> grades – German DLI students take 2 classes in German. German Literacy and curriculum required Social Studies class. Both classes maybe taken for high school credit.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade – German DLI students take the German Literacy III class, also for high school credit.
- In high school German DLI students flow into the German classes offered at the high school level, continue into college level German classes through Dual Enrollment or begin a 3<sup>rd</sup> language.
- K. Feaster to reach back out to APES PAC to determine what their next steps are

#### Keep the Magnet at CHS

The CMP Committee created from the CHS PAC met to discuss a plan if the CMP suggests moving the magnet program out of CHS. This is currently not listed as an option. Talking points highlighted below.

1. Number of out of zone Magnet students is minimal.
  - The CMP lists only 16 students as out of district.
2. Moving magnet south is not needed – already under-enrolled program in the south.
3. Not many Region 1 School Choice options.
4. Magnet at CHS is unique (Magnet helps CHS, CHS helps magnet Honors by CHS students, post-graduation success of CHS students)
  - Magnet is not “moveable”. Removing magnet from CHS would be shutting down the program and restarting/rebuilding it somewhere else.
  - Magnet program is what the CHS staff has made it.
  - All agreed that this is the overall message to communicate.
  - N. Kelly to share a document of mutual benefits between magnet program and CHS.
  - Further discussion of whether there is a list of achievements/honors of students of CHS, both magnet and non-magnet. Difficult for the school to track as students don’t always share, primarily school only gets “highlights” of achievements.
5. Need one voice, pride in CHS.
  - Single messaging out of school community to be most effective.

#### Additional CMP Discussion

- Superintendent letter laid out a more relaxed schedule for eSplost VI: present options in December, vote in spring.
- In DCSD Town Hall meeting held 11/4 discussed new Dunwoody/Chamblee school (at the old CMS site)
  - Only one recommendation is for this to be in the Chamblee cluster.
  - There was no additional discussion of Hightower moving into Chamblee cluster, although this is still in the proposal.



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- General feeling that with the addition of a new cluster there would need to be massive re-districting, yet none of that redistricting seems to be highlighted in the plan. The new high school is proposed on the current Sequoyah Middle & Cary Reynolds Elem site. The hope is that the Board will insist upon seeing the numbers that would go with all of the re-districting required
- “Gifted/magnet programs at all schools” is referenced in the CMP, but there are not specifics as to how this would be implemented or a staffing model to go with this.

*PAC Updates – online training available soon, call for agenda items process (feedback?)*

- Still waiting for on-line self-paced PAC training from the district
- All comfortable with the process to submit agenda items
- Cross Council District Meeting tonight, A. Milne attending, K. Feaster and L. Axelson will try. Must register to receive meeting link

**Additional Items**

- There were no additional discussion items.

**Adjournment**

Having reached time constraints for the PAC members, D. Martin-Gerstle moved to adjourn the meeting. L. Axelson seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

**Develop Agenda for Next Meeting**

- CSIP Review
- School Culture/Community
- CMP Update

**Next Meeting Date/Time:** The next meeting of the Council is planned for Tuesday, December 14, at 7:15am, via Zoom.