

Minutes for the School Council Meeting  
Veterans High School Council  
November 29, 2022

The Veterans High School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 7:15 a.m., in the media resource room - 340 Piney Grove Road, Kathleen, GA 31047.

**Council Members Present:**

Amy Barbour, Angel Brown, Bill Connelly, LaTrenda Leaks, Anna Shah, and Kaci Whiddon

**School Council Members Absent:**

Johnathan Simmons

**1. Call to Order**

Mrs. Angel Brown, chairperson, called the meeting to order.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Brown led the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Barbour distributed the agenda pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A vote of the agenda will be required. Kaci Whiddon motioned to approve the agenda, and Bill Connelly seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

LaTrenda Leaks motioned to approve the minutes from 9.7.22, and Kaci Whiddon seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**5. Recognition of Visitors**

None

**6. Presentation(s) to School Council**

None

**7. Report of the Principal**

- 2022 Graduation Rate

Year	VHS	District	State
2017	92.1	87.6	80.6
2018	91.0	88.0	82.0
2019	90.2	88.4	82.6
2020	96.7	89.6	83.8
2021	95.18	88.8	83.8
2022	94.21	89.48	84.1

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Dr. Barbour reviewed the 2022 graduation rate released in October. She noted that VHS has had an 8% gain in eight years with a 500-student increase. She further stated that the school has had a 5% gain since pre-COVID. She discussed the requirements of dropout coding for state reporting and the process of accounting for all students enrolled in the given graduation cohort. She stated that continued relationship building and student buy in had been important in making gains and continuing to maintain positive progress. She also discussed graduation venues such as CGTC's DAP program. Ms. Whiddon also noted that teachers continue to respond to gaps from online learning during COVID, and that our staff has responded well to continue to retain and graduate students.

- **SOAR Update**  
Dr. Barbour reviewed the one time, 55-minute session weekly for student remediation and enrichment needs. She discussed the varied options and how the school has adapted the structure to be more meaningful and purposeful for student growth and improvement. The operational procedures were reviewed, along with the process for weekly choices – posted on the website and reviewed in first period weekly with all students. Less than 3% of students have been displaced or not choosing an appropriate session, so students and teachers have acclimated well to maximizing the opportunities for support.
- **Safety Update: Drill Procedures and Centegix Update**  
Dr. Barbour reviewed the procedures for monthly fire drills, along with semester code practice and severe weather drills. She presented information on the installation of Centegix technology for emergency response and stated that training was forthcoming for all staff and for all county schools to be online in January.
- **End of Semester – Exams/Exemptions/MAP Testing**  
Dr. Barbour reviewed the MAP testing dates (11.30.22 – 12.5.22), in which all freshman and sophomore students will participate in winter assessment for measuring growth in English and Math skills. She discussed the prioritized standards in those content areas, along with supports in place with IXL standard skill plans and student goal monitoring. She stated that exemption notices will be sent home on 12.12.22 for parent confirmation on exams exempted, per policy, along with the exam schedule. The December parent email will also have that information included and attached.
- **New Addition/MPR Ribbon Cutting – 12.12.22 – 4:00pm**  
The Houston County School District will host a ribbon cutting for the school's new classroom addition and multipurpose room on Monday, 12.12.22 at 4:00pm; she invited the School Council members to attend.

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- Celebrations
  - AP 5s – 25 current students/60 students with graduates – 90 5s in 2022 testing
  - Kyndal Crawford – State Champion in FCCLA Membership Recruitment
  - Caroline Maxwell – All-State Reading Choir
  - Ava Trussell – State FCCLA President
  - All-State Chorus – 14 students
  - Competition Cheer – Advanced to State – Finished 15
  - Cross Country – Boys/Girls Region Runners Up & 21<sup>st</sup> in State
    - Emma Rice – Individual Girls Region Champ
    - Girls County Champs
  - Feed the City – over 2100 boxes donated
  - FFA Senior Meats Team – State Champions
  - FFA Junior Meats Team – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in State
  - Flag Football – state playoffs
  - Fine Arts concerts & competition season
  - ROTC Run 4 Vets 5K - \$1200 donated to Genesis House
  - Softball – Elite 8
  - “Valued @ the V” recognition

**9. Old Business**

Mrs. Brown discussed prior progress and planning for teacher appreciation in May, and the group agreed to revisit at the January meeting to solidify forward planning.

**10. New Business**

None

**11. Executive Session**

None held

**12. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the school council, the meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Angel Brown. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 25, 2023.