

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Notes  
January 9, 2019

The Citizens Advisory Committee to the Board of Education met for its third of five scheduled meeting this term on January 9, 2019.

In response to a query from a member, the committee once again discussed its role as advisory to the Board of Education, in a reciprocal and iterative stance. Via this committee, Citizens, as stakeholders hailing from different constituencies (students, staff, residents with children enrolled in GNPS, residents without children enrolled in GNPS), may bring items of concern to the attention of the Board Members on the committee (Chair, co-chair, President as ex-Officio) and the Administration (the Superintendent).

The Committee also welcomed an additional student. The majority of the remaining wide-ranging two-hour session was devoted to open time to air concerns and suggestions. These included:

- Updating district intake forms to reflect more current usage, e.g. replace Father/Mother with Parent/Guardian 1/, Parent/Guardian 2/, Parent/Guardian 3
- Updating District forms to PDF formats more readily printed
- Inquiries pertaining to establishment of new student-requested clubs and the appointment of advisors
- Concerns regarding protocols for publication of student writing in school newspapers
- Support for ongoing proactive approach to issues of school security. Inquiry made about the types of safety drills conducted by GNPS.
- Concerns regarding e-cigarette epidemic in area and difficulty of identifying e-cig (Juil) use where there is no odor and where the cartridges may include more than nicotine. Board Policy and Codes of Conduct already prohibit smoking of any kind by students or staff. Ideas generated to get the word out about the prohibition as well as the danger of widespread e-cig abuse.
- Discussion of concerns regarding student and parent access to student grades via Campus Portal. The issue is currently under review by a District-wide committee. Administration awaits Committee recommendation.
- Noted that North and South High school class registration periods now align.
- Noted that parents at SHS successfully engaged with Administration and Transportation offices to resolve a bussing issue involving inclement weather.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairperson reminded the Committee that the Board of Education will be meeting January 10, 2019 at the E.M. Baker Elementary School, during which two presentations would be made by the Administration to the Board regarding Mental Health initiatives in GNPS and the establishment of a Pre Kindergarten Program at the JFK Elementary school beginning in September 2019.

The remaining meetings of the CAC are scheduled for March 13 and May 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Sassouni  
Trustee, GNPS  
Chair, CAC