

## Open Campus Historical Timeline

### **July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1971**

Principal Bob McCarthy assigns responsibility for organizing a committee comprised of students, parents, and teachers to study the issue of Open Campus to Assistant Principal Skip Bean

### **February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1972**

Principal McCarthy summarizes agreements made at a Council meeting, at which it was agreed to work toward defining an Open Campus proposal that would be brought to the community.

### **November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1981**

Superintendent Hugh Watson, in a memo to the Dresden School Board, supports Principal Velma Saire's decision to veto the Council's request to extend open campus to 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **March 1986**

Betty Cloud ('66) presents a petition with 102 signatures, along with letters from Norwich Police Chief William Luczynski, the Hanover Senior Citizen Steering Committee, and several local merchants, opposing Open Campus. "The most frequent complaint from the signers of the petition who would explain why they signed it was that students should be in school during the school day" (from *Valley News* article of April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1987).

### **March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1986**

Principal Uwe Bagnato establishes an Open Campus Committee, composed of parents, students, staff, and administrators, and charges it with developing an Open Campus policy at Hanover High School.

### **May 1986**

After a series of meetings, the Open Campus Committee votes on eligibility and enforcement of open campus, and agrees to reevaluate the policy and regulations in May 1987. Their Open Campus policy statement is sent to the Dresden School Board for review.

"In reaching its final decision the committee during the past two months took the following steps:

1. Assessed the present rules and procedures.
2. Reviewed and analyzed the community petition.
3. Followed-up and analyzed specific concerns from Hanover businesses and other institutions.
4. Heard directly from parent and community members and students on the Open Campus practice.
5. Heard directly from high school students on the Open Campus practice.

6. Reviewed liability and negligence issue vis-à-vis the Open Campus privilege.
7. Learned of Open Campus policies in other schools.
8. Developed policy draft and specific recommendations for improvement.
9. Received feedback on preliminary draft of policy and recommendations from faculty and Council members in a joint faculty/Council session.
10. Reviewed final input and completed draft and recommendations (from memo to Dresden School Board by Principal Bagnato on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1986).

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1986**

The Open Campus Policy is adopted by the Dresden School Board.

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1987**

The Open Campus Committee evaluates policy and concludes:

1. The sign-out book is being used significantly more than a year previous. Continued emphasis on the importance of signing in and out, and frequent reminders throughout the year, is needed.
2. There is a significant decline in permissions for Open Campus, mainly due to academic requirements.
3. Visibility problems in trouble spots across from school and in town pretty much disappeared.
4. 9<sup>th</sup> graders seem to know what is expected of them, even though half of the respondents to a survey reported leaving school grounds without permission at least once.
5. A vast majority of upperclass persons surveyed believe the system is working.
6.  $\frac{1}{3}$  of upperclass respondents believe that there is not responsible use of sign-out book.
7. A slight increase in awareness is reported among students about eligibility for open campus and consequences for non-compliance.
8. 76% of the 80 respondents report using Open Campus, the majority for 5 or fewer times per week.

Source: Recommendations Regarding Open Campus and Student Life at Hanover High School (04.27.98), pg. 7 and 8