



COMMON GROUND

HIGH SCHOOL, URBAN FARM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

358 Springside Ave • New Haven, CT • 06515 • (203) 389-4333 • www.commongroundct.org

Committee: School

Meeting Date: 10-22-25

Meeting called to order: 3:45

In attendance:

Liz Cox

Sarah Field

Kathi Torres

Monique Frasier

Genevive Walker

Agenda:

1. Celebrations
2. Meeting calendar review
3. Board sharing/approval items—policies
4. School data review
5. Updates
 - a. CAP
 - b. Contract
 - c. School Improvement Plan
 - d. Recruitment
 - e. Renewal
6. School Director Concerns

1. Welcome and celebrations
Committee members shared celebrations

2. Meeting Dates for the year: Next Meeting 11/12/25

3. Board/Reporting Approval
 - a. New board policies should be drafted by November 9
 - b. No items for approval or discussion at the October board meeting



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4. School Data Review

- a. Enrollment on October 1–219
- b. Student Chronic Absenteeism: 29%; 34% at end of September–trending in the right direction
- c. Staffing Chronic Absenteeism: not reported
- d. Course Grades–committee reviewed 9th and 10th grade course data
 - i. Action Items
 - 1. MF: Disaggregate data for some courses
 - 2. MF: Ensure students who are failing classes are required to attend after School and Saturday academies
 - 3. MF: Check in with teachers as needed
 - 4. MF: Ensure students are attending After School and Saturday intervention sessions as scheduled
 - 5. MF: Ensure Special Education staff work with students to develop Executive functioning skills
 - 6. MF: Ensure 9th grade guidance curriculum includes lessons on organization
- e. Observation data–next month
 - i. Action items:
 - 1. All committee members will review the Observation Tool and identify data indicators they would like to have reported monthly
 - 2. GW/MF –identify strategies to increase the number of observations by freeing up observer time
- f. # Ss enrolled in college classes
 - i. 58 students total are registered for Early College (EC) and AP courses this fall, compared to 53 total for both fall and spring last year.
 - ii. 42 students enrolled in EC classes
 - iii. 26 students enrolled in AP classes
- g. # Ss with GJC placements–26 Common Ground students are currently working in Green Jobs Corps. That compares with 32 Common Ground students, and 37 students total, last fall, when we had additional resources for GJC through our EPA environmental justice grant.
- h. Staff attrition
 - i. Two teachers –Spanish and English–left in October
 - ii. Two Special Ed teachers left over the summer



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- iii. Spanish teacher will begin October 28th
- iv. English teacher candidates are scheduled to complete demo lessons
- v. Action Items:
 - 1. GW: Ensure we are doing exit interviews with all departing staff
 - 2. MF: Ensure we conduct a robust analysis of the Climate Survey results and strategize to improve culture based upon findings

i. MAP results –MAP makeups are still occurring this week.

j. CFAs–CFA data due on Oct 31st.

k. Climate survey–Staff and student climate survey administered 10/29-11/7

5. Updates

a. CAP

- i. In year 3
- ii. Meeting with CSDE 10/27

b. Contract–Union Contract ratified and signed by BOD on 10/20/25

c. SIP–staff involvement:

- i. Team leads have shared with teachers
- ii. SIP discussions during individual teacher minutes
- iii. Action item MF: Think about how to increase staff ownership of the SIP

d. Recruitment

- i. The org has a recruitment calendar with Open House dates, etc.
- ii. Action items:
 - 1. GW: ensure recruitment is an org-wide responsibility
 - 2. GW/MF: Intentional work to develop relationships with feeder schools and organizations
 - 3. GW/MF: Ask all staff to share recruitment data with network affiliates
 - 4. GW: Ensure website is updated to reflect recruiting information
 - 5. MF: Complete School Director's message



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e. Renewal

- i. Accountability meeting in Hartford scheduled Feb 4th
- ii. Action item MF: Ensure we are collecting data needed to increase student achievement on high stakes tests

6. School Director Concerns

a. Student morale and well-being

i. Action items

- 1. MF/Staff: think about ways to increase student ownership of the school (e.g. guidance responsibilities for site)
- 2. MF/Culture Staff: Encourage and publicize more student-led initiatives

b. State accountability data—ensuring we have the data we need

Attached Documents:

Meeting adjourned: 4:58