

# HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL

*December 6, 2017*

Members present: M. Baker (Parent), E. Bienfang (Parent), S. Cyr (Parent/Community), R. Eschauzier (Faculty), R. Estes (Parent), A. Fennelly (Student), K. Haughey (Parent), E. Hern (Student), B. Holleran (Staff), S. Hussey, K. Johannes, J. McPhillips, C. O'Connor, P. Swanson, R. Swanson (15 total). Also present: School Committee liaison, Liza O'Reilly.

## **OVERVIEW & PURPOSE (5:00)**

To 1) recap the first meeting; 2) select a co-chair; 3) begin our review of school disciplinary policies; and 4) discuss other School Improvement Goals for 2017-2018.

## **ONE: GREETING AND INTRODUCTIONS (5:00-5:05)**

## **TWO: RECAP OF FIRST MEETING (5:05-5:10)**

Principal Swanson summarized the main points of our first meeting (11/1/17), which included an overview of the structure, positions and purpose of the School Council, as well as some initial discussion about school policies that might warrant review by the School Council this year.

## **THREE: SELECTION OF CO-CHAIR (5:10-5:15)**

Mr. Cyr was elected by a unanimous vote to serve as co-chair.

## **FOUR: REVIEW OF SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY POLICIES (5:15-6:00)**

1. Discussion of HHS policies on vaporizers and other e-cigarette products.
  - HHS administrators are planning some professional development for faculty members.
  - Student representatives agreed that the recent rise in the use of e-cigarettes among their peers at HHS has been dramatic.
  - A consensus exists among School Council members that HHS should increase its penalties for students who use e-cigarette products in school; we will explore the possibility of making a midyear change. We agree that in-school suspension would be more appropriate than a four-hour Saturday detention for a first-offense

- violation.
  - While recognizing the need for stiffer penalties for violators and closer supervision of hallways and bathrooms, etc., we should remain mindful of the need to maintain a positive school climate; our efforts to address “the vaping issue” stem from a genuine concern about the health of our students.
  - Students who serve an In-School Suspension for using e-cigarettes (or vaporizers, etc.) should have to complete an education module during the suspension to ensure that their consequence is educational and not merely punitive.
  - Student Council members agreed to devote a large portion of their next school-wide assembly (2/6/18) to raising awareness about this issue. We will seek to include one or more medical professionals (ideally Hingham residents) to speak about the health dangers associated with e-cigarettes. We will discuss the content of this assembly at our next meeting on 1/3/18.
2. Which other policies deserve our attention this year? School Council members should consider this question prior to our next meeting.

## **FIVE: DISCUSSION OF OTHER SCHOOL COUNCIL GOALS (5:45-6:15)**

1. Examine renewable energy options (e.g., a solar array in the far parking lot).
  - a. Mr. Cyr (who also serves on the Hingham Energy Action Committee) explained that the Town of Hingham is considering an application to the Green Communities program.
  - b. Mrs. O’Reilly (School Committee Chair and School Committee Liaison to the HHS School Council) expressed enthusiasm for the subject but noted that consideration of a solar array in the far parking lot would require collaboration from town planning boards.
  - c. Peter Swanson emphasized the former educational value of the solar panels that were damaged in a 2013 storm and never repaired. Principal Swanson will speak with HPS facilities staff about repairing and reinstalling those panels as a useful first step in our efforts to expand solar energy at HHS.
2. Expand community-building opportunities with a focus on projects that improve school grounds. This subject was tabled until next time.
3. Explore ways to expand service-learning opportunities for HHS students. This subject was also tabled until next time.

Upcoming HHS School Council meetings: 1/3, 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 6/6