

HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

December 4, 2019 (5 PM)

In attendance: E. Bienfang, K. Breen, C. Bruno, E. Cavanaugh, G. Garland, L. Jefford, S. Kelly, M. Melendes, J. McPhillips, C. Morley, P. Swanson & R. Swanson (12 total) plus special guest A. Hoey.

ONE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved unanimously.

TWO: CIVICS EDUCATION

Andy Hoey (K-12 Social Studies Director) shared details about recent MA legislation that charges all public middle and high schools with implementing “civics projects” for its students. Projects could involve advocating for legislation (or a ballot initiative, etc.) but must be “non-partisan” in nature. The law goes into effect for Grade 8 next year; at the high school level, a plan must be in place, but grade level is flexible. Final projects from the Holocaust & Human Behavior course might offer a good model. Ideally, the goal is for students to work collaboratively in teams. Students recommend sophomore year as a good time to do this. Perhaps the project could be embedded into a variety of different courses.

THREE: OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate with a diploma from HHS, all students must earn:

- 110 credits total
- 20 credits in English
- 15 credits in science
- 15 credits in math
- 15 credits in social studies (must include US History)
- 10 credits in the same foreign language
- 5 credits in PE (with the option to fulfill PE requirement through alternative means in Grades 11 & 12)
- 2.5 credits in health
- 2.5 credits in fine or applied arts

To what extent do these graduation requirements align with our mission? (*“The mission of HHS is to graduate students with the academic, civic, social, and personal skills necessary to become productive, responsible members of a democratic and ever-changing*

global society. With the support and involvement of the community, HHS will engage all students in a challenging, well-balanced educational program complemented by co-curricular activities.”)

Members recommend changing the PE requirement for sophomores. Discussion on this matter will continue at the next meeting.

Next HHS School Council meetings: 1/8/20, 2/5/20, 3/4/20, 4/1/20, 5/6/20, 6/30/20