

# **HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES**

*January 2, 2019*

Members Present: M. Baker (Parent), K. Breen (Gr. 11), Liz Bienfang (Parent), T. Blake (Teacher), S. Cyr (Parent/Community Rep), R. Estes (Parent), A. Fennelly (Gr. 12), K. Haughey (Parent), B. Holleran (Pare-Educator), S. Hussey (Gr. 11), E. Larkin (Gr. 12), C. O'Connor (Teacher), R. Swanson (Principal) - 13 Total

Guest: C. Da Silva (School Committee Liaison) & K. Beatty (Teacher)

## **1: APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REVIEW OF LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the last meeting (Dec. 5, 2018) were approved unanimously.

## **2: YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (GUEST: MS. BEATTY)**

Developed by the CDC, the 100-question YRBS provides data about health behavior and attitudes. The information given will help to shape HHS curriculum in the areas of health, physical education and counseling. The questions will yield valuable information about our community. Ms. Beatty noted that we should avoid significant changes to the questions because the survey instrument has been designed carefully to ensure validity and reliability. All students in grades 9 and 11 will take the survey at the same time (on March 27, 2019) to ensure that they cannot discuss it with friends before taking it.

School Council members were unanimous in recommending: 1) replacing the word “smoking” with “using” in questions about marijuana, since marijuana is increasingly consumed in different ways (e.g., edibles, vaporizers, etc.); 2) using the word “non-binary” instead of “transgender” in Question #2; and 3) including a question that asks: “Is there a teacher in the school who knows you well and can help you achieve your goals?” Some members also recommended that we consider revisions or additions to the questions about depression. Questions about vaping were added for the last administration (two years ago) and will be retained.

### **3: UPDATE ON SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

Mr. Da Silva provided an update re: next steps in the search for Hingham's next superintendent. Three finalists remain: 1) our assistant superintendent, Dr. Jamie LaBillois; 2) Dr. Paul Austin, a superintendent in Maine; and 3) Dr. Earl Metzler, a superintendent in New Hampshire. Site visits will take place between January 7th and 11th. A decision can be expected before the end of the month.

### **4: SECURITY UPDATE**

Mr. Swanson described the first-ever lockdown during passing time on Friday, Dec. 7th. The process was explained to HHS students and teachers ahead of time with a "Friday Show" message that morning. A survey was subsequently distributed to all teachers; results from that survey have been reviewed by the new HHS Security Committee, which includes Mr. Swanson, Mr. Shattuck, Officer Ford, Mr. Quatromoni, Ms. Bennett (the School Psychologist), Ms. Beaupre (Science Teacher) and both nurses, Ms. McManus and Ms. O'Keeffe. An additional school-wide training event is planned for the spring. Students will likely rotate in large groups to stations that include: 1) the cafeteria (for instructions on what to do if a lock-down is called during lunch); 2) the auditorium (for instructions on how to follow the "live" part of the "lockdown-leave-live" protocol; and 3) the stadium (for instructions on how to handle an event that happens during an outdoor school event (e.g., a sports game or practice, etc.).

### **5: SOLAR ENERGY**

Peter Swanson has completed some research (and shared his findings with the rest of the School Council) on the recent projects in Plymouth. We will ask him to look into a trip there and will invite interested Green Team members to join us. We might also consider a trip to Lincoln-Sudbury.

### **5: ADVISORY/COMMUNITY BUILDING**

Mr. Swanson asked each School Council member to do research about the advisory program at another school. Mrs. O'Connor will again share the Google Doc that she started as a way to organize our collective research.

*NOTE: Next HHS School Council meetings: 2/6/18, 3/6/18, 4/3/18, 5/1/18 & 6/5/18*