

HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

March 4, 2020 (5 PM)

In attendance: E. Bienfang, K. Breen, E. Cavanaugh, R. Estes, G. Garland, B. Holleran, L. Jefford, S. Kelly, J. McPhillips, M. Melendes, C. Morley, P. Swanson & R. Swanson (13 total)

ONE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved unanimously.

TWO: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #2- REVIEW HHS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Katelyn Breen has completed a second draft of a survey for distribution to recent graduates. PS recommends that we consider reducing the math requirement to two year (like several others, including Concord-Carlisle, Wellesley and Winchester).

THREE: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #3 - BOLSTER CULTURAL PROFICIENCY

So far this year, HHS has held: 1) a performance of “Thurgood” (in-school assembly) for all juniors and select others on Monday, February 3rd, as a kickoff to “Black History Month;” and 2) a professional development workshop for all teachers on the morning of Tuesday, March 3rd. Meanwhile, performances of “Mr. Joy” (in-school assembly) for all students will be delivered to the entire student body on Thursday, March 12th and Friday, March 13th.

The HHS School Council completed a “SWOT” (Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats) analysis of cultural proficiency at our school. Key points included the following:

Strengths	GCP; language clubs, especially Spanish Club and Chinese Club; Reaching Out to Children; NPH; Girls Learn International; international service trips, including School the World; ADL class; Holocaust & Human Behavior class; World Literature; English curriculum; strength of the faculty, many of whom care deeply about these issues; METCO; wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, including athletics; the wrestling team is particularly inclusive; field trips; language teachers emphasize culture in addition to grammar; Hingham Unity Council.
Weaknesses	We don't discuss issues of diversity often enough; staff lacks diversity; METCO students could be more fully integrated in the life of the school; we sometimes equate diversity with race, forgetting other categories.
Opportunities	Professional development for teachers, similar to the training Mr. DaSilva has done through state government; we could do more celebratory events, e.g., “international day” events; use “Go Big Red” to boost

	attendance at such events; a new flex block could be a place to promote cultural proficiency; improve our sensitivity to religious holidays; revision to graduation requirements could strengthen appreciation of diversity; we could invite more diverse speakers.
Threats	Small size of METCO; social media; racism and other forms of bigotry among students; the existence of a “Hingham Bubble” that lacks diversity; racism and lack of empathy among some people in the community; too much elitism;

FOUR: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #4 - RENEW FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

What can HHS do to renew its focus on environmental stewardship and continue to earn its “Green Ribbon” status?

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