

# HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

*May 1, 2019*

Members Present: M. Baker (Parent), E. Bienfang (Parent), T. Blake (Teacher), K. Breen (Gr. 11), S. Cyr (Parent/Community Rep.), R. Estes (Parent), A. Fennelly (Gr. 12), K. Haughey (Parent), J. McPhillips (Community Rep.), C. O'Connor (Teacher), , R. Swanson (Principal) - 11 Total

Guest: C. Da Silva (School Committee Liaison)

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

Minutes of the last meeting (April 3, 2019) were approved unanimously.

## 2: ADVISORY

Mr. Swanson reported on a recent (4/23/19) visit to Pembroke High School (PHS), where a group of five HHS representatives (Claudia Larson '20, Jack Mullins '21, Mr. Louchheim, Mrs. Piantes and Mr. Swanson) learned about the "Titan Time" advisory model used there. At PHS, a 40-minute "X" Block meets every day. Monday is considered an "advisory" block (i.e., students meet in small advisory groups) while the other days can be used for a variety of purposes, according to the needs of individual students (e.g., extra help, etc.) and/or the needs of the school (e.g., assemblies, etc.). A software program ("Enriching Students") helps to keep the system organized. PHS had to extend the school day (teachers' "extra help" time was moved from after school to the middle of the day) but most feedback has been very positive. The program is now in its third year. Members of the HHS School Council see numerous advantages to a system like this one but hope to continue research and investigate alternative models.

## 3: SOLAR ENERGY

Mr. Cyr, Mr. Estes and Mr. Swanson reported on a recent (4/29/19) visit to Plymouth, where the school district's business manager, Gary Costin, shared information about successful solar energy projects. Two students (Rowan Woodin '21 and Lucas d'Entremont '20) and Paul Heanu (Hingham Municipal Light Plant) also attended the meeting. Participants agreed that the Plymouth case study offers proof that solar projects can work in public schools. As a next step, Mr. Swanson will discuss the topic

with our own business manager, John Ferris, and with our next superintendent, Dr. Paul Austin, when he begins work this summer.

#### **4: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS FOR 2019-2020**

School Council members should consider potential goals for next year. We will discuss these proposals at our final meeting.

*NOTE: Next HHS School Council meeting: 6/5/19*