

HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

January 20, 2021 (5 PM) via Zoom

In attendance: M. Ayer (School Committee Liaison), E. Bienfang (Parent), E. Cavanaugh (Gr. 11), D. Comer (Gr. 12), S. Cyr (Parent), R. Estes (Parent), G. Garland (Faculty), J. Hoguet (Adjustment Counselor), B. Holleran (Staff), B. Louchheim (Faculty), J. McPhillips (Community Representative), M. Melendes (Parent), C. Morley (Community Representative), P. Struzziero (Faculty), K. Sutton (Parent), P. Swanson (Community Representative) & R. Swanson (Principal) - 17 total. All members present.

1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of our last meeting (December 16, 2020) were approved unanimously.

2 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #1 - SAFETY

RS summarized the recent work of the HHS Unity Project. Most members of the Unity Project met for a two-hour workshop on MLK Day and continued work on the draft of an action plan designed to move the school toward greater respect, inclusion, safety and equity. A draft of the action plan will be shared with the HHS faculty on Feb. 3rd and reviewed by the School Council at its next meeting on Feb. 24th.

KS shared information about a Hingham Unity Council event scheduled for Feb. 25th.

3 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #2 - TECHNOLOGY

During discussion about school technology, RE emphasized the need for additional funding and staffing. Other Council members concurred, with BH noting that HPS does not compare favorably with other districts in this regard. EC expressed hope that HHS would move toward a single platform (e.g., Google Classroom) used consistently by all teachers; BL and JH later noted their agreement. PS noted some of Aspen's deficiencies; KS and RE agreed that it often fails to meet parents' expectations. GG suggested that we design a survey to learn more about what users (teachers, students and parents) would like to see from Aspen. JH noted that professional development related to Aspen has been sparse in recent years. CM recommended that we gather information about how top-performing schools across the state approach technology issues. PS noted that our

research should include private and parochial schools. The Council endorsed the idea of conducting such a survey. Questions should include: 1) What Student Information System do you use? 2) Are you 1:1? 3) If so, what device (i.e., Chromebook, iPad, etc.) do your students use? 4) Is technology funded through the capital budget (as in Hingham) or the regular operating budget? and 5) How big is your technology support staff? PS will spearhead the research with help from EB. We will aim to collect this information in time for our April meeting.

4 - UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next HHS School Council meetings: 2/24/21, 3/17/21, 4/28/21, 5/19/21, 6/16/21

Appendix A

Findings from the School Council's vote on the HHS Unity Project's list of potential "Know Each Other" Strategies. The data below includes all items that registered a score of 50% or higher. 13 members completed the survey.

Question 1: Which of the following short-term activities should be pursued? Check any item that you think would be worth the effort.

- Group project: Do a fall cleanup in the courtyards together. (69%)
- Purchase stools to provide additional seating in the cafeteria. (61%)
- Play music in between classes and at the end of the day. (53%)
- Celebrate heritage months. (53%)

Question 2: Which of the following medium-range activities should be pursued? Check any item that you think would be worth the effort.

- Create additional wall murals with diversity themes in the corridors. (85%)
- Plan a "Unity Week" with daily themes. (85%)
- Add counters with additional seating (stools) in the cafeteria. (61%)

Question 3: Which of the following long-range activities should be pursued? Check any item that you think would be worth the effort.

- Modify the schedule by implementing a daily flex block. (85%)
- Build a paved walkway and add outdoor seating in the school courtyards. (85%)
- Curriculum development work that promotes diversity, connection, justice and social action. (85%)
- Sustained professional development for staff members to help them build and maintain a school climate that is welcoming, nurturing, connected and culturally responsive. (77%)
- Implement a day of community service for all grades. (69%)
- Modify the Health curriculum to give more attention to issues of gender and sexuality. (62%)
- Review disciplinary policies and explore restorative justice. (62%)
- Expand electives and add mini-courses, e.g., Cultural Proficiency, LGBTQ+ History, etc. (53%)
- Speaker Series with opportunities for subsequent small group discussions. (53%)

Appendix B

Activity # 1 : Why should “technology” in education matter to us?

1	For equity and access to the material. The ability to have optionality in lessons and evaluation of the material.
2	Technology can complement and encourage effective teaching; however, it is only as good as the teacher who uses it. There is a lot of “professional effervescence” on this topic, and we should take care to avoid that common pitfall of educational innovators.
3	Educators need to “prepare students for THEIR future, not OUR past.” Technology must be a part of the process.
4	So that students and teachers can share resources efficiently via the cloud, rather than having to print everything
5	How much it is used may do more harm than good, but the opportunities and amount of information one can gain is a tool not many have
6	So that school can continue to happen during a pandemic!
7	It allows for equity and access for students; needed skills for the future; but should not replace the interaction of students and teachers
8	To improve the communication between classmates, teachers, guidance counselors and more.
9	Because the future of the working world our students will move into relies on technology so they need to become comfortable with it now as students.
10	Technology enables <i>connection</i> between people.
11	Finding a balance for using technology is a key component toward finding success. The evolution of becoming a successful teacher does not just happen. In addition there are challenges for students and their parents. I am pleased to see that HPS has made a strong commitment to professional development.
12	Technology matters because it doesn’t solve all educational goals, but it can improve access and make some students more interested in different lessons. It will make up some important, fundamental skills kids need when they move on, but it’s not necessarily, on its own, teaching you how to think.

Activity # 2: What is the best use of educational technology you’ve ever seen at HHS?

1	Using Zoom for meetings or extra help; Google Classroom: helps organize all classes and assignments in one location; loom lessons.
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2	Zoom to keep people connected.
3	Google Classroom; I remember showing up to middle school and when the teachers were using google classroom it made school easier to stay organized and communicate with your teachers and fellow classmates. It was a good way to save time in class; instead of spending those last 3 minutes of class passing out homework, they could just put it on Classroom and we could ask questions during that time.
4	Google Meet and Google Docs allow for effective and efficient writing conferences.
5	Loom videos help us “flip the classroom” and offer enrichment and remediation quickly and easily.
6	My favorite: A GCP activity where HHS students Skyped with students in Egypt.
7	The most recent Drama Club production!
8	Google Suite, Padlet, Zoom, Joe, and the two middle school teachers who answer all your tech questions. Other districts have tech integration specialists. I still come back to the thinking of the best tech as that which helps you understand how to make what you want to happen, happen.

Activity #3

With regard to educational technology, HHS is:

<i>...good at...</i>	<i>...but not so good at...</i>
Relaying information	being sustainable without it
training teachers on new tech	building consistency between platforms
Providing teachers with access to new software and hardware.	Offering teachers a sustained chance to figure out how to use that software and hardware to best help their students learn and grow.
Making sure everyone knows what is due and when it is due and what is going on in the class for example, in english and pre calc we have weekly schedule is very helpful	I think in some classes it's the overuse of technology not this year but in years past there is a lot of homework that could be on paper that's in the classroom which is easier for the teacher in some cases but maybe every other day it could be paper hw then classroom to keep a good balance. My freshman year math was a great example of not needing technology to be able to succeed. [The teacher] had a

	clear way of doing things. The class was very linear and we didn't use technology for much of anything and people succeeded and when he asked us most of my friends and peers agreed we all liked his teaching style.
Putting smart, hardworking teachers in our classrooms	Providing sufficient oversight and supervision of technology needs (more staff to support our excellent Technology Director would be very beneficial)
Getting tech to teachers and students	Helping us understand how to use it. I still don't feel as if I'm getting the full range of possibilities from the school issued laptop

Activity # 4 - Complete the following sentence: To improve its use of technology, HHS needs....

1	During covid: make sure all kids have good internet? And devices.
2	Help the teachers with any issues or concerns they have since how they approach teaching us has an effect.
3	Money?
4	Additional funding. The Town has shown in many ways that it is cheap on public education. Administrators need to ask for additional funding.
5	Our Director of Tech needs more personnel to help him, and I hope that we can continue our efforts to work together to make sure that all of our students have a laptop or chromebook.
6	Perhaps a clear student performance goal could help educators focus their professional development efforts and more efficiently evaluate the technologies that will help us and those that won't.