

HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL

November 16, 2022 (5 PM) in the HHS library

ATTENDANCE

School Council members attending in person: R. Besser, G. Garland, J. Lee, K. Manning I. McCabe, M. Rabinovitz, J. Ross, K. Sutton, R. Swanson, A. Varholak, and I. Whitlock (11 total).

School Council members attending virtually (via Zoom): D. Davis, J. Hoguet, and J. Mathews. (3 total).

School Committee liaison attending in person: M. Ayer (1 total).

Guests: J. Bellis and P. Pawlowski (2 total).

School Council members absent: U. Knight, A. Lefort, L. Pena, P. Swanson. (4 total)

2 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the last School Council meeting (10-19-22) were approved unanimously.

Members noted difficulty locating documents (i.e., agendas and minutes from recent meetings) on the HHS website. RS will consult with Monica Black, who posts those documents, to ensure that they can be readily accessed.

3 - REVIEW OF KEY ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

1. All members again introduced themselves, since several members were unable to attend the last meeting.
2. RS again provided a brief overview of the School Council's history and purpose.
3. RS reminded members that JL was elected co-chair and MR was elected secretary at the last meeting.

4 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS #1 (CIVIC ENGAGEMENT) AND #2 (COMMUNITY SERVICE)

JL summarized efforts to promote student participation in the recent Town Meeting. He also reported that members of the HHS Student Advisory Committee (SAC) have agreed to prepare a proposal related to community service; they will share the proposal with the School Council in February.

5 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #3 (PATHWAYS)

Ms. Bellis (Director of Fine Arts Director) and Dr. Pawlowski (K-12 Coordinator of Construction Technology) summarized the early stages of their work to establish new "Pathways" programs and solicited feedback from School Council members. Among the key points:

- PP noted that there have been three meetings thus far. Two of his students are already on board for the “Technology” pathway, and he hopes to continue to involve students of all backgrounds.
- JB plans to meet with a student committee in December to work on the mission statement, which may be modeled from the mission statement from our own GCP and Melrose High School’s visual and performing arts program. She hopes to elevate the “Visual and Performing Arts” pathway to a certificate program that could focus on helping students build a portfolio, complete capstone projects, etc. Additionally, students may be required to attend certain evening programs and/or monthly meetings with mentors. One goal is to help students get access to classes in the arts.
- JB and PP both seek feedback from students about this pathway, including whether additional supports might be necessary.
- JB and PP agree that younger students should have access to career fairs which will then help them to make informed choices about high school courses. They would like to make new pathway programs accessible to all students. Meetings must be available to *all* students.
- New pathway programs could potentially aid in credit recovery.

6 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #5 (COMMUNITY & CULTURE)

JL and RS shared recent initiatives of the HHS Unity Project (UP), including a fun promotion connected with the FIFA World Cup. KS encouraged the group to include culinary connections, whether in the school cafeteria or with food trucks. UP has also started planning for Unity Week (2/6-2/20), which will include an in-school assembly and an evening performance coordinated by Ms. Jackson, the K-12 METCO Director.

MR shared that she is coordinating Hingham’s participation in the American Exchange Project (AEP), which gives seniors an opportunity to travel for free to a different community in the US for a week in the summer. She is seeking interested seniors who wish to travel, and a variety of students/ families in Hingham who wish to be a host family for a group of students to come and explore Hingham for the week from June 28-July 5th, 2023. Interested students should fill out [this form](#), and interested host families can fill out [this form](#). Contact Molly Rabinovitz (Ms. Rab) on either email address with any questions: Mrabinovitz@hinghamschools.org OR ma-hingham@americanexchangeproject.org

7 - BUDGET UPDATES

Members of the HHS School Council will learn more about the budget at a district-wide training session on 11/16.

8 - UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next HHS School Council meetings: 12/21, 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 4/26, 5/17, 6/14

Addendum

School Council Members 2022-2023

1. Besser, Renee - Parent**
2. Davis, Daniel - Parent*
3. Garland, Glenda - HHS Faculty
4. Hoguet, Jessica - HHS Adjustment Counselor
5. Knight, Ursula - Parent*
6. Lee, Jasper - Student, Grade 12
7. Lefort, Alexis - Parent*
8. Manning, Kaitlyn - Student, Grade 9
9. Mathews, Jessica - HHS Faculty
10. McCabe, Isabel - Student, Grade 11
11. Pena, Liani - Student, Grade 12
12. Rabinovitz, Molly - HHS Staff (Para-educator)
13. Ross, Josh - Parent**
14. Sutton, Katie - Community Representative
15. Swanson, Peter - Community Representative
16. Swanson, Rick - HHS Principal
17. Varholak, Ava - Student, Grade 11
18. Whitlock, Isabella - Student, Grade 11

School Committee Liaison - Michelle Ayer

*Elected to membership in 2021 and now in Year 2 of a 2-year term

**Elected to membership in 2022 and now in Year 1 of a 2-year term

Chair (1) - Swanson

Co-Chair (1) - Lee

Secretary (1) - Rabinovitz

Parents (5) - Besser, Davis, Knight, Lefort, Ross

Students (5) - Lee, Manning, McCabe, Pena, Varholak, and Whitlock

Community Reps (2) - Sutton, P. Swanson

Faculty & Staff (4) - Garland, Hoguet, Mathews, Rabinovitz

Meeting Dates - Third Wednesday of each month (unless it conflicts with a school vacation): 10/19, 11/16, 12/21, 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 4/26, 5/17, 6/14

Notes: Per [Section 59C](#) of MGL, the first meeting of the School Council must occur within the first 40 days of the school year; the principal must co-chair the council; no more than 50% of the council can come from “non-school members;” the parent representatives must be selected by the PTO through an election process; parents must have “parity with professional personnel;” the council must include at least one student; and a “co-chairman shall be selected” at the first meeting.