

HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL

March 15, 2023 (5 PM) in the HHS library

ATTENDANCE

School Council members attending in person: K. Manning, J. Ross, P. Swanson, R. Swanson, A. Varholak, and I. Whitlock (6 total).

School Council members attending virtually (via Zoom): D. Davis, G. Garland, U. Knight, J. Lee, A. Lefort, and K. Sutton (6 total).

Also attending in person: M. Ayer, School Committee Liaison (1 total).

School Council members absent: R. Besser, J. Hoguet, J. Mathews, I. McCabe, L. Pena (5 total).

1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the last School Council meeting (02-15-23) were approved unanimously.

2 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #2 (COMMUNITY SERVICE)

Since our last School Council meeting, a subcommittee completed extensive work on a proposal for a new community service requirement that would apply to all HHS students. Discussion included the following points:

- The subcommittee (which included JL and KS) embraced most of the recommendations shared by members of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) at the last School Council meeting. The subcommittee has drafted [policy language](#) for the consideration of the full Council.
- HHS should consider requiring an “end-of-year reflection” (i.e., a short essay) from all students.
- The question of a “program administrator” (i.e., somebody to track hours, review reflections, etc.) remains unresolved.
- We would need a “working group” to organize community service opportunities.
- KS has built a website inspired by the Concord-Carlisle model.
- Several members expressed enthusiasm for the proposal, while others (e.g., JR, PS, and JH) warned that a new graduation requirement could add stress for students who already feel overburdened.
- JH noted that we should be sensitive to extra challenges (e.g., lack of family support, transportation difficulties, etc.) faced by some students.
- Some members (e.g., GG, JH, and PS) suggested that the requirement should be designed for students in grades 9-11 only so that it can be completed before the start of senior year.
- Student members (AV and IW) described their own positive experiences with community service and expressed approval for the addition of a new graduation requirement.
- JR noted the potential of good connections with the fledgling “Pathways” programs in the Arts and Technology Engineering.

- MA agreed that a new graduation requirement would require School Committee approval and should then be added to the Program of Studies as soon as possible.
- We should seek grant funding of approximately \$5000 from the Hingham Education Foundation (HEF) to provide a stipend for a program administrator next year.

3 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #5 (SCHOOL CULTURE & “SENSE OF BELONGING”)

Due to time constraints, this topic was postponed until a future meeting.

4 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #4 (ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP)

P. Swanson led discussion re: efforts to eliminate single-use plastic water bottles (less than one gallon) in Hingham. There is some uncertainty at this point about the status of the warrant item that has been proposed for Town Meeting.

5 - UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next HHS School Council meetings: 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. Hogue, 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, Hogue, 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.