

HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL

April 26, 2023 (5 PM) in the HHS library

ATTENDANCE

School Council members attending in person: G. Garland, J. Ross, P. Swanson, R. Swanson (4 total).

School Council members attending virtually (via Zoom): R. Besser, D. Davis, J. Lee, A. Lefort, J. Mathews, and K. Sutton (6 total).

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

School Council members absent: J. Hoguet, U. Knight, K. Manning, I. McCabe, L. Pena, A. Varholak, and I. Whitlock (7 total).

1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the last School Council meeting (03-15-23) were approved unanimously.

2 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #2 (COMMUNITY SERVICE)

Discussion included the following points:

- The draft of the [policy language](#) developed by the subcommittee remains available for the Council's review.
- KS will continue work on the website (inspired by the Concord-Carlisle model) and seek to complete it before our next meeting.
- We expect a "soft launch" next year that would include opening of the website to all students. If we win School Committee approval for the new graduation requirement, it would take effect for members of the Class of 2028 (currently in 7th grade) when they enter HHS.
- We hope that a "program administrator" (i.e., somebody to track hours, review reflections, etc.) with a stipend of approximately \$5000 per year could be added to the regular school budget, beginning in FY25.
- We will aim to bring a proposal to the School Committee at its August meeting.
- MA will seek legal counsel regarding issues of school liability.

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

RS and JL summarized Unity Week and Council members provided feedback. Key points:

- GG suggested that the formal aspect of the "Snowball" dance might have damaged its popularity.
- DD recommended linking the Open Mic Night (Monday) with the OrigiNation dance performance (Thursday), perhaps inviting top performers back to reprise their acts later in the week.
- KS recommended more active recruiting for the evening events.

- PS recommended that we directly involve the dance team with the OrigiNation event.
- JR observed that “change is hard” in our community and urged the Unity Project to persevere in its efforts.

4 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #4 (ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP)

RS described events of the ongoing Green Week. Several members called for better promotion and JR noted the potential utility of video screens in the lobby and/or school cafeteria. However, the ban on single-use plastic water bottles at Town Meeting delivered a significant Green Week highlight.

5 - UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next HHS School Council meetings: 5/16 and 6/13

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, 5/16, 6/13

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.