

HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL

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

ATTENDANCE

School Council members attending in person: G. Garland, J. Lee, K. Sutton, R. Swanson, and I. Whitlock (5 total).

School Council members attending virtually (via Zoom): R. Besser, U. Knight, J. Mathews, M. Rabinovitz, and P. Swanson (5 total).

Guests attending in person: A. Doggett (1 total)

Guests attending virtually (via Zoom): N. Tesler and S. Turner (2 total).

School Council members absent: D. Davis, J. Hoguet, A. Lefort, K. Manning, I. McCabe, L. Pena, J. Ross, and A. Varholak (8 total). Also absent: M. Ayer (School Committee liaison).

1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the last School Council meeting (01-18-23) were approved unanimously.

2 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #2 (COMMUNITY SERVICE)

- On behalf of the Hingham Student Advisory Committee (SAC), Alex Doggett and Nathan Tesler delivered a presentation relative to the implementation of a new community service requirement for HHS students.
- The SAC aimed to answer three guiding questions: 1) What should the requirement be? 2) Where will the hours be tracked? and 3) Who will oversee the program?
- For purposes of comparison, the SAC examined the Program of Studies and graduation requirements of benchmark districts. The SAC also made direct personal contact with eight local school districts in order to enhance their research.
- AD and NT shared the data collected from other school districts.
- The SAC proposes that HHS should:
 - require all students to complete 40 hours of total service (i.e., 10 service hours per year) as a new graduation requirement;
 - allow students to begin collecting service hours during the summer prior to 9th grade;
 - prorate the requirement for students who enter HHS after the 9th grade; and
 - anticipate and plan for potential challenges, including the reporting of false or inappropriate hours, lack of completion, etc.
- School Council members were especially impressed with the website developed at Concord-Carlisle High School and hope to develop a similar site for HHS.
- Members voiced concerns about adding responsibilities to building administrators, especially in light of looming HPS budget cuts.

- Members agreed that in-school community service could include peer tutoring, aiding in the RISE classrooms, Best Buddies, etc.
- J. Lee volunteered to chair a subcommittee that will draft language for possible inclusion in the HHS Student Handbook and Program of Studies.

3 - UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next HHS School Council meetings: 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.