

HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL

January 18, 2023 (5 PM) in the HHS library

ATTENDANCE

School Council members attending in person: R. Besser, J. Lee, A. Lefort, K. Manning, J. Ross, P. Swanson, and R. Swanson (7 total).

School Council members attending virtually (via Zoom): G. Garland, J. Hoguet, J. Mathews, M. Rabinovitz, and K. Sutton (5 total).

Guests: A. Jackson (1 total).

School Council members absent: D. Davis, U. Knight, I. McCabe, L. Pena, A. Varholak, and I. Whitlock (6 total). Also absent: M. Ayer (School Committee liaison).

1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the last School Council meeting (12-21-22) were approved unanimously.

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

HPS METCO Director Amy Jackson joined R. Swanson and J. Lee to preview the second annual Unity Week (2/6 - 2/10) at HHS. AJ won two grants that will support Unity Week: 1) “Get Out of Your Bubble” assembly (game show format) with Ron Jones on Wednesday 2/8; and 2) “OrigiNation” dance performance on Thursday 2/9 night 7 PM. Discussion included the following points:

- Publicity and cross-promotion in collaboration with the Hingham Unity Council, the Hingham Arts Alliance, and the Hingham Music Parents Association.
- The possibility of food donations from local restaurants, including Morrell’s BBQ, Ocho Cafe, and/or others. K. Sutton will contact them.
- Tickets for the Snowball Dance will allow for admission to the basketball game (HHS vs. Duxbury) on Friday 2/10.
- The HHS Unity Project will seek greater involvement from teachers this year.
- G. Garland has agreed to produce a special “Monday Edition of the Friday Show” to preview the week on Monday 2/6.

3 - BUDGET UPDATES

RS provided new information regarding the development of the FY24 school budget. Due to a range of economic factors, including extreme inflation, and the recent staffing additions funded through one-time grants, the deficit has grown to be far larger than anticipated. If the town does not approve an operational override, all Hingham schools will suffer severe cuts to staff and programs.

4 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #4 (ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP)

RS will represent HHS on 1/19 at an all-schools meeting about environmental practices. Representatives of all six HPS schools will be asked, “What’s going well?” and “What most needs to be improved?” How should those questions be answered for HHS? Key points from discussion included:

- The cafeteria is again using compostable trays.
- The current “Slash the Trash” season has been a good one.
- We could recruit clubs, not just sports teams, to participate in the “Slash the Trash” competition? This could be more inclusive for the school community.
- Representatives from Milton schools will be visiting soon to observe HHS cafeteria protocols.

5 - UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next HHS School Council meetings: 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.