

# HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL

*May 16, 2023 (5 PM) in the HHS library*

## ATTENDANCE

School Council members attending in person: G. Garland, J. Lee, P. Swanson, K. Sutton, R. Swanson, A. Varholak, and I. Whitlock (7 total).

School Council members attending virtually (via Zoom): R. Besser, J. Hoguet, and A. Lefort (3 total).

School Council members absent: D. Davis, U. Knight, K. Manning, J. Mathews, I. McCabe, L. Pena, and J. Ross (7 total).

Also absent: M. Ayer, School Committee Liaison (1 total).

## 1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the last School Council meeting (04-26-23) 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 has made additional improvements to the website and confirms that it is now ready to launch.
- The main functions of the website will be to 1) *submit* a community service opportunity; or 2) *find* an opportunity.
- RS will seek PTO reimbursement for fees associated with the domain name ("hhscommunityservice") and hosting of the website.
- MA has confirmed with the superintendent that the school district would not have liability for opportunities listed on the community service website.

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

The Council reviewed data (See Appendix A) from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) taken by HHS 9th- and 10th-grade students in March 2023.

- Council members concurred that a flex block would enable HHS to better confront issues related to loneliness and connection.
- The Council will seek to cross-reference Questions 26-28 with Question 99 in order to consider the impact of participation in extracurricular activities.
- For the sake of comparison, we ought to seek similar data from other schools.
- Council members are optimistic that the introduction of new "Pathways" programs next year will lead to improvement in the "sense of belonging" for participating students.

## 4 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #4 (ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP)

In a discussion about potential action steps, 1) JL recommended that the Green Team's "Slash the Trash" contest seek to engage other clubs, not just teams; 2) AV recommended service projects, such as beach cleanups; 3) KS offered to invite Laura Burns to the next meeting; and 4) PS urged all Council members to bring three new ideas to the next meeting .

## 5 - UPCOMING MEETINGS

The HHS School Council will hold its final meeting of the school year on 6/13/23. Please note the date change from the original schedule.

## Appendix A

### YRBS “Connection Questions”

Note: This is data for grade 9 and 11 combined

26. How often do you feel lonely?

Never - 30%

Occasionally - 48%

Frequently - 14%

All the time - 5%

27. How often do you feel isolated from others?

Never - 37%

Occasionally - 47%

Frequently - 9%

All the time - 3 %

28. How often do you feel a sense of belonging at school?

Never - 10 %

Occasionally - 22 %

Frequently - 43 %

All the time - 21 %

## 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

\*\*\*Membership expired when she resigned from HHS in

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, 5/16, 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.*