

HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL

December 20, 2023 (5 PM) in the HHS library and via [Zoom](#)

1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2 - REVIEW OF KEY ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

1. Introductions of members
2. Overview of School Council
3. Election of co-chair (Jasper Lee) and secretaries (Ava Varholak and Izzy Whitlock)

3 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #2 (COMMUNITY SERVICE)

Updates from the subcommittee and discussion of next steps, including consideration of the School Council's proposal at the School Committee meeting on Monday 1/8.

4 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #5 (SENSE OF BELONGING)

Updates re: tentative plans for Unity Week (2/5/24 - 2/9/24), which include:

- Whole-school assemblies (Earl Granville) with a "Red, White and Blue" theme on Monday 2/5
- Third annual Open Mic Night on Monday 2/5
- Special session of Ninth Grade Advisory with peer mentors on Tuesday 2/6
- HHS students as guest readers at elementary schools
- Food drives at home basketball games on Tuesday 2/6 and Friday 2/9
- Fundraisers for Maddie's Promise and NephCure with corresponding color themes (purple and orange) on assigned days
- "Breathe Out Day" with a focus on mental health
- A "Drop Everything and Read" event
- Potential for a movie night after the basketball game on Friday night
- Invitation to clubs to participate in a special edition of "Slash the Trash" competition

5 - FY 25 BUDGET PRIORITIES

On 12/11/23, Dr. Adams shared the following "Leadership Team Budget Priorities" with the School Committee's Budget and Finance Subcommittee.

Student Services

- Provide systems, structures, and programs in the Student Services Department in collaboration with efforts to strengthen MTSS which address diverse social-emotional, behavioral health, and academic needs.

Multi-Tiered System of Social Emotional and Academic Supports

- Strengthen tiered systems of support for social-emotional learning and academics through staffing, schedules, professional development, high-quality instruction and curriculum to support the wellness, mental health, and academic needs of all students.

Professional Development

- Promote and support strategic initiatives through aligned, relevant professional development. Continue to advance educator capacity to employ best practices, including Universal Design for Learning and implementation of high-quality tiered curriculum and wellness supports.

Facilities & Technology

- Provide access to safe, welcoming and well-maintained facilities, with reliable, high-quality technology, to create a learning environment that is supportive of students' academic and social-emotional development.

At the same meeting, RS shared the following “High School Budget Priorities and Considerations.”

- Enrollment has declined at HHS. Review of current class sizes, department staffing, and offerings.
- HHS remains committed to maintaining strong and comprehensive programs, including core academic, elective, co-curricular, and extra-curricular programs.
- The percentage of students receiving special education services and 504 accommodations continues to increase. Review of current special education staffing and programs.
- In the face of growing concerns about mental health and SEL, HHS remains committed to sustaining and enhancing tiered systems of support.

6 - UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next HHS School Council meetings: 1/17, 2/28, 3/20, 4/24, 5/15, and 6/12

Addendum

School Council Members 2023-2024

1. Accettella, Laura - Parent*
2. Besser, Renee - Parent**
3. Blidner, Griffin - Student, Grade 9
4. Garland, Glenda - HHS Faculty
5. LaFond, Grace - Student, Grade 12
6. Lee, Jasper - Community Representative (HHS Class of 2023)
7. Lefort, Alexis - Parent*
8. Manning, Kaitlyn - Student, Grade 10
9. Mathews, Jessica - HHS Faculty

10. O'Horo, Susan - Parent***
11. Sutton, Katie - Community Representative
12. Swanson, Peter - Community Representative
13. Swanson, Rick - HHS Principal
14. Varholak, Ava - Student, Grade 12
15. Whitlock, Isabella - Student, Grade 12

School Committee Liaison - Michelle Ayer

*Elected to membership in 2023 and now in Year 1 of a 2-year term

**Elected to membership in 2022 and now in Year 2 of a 2-year term

***Elected In October 2023 to complete the final year of Josh Ross' 2-year term

Chair (1) - Swanson

Co-Chair (1) - TBD

Secretary (1) - TBD

Parents (4) - Accettella, Besser, Lefort, O'Horo

Students (5) - Blidner, LaFond, Manning, Varholak, and Whitlock

Community Reps (3) - Lee, Sutton, P. Swanson

Faculty & Staff (2) - Garland, Mathews

The School Improvement Plan for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years:

1. Promote civic engagement for HHS students.
2. Expand community service opportunities for HHS students.
3. Explore the creation of "Pathways" for HHS students.
4. Bolster the school's commitment to and practice of "Environmental Stewardship" as a Core Value.
5. Build community and strengthen school culture in ways that promote a genuine "sense of belonging" for all members.