

HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL

November 15, 2023 (5 PM) in the HHS library and via Zoom

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

To meet each other, discuss the role of the School Council, and begin to chart a course for the 2023-2024 school year.

ATTENDANCE

Council members present: L. Accettella, R. Besser, G. Blidner, G. LaFond, J. Lee, S. O'Horo, K. Sutton, R. Swanson, and A. Varholak (9 total).

Also attending: M. Ayer (School Committee liaison).

Absent: G. Garland, A. Lefort, K. Manning, J. Mathews, P. Swanson, and I. Whitlock. (6 total)

1 - INTRODUCTIONS

All members introduced themselves.

2 - OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL COUNCIL

R. Swanson reviewed key points about the origins and purpose of the School Council.

3 - ELECTION OF SECRETARY & CO-CHAIR

The group 1) elected Ava Varholak and Izzy Whitlock as Co-Secretaries and 2) re-elected Jasper Lee as Co-Chair.

4 - REVIEW OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Members reviewed and discussed the School Improvement Plan (SIP) 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.

5 - COMMUNITY SERVICE PROPOSAL (SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL #2)

Discussion re: SIP Goal #2 included the following points:

- K. Sutton has developed a community service website (hhscommunityservice.org) that can soon be launched.
- KS has also created a spreadsheet that lists approximately 50 community organizations; she will share it with School Council members for review and feedback. RS will share this list with HHS counselors to solicit additional feedback.
- Basic details of the School Council’s community service proposal were summarized in a 7/3/23 [memorandum](#) to the Superintendent of Schools and discussed at a School Committee meeting on 7/10/23.
- A subcommittee of the School Council (including L. Accettella and J. Lee) will elaborate on the proposal and seek to present it at a School Committee meeting, ideally on 1/8/24.
- JL will invite Alex Doggett ‘24 and other members of the Student Advisory Committee (which played a pivotal role in the development of the proposal last year) to contribute to the new subcommittee.
- S. O’Horo asked for consideration of equity issues and noted potential barriers to the completion of community service hours.
- M. Ayer noted that the School Committee will want to know more details about an “exit ramp” for students unable to meet the proposed graduation requirement.
- The full report of the Student Advisory Committee should also be shared with the School Committee.

6 - OTHER ITEMS

Council members agreed that we will:

- discuss HHS budget priorities at the next meeting (12/20/23);
- address YRBS data at another meeting during the winter; and
- revisit the proposals shared by Laura Burns at our last meeting in June 2023.

7 - UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

8 - ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.