

# HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL

*January 17, 2024 (5 PM) in the HHS library and via [Zoom](#)*

## ATTENDANCE

Council members present: L. Accettella, R. Besser, G. Blidner, S. O'Horo, R. Swanson, A. Varholak, and I. Whitlock (7 total).

Absent: G. Garland, G. Lafond, J. Lee, A. Lefort, K. Manning, J. Mathews, K. Sutton, and P. Swanson. (8 total)

## 1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

This was postponed until the next meeting because we lacked a quorum.

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

RS provided updates and led discussion about next steps, including further consideration of the School Council's proposal at the School Committee meeting on Monday 1/22. Key discussion points included the following:

- The program should be initiated for incoming ninth graders next year.
- Positive discussion about the website.
- Decision to move forward on the community service program will be voted at the next School Committee meeting on Monday (1/22).
- We expect a mixed reaction from the committee; it appears that some members are in favor, while some are opposed, and some remain undecided.
- Perceived benefits of making the school better; concerns have to do with adding stress and cost, taking away from what community service means.
- Research supports the program's positive impact on well-being.
- Most HHS students already engage in 40 hours of service.
- Many current HHS students are supportive of the program idea.
- The new website was announced in the last newsletter on Friday 1/19.
- We should consider advertising the website and program to eighth graders for awareness before the start of the upcoming summer break.
- We expect support from Dr. Adams and the Student Advisory Council.
- Student participation in Monday's meeting would likely improve the likelihood of approval by the School Committee.

- The current proposal does not include a written reflection by students.
- Idea: Instead of a written reflection, a brief Google Form could provide a way for students to provide feedback.
- Izzy and Ava will prepare remarks for delivery at the School Committee meeting.
- Anybody who wants to contact the School Committee about this issue can send an email to Nes Corenti ([ncorrenti@hinghamschools.org](mailto:ncorrenti@hinghamschools.org)).

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

The school's third annual Unity Week is planned for 2/5 through 2/9.

- The events align with School Improvement Goal #5 ("sense of belonging").
- It's similar to Spirit Week but emphasizes the desired school culture.
- Various activities throughout the week:
  - Monday: All-school assembly (in partnership with the Veterans Appreciation Club) and Open Mic Night (together with the music program).
  - Tuesday: Special session with freshman advisory; basketball game with food drive.
  - Wednesday: Breathe Out Day organized by the Breathe Out Club.
  - Thursday: GSA after-school event.
  - Friday: HHS students read to young children at elementary schools about Unity Week themes; another basketball game with food drive.
- Fundraising and awareness activities for Maddie's Promise, NephCure, and the Anna Quinlivan Scholarship fund.
- Students are able to join in a discussion during their lunch period time to address social issues.
- Movie night after the basketball game.
- Slash The Trash competition with different clubs each day.
- We're exploring an event where our dance team works with OrigiNation dancers.
- We should view "diversity and inclusion" broadly; for example, students with divorced parents face barriers to participation.
- Events will be promoted through posters, lobby banners, and social media.

### 4 - UPCOMING MEETINGS

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