

Hingham Middle School

School Council Meeting

Thursday, October 6, 2022

2:30 PM

Attending: Derek Smith, Kerry Ni, Laura Accettella, Brett Johnson, Katie Carolan

- **Approval of June Minutes**
- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Review of School Council Requirements and Objectives**
- **School Updates**
  - Reached the halfway point of term 1
  - Grades posted at midterm; if a student has a below 70% average, home is contacted directly
  - Distinct difference in the feel of the school from last year. Students seem far more comfortable
  - Social-Emotional needs are still important to focus on
    - Counselor lessons will be taught in the classroom (ex. Second Step program will be implemented)
    - Expanding school assemblies and school meeting (ex. Bystander or Upstander assembly on bullying)
    - Bringing back John Halligan for 8th graders on bullying (info will be sent home to parents prior particularly this year, teachers are given prompts for after the assembly)
- **Parent Updates**
  - Open House - hard to listen while completing feedback form at some presentations
  - Cell phone service in the building issue
    - Though there is wifi available, don't want that shared too much as it would affect the bandwidth available.
    - Would like to discourage parents texting students during the day
    - Parents should contact the office. Students can use classroom and office phones
  - From Invest in Hingham - No homework the night of the Special Town Meeting (11/1)? Derek will ask FAC
  - Thank you for solving the issue for field hockey between 2-3

- Some 7th grade parents expressed frustration with the varying consistency of parent communication. There is no one particular platform. Derek can ask FAC about this as well
- Concern about no process in place for contacting parents about unexcused absences? There is a process. Phone calls are made. Will follow up.
- Process for notifying school of absence? Call the office. Maybe remove the Google Form?
- **Community Updates**
- **School Committee Updates**
  - **Special Town Meeting for new Foster. Encourage people to attend. It has to pass 11/8 ballot as well.**
  - **Accountability report on MCAS**
  - **Attendance report 11/1 for DESE**
  - **Bullying Prevention Plan will be discussed as well**
- **Budget Updates**
  - **Difficult budget this year, decisions need to be made**
  - **We will need to look at the needs of HMS and will be discussing at these meetings throughout the process**
  - **Two budgets will be developed: one level services and one if cutting X%**
  - **School just received budget material last week. Our formal proposal date TBD. Make it a December meeting item.**
- **After-School Clubs & Activities**
  - **(a) steps needed to promote these on the HMS website**
    - **Spell out acronyms (GSA, PAW, etc)**
    - **Take out link on middle school site PTO page for extracurricular activities**
    - **Connection gives “Week-at-a-Glance” which lists the current offerings**
    - **Document created by Derek lists the offerings, descriptions, and teacher contacts for the year**
    - **Check with staff to ensure accuracy of listed events**
  - **(b) other ideas for promotion and measurement**
    - **Bulletin board in the cafeteria for a “Week-at-a-Glance” for the students to be able to access**
      - **Parent volunteer to update board?**
      - **Ask art teachers to see if Art Club could decorate it**
      - **Use social media more? Maybe use Heather to accept photos from advisors to post**

- Club and Activities Fair - maybe during Grade 5 Step Up Day to promote the activities
  - Keep sign-in logs to keep track of student participation
  - Suggestion box for new club or activity ideas
  - Invite grade 8 students to be part of a Student “Advisory” group. Could connect with HHS Student Advisory Council
- (c) potential for expansion
  - Limited budget for clubs and activities
  - To add a new club, need to be put forth as a new initiative in a budget proposal and approved by the School Committee
  - Activity fee
    - form will be included in the Connection
    - Started to help defray the costs for after school activities, late bus transportation, advisor stipends, etc
    - Can be waived for those in need
    - How many pay? Can run a report end of Oct/early Nov
- HMS Student Handbook: On-going evaluation
  - Approved by School Committee in August
  - Send School Committee the Handbook document. Make a schedule of which items to tackle from the Handbook.
- Calendar for 2022/23 Meetings
  - Meet 10/24 to make up for September meeting? Then 11/28
  - Just need to adjust for when 4th Monday falls around vacation
  - June meeting?
  - Set agenda for next meeting at end of current meeting
  - Next meeting
    - Handbook - Plan for review
    - School, Parent, and Community, and SC updates
    - Review School Council goals
    - Dates for Dec and June meetings

**General Business and Items Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance**

**Adjournment**

**Attachments:**

**School Council Plan ,June Meeting Minutes**