

HHS SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

October 2, 2019 (5 PM)

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

To meet each other, discuss the role of School Council, and begin to chart a course for the 2019-2020 school year.

ONE: INTRODUCTIONS

13 members were present: E. Bienfang, C. Bruno, E. Cavanaugh, S. Cyr, R. Estes, G. Garland, B Holleran, L. Jefford, S. Kelly, M. Melendes, C. Morley, P. Swanson, R. Swanson. Three members (K. Breen, K. Haughey and J. McPhillips) were unable to attend.

TWO: OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL COUNCIL

R. Swanson provided an overview of the School Council's history and purpose. All public schools in MA have a School Council co-chaired by the principal. Our Council includes sixteen members: four students (selected by the Student Council), four parents (selected by the PTO), four at-large community representatives (appointed by the principal), three faculty members, and the principal. Mr. Cyr will serve as co-chair again this year. The Council's primary charge is to develop and implement the School Improvement Plan.

THREE: REVIEW OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The HHS School Improvement Plan for the 2019-2020 school year includes the following goals:

1. Explore the possibility of expanding the "Freshman Advisory" program in order to serve students in other grades.
2. Systematically review Hingham High School graduation requirements.
3. Bolster the cultural proficiency of HHS students and staff.
4. Strengthen the school's commitment to (and practice of) "Environmental Stewardship" as a Core Value.

FOUR: ADVISORY ACTIVITY & DISCUSSION

School Council members ranked ten elements that might be included in an expanded advisory and/or “flex block” program. A few interesting results:

- “SEL” (“Support social and emotional development with learning experiences and feedback”) was ranked first or second by six people, and rated “High” or “Yes” by two others who elected not to use a numerical system.
- “Life Skills” (“Teach financial literacy, digital citizenship, study skills and project management”) was ranked in the top three by six people, and rated “High” or “Yes” by two others who elected not to use a numerical system.
- “Peer mentoring” (“Foster peer learning and team building experiences”) was ranked in the top three by six people, and rated “Medium” or “Yes” by two others who elected not to use a numerical system.
- “Health” (“Support health and wellness learning experiences”) was ranked in the top three by five people, and rated “High” or “Yes” by two others who elected not to use a numerical system.

Members then discussed two specific models that have been implemented in other schools. In short, “Model A” is an advisory program that meets every day for eight minutes between the first and second periods; “Model B” is a 30-minutes “flex block” that meets every day before lunch.

- Scores for “Model A” ranged from 2 to 7, with a mean score of 5 and an average score of 4.75.
- Scores for “Model B” ranged from 1 to 10, with a mean score of 7 and an average score of 6.6.

Discussion of these topics will continue at future meetings.