

School Council

Minutes 12/8/09

Present: Andrea D'Eramo, Jeff Harris, Catina Barbieri, Andrew Hong, Jack Landry, Ellen Sachs Leicher, Gary Menin, Jim O'Shea, Anne Marie Rowse, Terry Symula, Scott Hoffman, Deb Pierce, Stu Sklar, Peggy Zimmer,

Unable to Attend: Bob Thurston

Principal's Update

Mr. O'Shea reports that:

Zombie Prom will be performed by the middle school this weekend.

PSAT Scores are in and students did well.

Conferences during Thanksgiving week went well;

Parents and teachers will be surveyed about the schedule

The HTA will also do a survey

Band concert will be Monday & Chorus concert will be Tuesday of next week.

Winter sports are in process.

The Peer Mentoring Program had a very positive kickoff:

15 more students want to be buddies

There is a dance next week.

The grade 9 DC trip will require 3 busses.

The grade 11 NYC trip is still in question:

Cost is \$570 with Capital Tours

It was recommended that Celebration Tours may offer a better price

The budget process is getting a later start than usual.

There are several staff members retiring at the end of this year:

Mr. McGarty

Mrs. McGarty

Ms. Judy March

Madame Keoseian

Mr. Ray Carrigan

In addition

Mrs. Curley has extended her maternity leave

Interviews are currently taking place for a long term substitute

Ms. Wagner will be out due to back surgery

Mrs. Bassage is taking maternity leave

The librarian position is open

Two teachers have stepped up to lead the NEASC effort

Mr. Jones

Mrs. Carlucci

The meeting with the School Committee will be rescheduled for January.

Student Update

Students report that they are concerned that MCAS has become the driving force at HES. They expressed fear that teachers are teaching to the MCAS, and the HES experience may be very different from what they experienced as children. Students will be meeting with the School Committee on Friday and express their concern.

The Snowflake dance is scheduled for January 23rd. The Snow Ball is scheduled for January 24th.

Students expressed some positive experiences with Naviance. However, they are concerned the colleges are not receiving transcripts in a timely manner.

The homework issue was discussed. The conclusion is that homework load is a result of the student's course load. It was suggested that students and parents be made aware of the homework load for each class before registering for classes.

Committee Updates

Community Service

11 grade students can now begin their projects
Students and parent have been made aware

Climate

Climate survey and will be discussed at the next School Committee meeting. We will add questions to the next survey about conference scheduling.

Extra-curricular

The group is working to get a warrant article for town meeting to reduce user fees.
The group will be meeting to determine the amount to request.
They will also be looking at other options.

Guidance

Naviance is up and running
Guidance is working on a by grade guide as to their role, Mr. Favulli is taking the lead on this
Peer Mentoring is up and running

New Business

Jim and Scott will present the school improvement plan at the next School Committee meeting, December 14th at 8:40pm .

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Symula

Next meeting – January 5th at 3:00 in the Bromfield teacher's lounge.