MEMORANDUM

TO: School Committee
FROM: Dr. Zielinski
DATE: February 28, 2017
SUBJ: High School – School Council

At the February 13, 2018 School Committee meeting, there were some statements made regarding the meetings of the High School – School Council. Specifically, Mr. Caparrella, a member of the King Philip High School – School Council stated publicly that the High School - School Council had not met since October.

After investigating this claim I have found the following information.

The High School - School Council met on 9/5/2017. This was an organization meeting and minutes of this meeting were not recorded. The High School - School Council met on October 3, 2017, October 17, 2017, and November 14, 2017. At the November 14, 2018 meeting, all members of the School Council were present and they voted to approve the School Improvement Plan on that date.

The November 28, 2017 meeting was cancelled because quorum of the committee was not met. Mr. Caparrella was one of the members who was not present at this meeting. No meeting was scheduled in December.

The January meeting was cancelled due to quorum concerns. In addition, the new Cultural Proficiency Committee was underway and some members of the School Council are active on the Cultural Proficiency Committee. A joint meeting of the new Cultural Proficiency Committee and the School Council took place on February 17, 2018. The date for the February meeting was changed to ensure quorum of the School Council would be meet. All members received advanced notice of the date change.

The next two scheduled meetings of the School Council are March 13, 2018 and April 10, 2018. All minutes from meetings are posted on the King Philip Regional High School website as are the dates of the meetings and anticipated agenda topics.
Meeting Dates

The King Philip High School Council meetings take place in room 402 at King Philip High School.
Meetings are from 5:30-6:30 P.M. unless otherwise noted.

Meeting Dates & Agenda Items
- September 5, 2017 -- Organization Meeting & Goals
- October 3, 2017 -- School Improvement Plan
- October 17, 2017 -- Student Handbook Review
- November 14, 2017 -- Student Handbook Review
- November 28, 2017 -- Student Handbook final & Budget Introduction
  **Quorum not met**
- February 15, 2018 -- Joint Meeting with the Cultural Proficiency Group Survey Review
- March 13, 2018 -- Review Survey Results
- April 10, 2018 -- Open Topics-Budget-School Improvement Planning
KPHS School Council  
Meeting 10-3-17  
Marion Linde; Secretary

**Agenda:** The School Improvement Plan  
Meeting called to order at 5:45

Dr. Mobley reviewed Standard I, Standard II, Standard III and Standard IV. These are the standards upon which the school improvement plan will be built. She explained that the new NEASC regulations are heavily reliant upon the school improvement plan and they expect the plan to be set up this way.

As a group, we identified area of improvement for Standard I curriculum and instruction. Students felt that the teaching between some teachers is very different and expressed that makes the common assessments difficult to take. They stated that sometimes what is on the assessment has not been taught, especially if the teacher is new.

The group also felt that the program of studies should be reviewed looking for courses that all students could take. Jane D. concerned that the program of studies has more courses for the honors student.

Dr. Mobley reviewed the pathways as they are for all students but particularly for the CP student. Jane D. encouraged the development of hands on practical classes.

Dr. Mobley reviewed how the staff would be included in developing the school improvement plan. She said they would identify goals for each of the areas and then vote on them. The goals would then be put into the plan and the school council would vote on the overall plan.

Dr. Mobley asked if the council had any additional goals. None reported.

**Meeting End Time:** 7:00 pm

**Agenda for Next Meeting:** The Handbook

**Next Meeting Date:** October 17th, 2017 5:30
Agenda: The Student Handbook

Meeting Start Time: 5:35pm

Meeting Notes:

- The group will look at the Handbook’s rules regarding new forms of alcohol intake/drug use such as the school’s policies on vaping.
- How far does the school’s policy go when talking about alcohol/drug intake outside of school and school events? Should the handbook’s wording be changed to accommodate certain situations were discretion takes precedent?
- On page 35 of the handbook (used during the meeting) it states, “Any student who voluntarily remains at a place where he/she knows or should know that alcoholic beverage(s), tobacco product(s), marijuana, steroids, or any controlled substance is being illegally consumed, possessed, bought, sold, or given away, shall be considered to be in violation of this policy.” This paragraph was specifically talked about and it was mentioned that this paragraph should be removed from the handbook. This change would be supported by the notion that parents and police should be the ones responsible for students in these situations where alcohol/drug use is present, outside of school/school events.
- If this policy is to be taken out of the handbook it will be taken before the School Committee to approve a final decision.
- How far should the school reach into the community on their policy for alcohol and drug use during school events, and not during school events? Most members of the council unanimously agreed that the school should not be reaching out far into the community and getting involved in incidents that do not directly involve the school.
- If the council was to decide that a change needs to be made on the paragraph quoted above, how will this change be worded? It was discussed that a possible new wording of this phrase would be that students in the presence of alcohol, but not under the influence themselves, would only be penalized by the school if they were in the presence of alcohol or drugs on school property/at a school event.
- Further research will be done to find out whether or not other Hockomock schools have similar language in their handbooks, or if this sort of language was removed from other schools’ handbooks.
- Before the end of the meeting the topic of a weighted vs. unweighted GPA was also talked about. It was mentioned that the council wants to continue supporting its position
that the high school should move towards having an unweighted GPA. Along with this would also come the possibility of removing class rank. This topic will be further discussed in future meetings.

- Also discussed at the end of the meeting was the school’s absentee policy. The guidelines for what is an excused vs. an unexcused absence was discussed and going along with that the school’s policy for missed work and how that should be handled was also mentioned. This topic will also be much further discussed at the next meeting.

**Meeting End Time:** 6:32pm

**Agenda for Next Meeting:** The Dress Code, Absentee policy, and Behavioral policies in the handbook.

**Next Meeting Date:** November 14th, 2017
Agenda:
The agenda will include the School Improvement Plan and the School Council Proposal. If there is time the council will also go over parts of the Student Handbook which will carry over into the next meeting.

Starts time:
The meeting began at 5:34

School Improvement Plan:
• The new school Improvement Plan was approved by the School Council to be passed on to the School Committee who will then make the final passing decision. In this plan, specifically on goal #4, the teachers of KPHS have created a plan where they will work with KPMS to create a more cohesive, scaffolded curriculum that is aligned district wide.
• In the future Dr. Mobley suggested bringing in Dr. Craig Murphy to work with the cultural proficiency working group to create more efficient working groups and improve the overall school culture.
• The high school will be holding an elective fair to help introduce all possible electives to students of all grades.
• How can we as a collective council and community create a better environment for learning, cooperating, and working?
• The council approved the new school Improvement plan: all in favor, non opposed.

School Council Proposal:
• The council recommends the elimination of a portion of the Drug and Alcohol policy that states: "Any student who voluntarily remains at a place where he/she knows that alcoholic beverage(s), marijuana, steroids, or any controlled substance is being legally consumed,
possessed, bought, sold, or given away, shall be considered to be in violation of this policy."

Thirty-four schools in the surrounding areas already DO NOT include this portion of the drug and alcohol policy. The MIAA also has removed this policy from their standards.

• The council and Dr. Mobley will be working on a way to change or reword the policy so that it is the most effective language possible.

• The final proposal will be brought to the School Committee in May.

**End Time:**

The meeting ended at 6:58

Total minutes: 84
CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Mobley, high school Principal, at 6:48pm

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Members present: Administration: Dr. Lisa Mobley (Principal), Mr. Kip Lewis (Vice Principal), Mr. Spencer Christie (Vice Principal),
Teachers: Mr. Joe Ferraira, Mr. Matthew
Parents: Jane D’Amico, Cheryl Dittrich, Jennifer Veillux
Community Member: Barbara Snead, Bob Crowell
Students: Marion Linde, Isabel Agricola, Mackenzie Mazur, Dan Ray, Rohan Barthelmy, Andrew Dittrich.

Members Absent: Mrs. Dorris Brennan, Ms. Lori Quinn, Ms. Lisa Berry, Mr. James Caparella

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of Date:
There were no meeting minutes to be approved

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposal for Committee for Diversity and Inclusion
-- Seniors Dan Ray and Rohan Barthelmy proposed a group where students would be able to go for inclusion and also for students to talk about incidents they have experienced regarding racial, gender, and sexuality conflicts/issues.
-- The goal is to create a safe space for all students to have someone to go to to speak about any incidents they have experiences or heard about regarding the safety of everyone and the diversity of KP.

Cultural Indicator Survey
-- The Cultural Indicator survey has 29 questions that talk about students’ racial, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnic identities and students’ experiences regarding their identities in the school.
-- Change question 4 so that includes and respects are two separate questions
-- Change survey so questions 7-13 come first, as they are identification questions
-- Change survey so personal questions (i.e. 14-18) come before school reactions
-- On question 11, add the option for questioning.
-- For question 16, split into three questions so racial, ethnic, and gender based jokes are all separated.
-- Question 14, split into two questions: one being if you have witnessed discrimination, one being if you told anyone about it.
-- Have a student representative explain the survey rather than it coming straight from administration. This would hopefully push students to take the survey seriously and answer questions honestly.
-- Add a non-applicable option on question 21.
-- Take out the word “preference” in question 19
-- Promote the Cultural Indicator Survey through KP T.V.
-- Add a question asking if there is someone students are comfortable talking about racial, ethnic, religious, (etc.) issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Next Meeting Date March 13th at 5:30 to review the diversity and inclusion survey

Dr. Lisa Mobley, high school Principal, adjourned the meeting at 7:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marion J. Linde
School Council Secretary