
Agenda 3.17.21 / Minutes 3.10.21

Hanover High Council

"I did what my conscience told me to do, and you can't fail if you do that." - Anita Hill

take care of
each other



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1. Approval of Minutes
2. Reports
3. Mascot Ad Hoc Committee Update
4. [Mascot Motion](#)

Minutes 3.10.21

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Reports
 - **Mod:** Good to see lots of non-Council members here today, presentation portion of the meeting will be recorded today to be distributed to the community, new principal search committee to be convened soon which will have one Council member with elections most likely at our next meeting more info about it coming very soon
 - **A-Mod:** No report.
 - **Secretary:** Junior alternate can vote.
 - **Treasurer:** Council \$2335.28 , Co-Curricular - \$12058.79
 - **DSB:** SAU 70 special meeting on Zoom tonight to discuss NH HB544 which concerns propagation of divisive concepts in schools and businesses, student voice would be greatly appreciated at this meeting
 - **PR:** Thanks to Saia for helping with the Instagram, the number of people here is proof that the best PR is talking about Council and the important work we are doing
 - **CPP:** Discussed the motion to re-evaluate the decision making structure at HHS
 - **Admin:** Compiled all the motions that have been brought this school year with notes about the motions status, motion bringers, date that a motion was brought, and links to minutes
 - **Curric:** Discussed class leveling particularly about how HHS often forces kids that are more inclined towards social studies to spend lots of time in honors STEM classes because there are no honors social studies classes and about how difficult it can be to move from base level classes to honors classes
 - **OEC:** Talked about logistics of mascot motion and the dissolution of the mascot committee
 - **SAC:** Discussed upcoming advisory challenges
 - **SL:** Planned for the rest of the year and for virtual school visit
 - **Mascot Committee:** It's mascot motion day! Presentation to come
 - **Anti-Racism and Inclusivity Committee:** No report
3. [Mascot Motion](#)
 - a. [Mascot Ad Hoc Committee Presentation](#)
 - Rough cost?
 - Around \$150,000 - estimate from DSB chair
 - Per the slide in the presentation, hard to give exact estimate because it is unclear what could be phased out and what needs to be changed initially

- Cost could be \$0 outside of what is already budgeting if everything is just phased out
- Cost depends on how Council chooses to implement a mascot change moving forwards
- Did Frank Merrill ever live in Hanover?
 - No, he lived near Moosilauke but had strong ties to the Upper Valley
- It is time for a mascot change, there have been conversations about it since at least 1996, people working at HHS then who had gone to school in the '80s were disturbed by it
- When we decide to make the change we need to be careful not to vilify those who wore it in the past
- A few months ago the school community was polled about the mascot and the data showed that 25% of students supported a mascot change (10% strongly agreed with changing it and 15% somewhat agreed with changing it)
 - There is no precedent for council trying to work through legislation that 25% of the school supports with a simple majority vote, we are overstepping our bounds
 - We should make this change if it is supported and decided on by a majority of students not by a small subset of students, staff, and community members regardless of whether or not they were elected
- The marauder is about athletics and the cost estimate per the DSB chair is very high, higher than we can comprehend, consider how hard it was for Council to pass a much smaller allocation for SAC
 - It would be irresponsible to vote for this motion knowing that the soccer field needs to be resurfaced and that the track needs to be replaced (and has needed to be for decades) but has been pushed off because of funding
 - Why would we fundraise for changing the marauder when we could fundraise for things that actually need to be done?
 - It is unrealistic to say that we would replace things as we go
 - In four years all students here will be gone and no HHS students will have ever been a marauder but there would still be one on the turf, even if we agree now to wait to remove the mascot until it needs to be replaced future students likely won't want to
- Council seems to have stripped the mascot down to a symbol of sexual assault and misogyny but what about the 70 years it represented the best of us, our fighting spirit, our drive, and our determination
 - Anything can look bad if you look at the worst parts of it?
 - Council is purposely neglecting what makes the marauder great
 - Some female athletes talked to feel that it doesn't matter what the emblem looks like, it matters what it represents about them
- The presentation is really impressive, the depth of research and the collaboration across grades, students, community members, and staff is really impressive
- A female athlete in our first discussion said that she didn't want to be represented by a male mascot, we need to make sure that we have a mascot that represents everyone at HHS
- We can look at the survey results but we need to remember that the survey was out of date almost by the time we presented the data because everyone that had seen the survey results saw that some people feel strongly about the marauder and that changed their minds
 - It is not worth it to look at the past survey
- We don't need to push through \$150,000 in the next week/month/year, the change will be gradual as we change our culture and our mascot

- It is important to note that there could be the zero additional cost but there are also additional ways to raise money, lots of fundraising options that wouldn't go through the school board
 - As stated in the presentation, financials shouldn't really be a debate in our discussion, it should be considered separately, now it time to debate about whether or not the marauder represents our schools and our ideals
- As representatives we should listen to minority voices too, we should not just go with the majority
 - Listen to the majority and represent our constituents but pay attention to when there are a minority of students trying to get their voices out there
- There is no precedent for changing the mascot, it didn't go through the school board when it was created, there was no mention of it in the minutes from 1948-1952 but they did describe other minute details
- The mascot change is not about us, it probably won't go into effect until after the seniors and the majority of people on the mascot committee are gone, it is about students at RMS now and students who will be at HHS in 10 years
 - What are they going to see, how are they going to feel about it?
- The mascot is going to change, in 20 years, even if it doesn't change now, the mascot will be different, it's up to whether or not we are ready to take that step and make that commit to our values and to our school
 - The mascot is not appropriate
- Council and the school was not informed when the last survey went out, the mascot committee was formed so that we could have all of the information necessary to make a decision
 - Now that this information has been presented and once it is disseminated to the school, we can take another survey if it is really felt that it is important to collect that information
 - The past survey is not relevant at this point
- If the mascot is negatively affecting one student (and it is negatively affecting a lot more than that) it is worth changing because there is not one students who the marauder makes a better person
- If we don't make a change now, when?
 - RMS students already support changing it
 - It is time to get the ball rolling
- The email sent out by the RMS principal with the survey presented the issue very poorly
 - Mr. Boyle gives pros and cons to changing the mascot
 - The email sent out was biased, we shouldn't take into account the survey results
 - The students surveyed think what they are told, when the principal gives reasons to change it they will be swayed
- It isn't really about the majority right now, it's about minority voices that have not been heard or respected
 - Why are we not listening to students when they tell us something is hurting them?
 - Minority voices are those that should be heard right now, not majority voices that say they don't really care, I like that it has a fighting spirit; we can have other mascots with a fighting spirit but this one is harmful
 - Keeping the mascot is hurting it but removing it is hurting no one

- The survey sent out had four points in support of the change and four points against it and was written by both the history and community outreach committees and was approved by outside sources
 - The survey was sent out to get an unbiased report
 - The RMS students were not educated it but all of the reasons against change were written in student responses from this survey, while the RMS students may be impressionable there were many that were voicing their own opinions as was evident in the open responses which are not available to the public but will be in the report
- While some might be upset that their mascot is changing that seems to pale in comparison to the fear other female athletes and other athletes who have been impacted by sexual assault have by wearing or seeing the mascot
 - It seems quite selfish for male athletes to argue that the fighting spirit makes it okay when people are speaking out and it obviously isn't okay
- We are lucky enough to live in a fairly affluent community, we can figure out the money piece
- A male athlete can not possibly imagine stepping out on a field with a mascot that doesn't represent them
 - A gender neutral mascot would be key to moving forward as a school
 - As athletes we want to show our best face and our best team, it's hard to imagine doing that with a mascot that doesn't represent you
- There are 111 participants here, getting a new survey out to see where the numbers stand would be really key in helping Council members understand where their constituents are on the issue
- This issue is about doing the right thing, it is concerning to look at the demographics of who is supporting the motion and who is against it, there seems to be a clear gender divide
 - We need to have a conscience and sense of integrity for the oppressed minority and be wary of the tyranny of the majority
- It is really problematic for people to identify themselves with a symbol, it is better to internalize our love of hard work and pursuit of excellence rather than relying on the marauder symbol to get "stoked"
- Cost over time does matter but this change doesn't have to happen overnight
 - Dartmouth has been doing a transition of mascot for a long time and having a uniform change that is not consistent with past practice has not been problematic

Meeting adjourns.