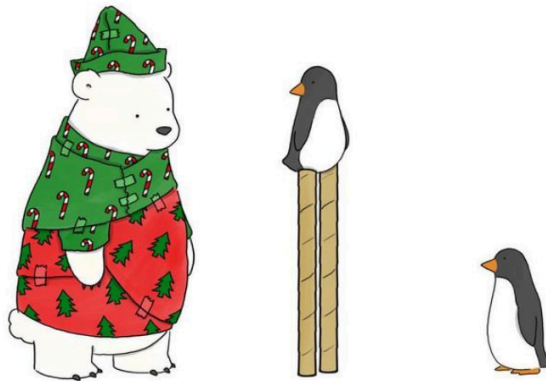
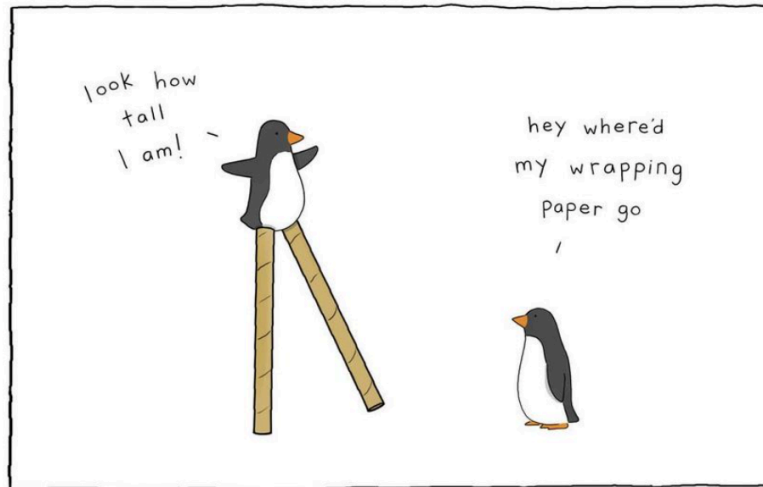

Agenda 12.9.20 / Minutes 12.2.20

Hanover High Council

"You can disagree without being disagreeable." - Ruth Bader Ginsburg



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Agenda 12.9.20

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Reports
3. [Presentation of HHS 2021-2022 Schedule](#)

Minutes 12.2.20

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Reports
 - **Mod:** Welcome back from break! Environmental club has a new recycling program and each advisory needs to take their recycling out, Council members are responsible for making sure it gets taken out in their advisory. Welcome to Peter Nakos, a Valley News reporter, here to learn more about Council
 - **A-Mod:** Met with a member from the NH ACLU with one of the chairs of J-Comm, presentation to come. We have received three letters for the Nick Beard Opinion Board and because there is no committee right now, they will be brought to Exec. for review. A note will be sent out soon about re-forming this committee.
 - **Secretary:** Staff alternate can vote.
 - **Treasurer:** Council - \$2044.83 , Co-Curricular - \$4518.79, co-curricular fund will go up when non-allocated money will go into the account.
 - **DSB:** No report
 - **PR:** Will be giving short animal presentations before meeting to encourage everyone to show up on time. Also still working on the Council board, if you are on Exec. please send me your photo.
 - **CPP:** No report.
 - **Admin:** Met on Tuesday and we figured out how to facilitate lunch and accommodate advisories that do not have a projector in preparation for MLK Day. The MLK day schedule was also sent out for administration approval.
 - **Curric:** No meeting this week because of scheduling conflicts, will definitely be meeting next week.
 - **OEC:** Worked on the election schedule for the spring and will continue to progress on work to bring freshman elections back to RMS.
 - **SAC:** Worked on December and January advisory challenges and rewards.
 - **SL:** Continued to work on spreading Mel's message about online ordering forms and options for people with dietary restrictions.
 - **Scheduling Committee:** No large group meeting this week but met in smaller groups to put together a rational for the schedule that will be moving forward.
3. Discussion of Advisory Small Groups
 - Exec met over break to discuss how to move forward with the mascot and based on feedback from Council's small group discussions thought that a good way to move forward is through Council led discussions in advisories
 - The goal of these discussions would be to get the rest of the school involved and to give Council members a chance to talk to people in the school they might not otherwise
 - We are interested in seeing where the school is at now, a few weeks after the survey

- Some advisories have talked about the marauder before but this discussion would be more standardized and led in a circle format with outlines provided by Exec.
- Hopefully these discussion would take place in the next week or two
- Most Council members would lead a discussions in their own advisory and another in the same grade or a lower grade
 - There would be a few exceptions to this
 - The numbers work out in that we have enough people to cover every advisory over two weeks
- Circles would only be lead by students, not by staff Council members
- These circles will most likely not be connected to the regular circles, it would be on a different day and more of a discussions
 - If possible, it might be best to do these during regular circle time
 - Some people are "circled out"
 - Circles are planned through the end of January, there may be some flexibility but they are all tied to a specific social emotional learning plan
 - Everyone planning these circles needs a chance to talk before making a decision about this
 - Circles would be lead individually, not in pairs
- The circles held during Council worked really well and had a lot of turnout, everyone was there who felt that they had something to say
 - Advisories seem tired of circles and the mascot already, doing this may not bring a lot of new opinions
- Having small group discussions allow people to hear opinions different from their own
- It is important that everyone still have time to eat lunch so these discussion shouldn't be too long
- We should keep in mind that a lot of advisories do the advisory challenges on Friday and we may not want to take away from that
- Many students and other community members have asked that every member at HHS have an opportunity to talk about the marauder in a safe space
 - In a circle, everyone has an option to pass
- Some advisors had this conversation before, how is this different?
 - These discussions will be a bit more broad and there will also be some process oriented questions
 - A lot of conversations have taken place since them so hopefully there will be new ideas
- Taking up a lot of lunch time can give Council a bad reputation and potentially decrease the amount of people coming to meetings. However this is a motion that affects the whole HHS community and we want feedback early on so that the process moves more smoothly in the future. That being said, we should still be mindful of how much time we are taking during the advisory discussions.
 - These will be more of discussions than circles which gives more flexibility about timing and also hopefully makes them more engaging than a regular circle

4. [ACLU Report](#)

5. [J-Comm Dress Code Motion](#)

Discussing amendment to add, "including any protected class" (see [Minutes 11.18.20](#))

- The goal of this motion as a whole is not to change the ideas of the dress code but to help with the enforcement of it

- Students were being “dress coded” but were really being disciplined for failure to follow the reasonable request of an adult
- The meeting with the ACLU was really helpful but begs the question: why don’t we create a dress code based on those guidelines rather than moving forward with our own?
 - We should give as much leniency in terms of freedom of speech as legally possible that doesn't disrupt the school environment
 - The intimidating language clause of the motion is a bit problematic
 - a lot of offensive language is also intimidating so this clause also limits offensive language which limits our expression through dress
 - Intimidation is in the eye of the beholder (very subjective) and not all of it is disruptive
- Is it a reasonable request for a teacher to ask a student to remove or change clothing regardless of the dress code?
 - Just like a teacher may ask a student to stop obviously disruptive behavior in the atrium, they could ask a student to change if their clothing if it prevented the smooth operation of a school day
 - Because the enforcement of the dress code and the reasonable request rule are subjective, a student may be asked to remove something in one classroom but not another

Amendment passes.

- This motion is very strong especially after hearing the ACLU report, J-Comm did a really good job
 - The motion is in line with legal guidelines and will help the associate principals enforce the dress code more smoothly
 - The motion protects free speech while preventing disruption in the classroom
 - The ACLU report will be in the minutes to help future associate principals deal with dress code incident if it is needed

Motion passes.

6. Notes and New Business

- The language motion just passed treats someone wearing the confederate flag, someone wearing “Blue Lives Matter” and someone wearing “Black Lives Matter” all as the same because it could be argued that they each create a “hostile or intimidating environment”, it is problematic that discrimination against marginalized and dominant groups are treated the same
 - The issue of a student wearing a confederate flag is ameliorated somewhat by court precedent on the matter where courts have ruled that those flags are forms of disruptive speech, as such the associate principal(s) would have grounds to request that that clothing be removed
 - After the conversation with the ACLU, it seems that to allow “Black Lives Matter” but not “Blue” or “All Lives Matter” would violate the first amendment because all speech that is not disruptive is allowed
 - BLM is not an equivalent comment to “Blue Lives Matter” or “All Lives Matter,” but the first amendment means that schools have to allow offensive speech (or clothing) if it is not deemed disruptive
- The language could be strengthened by modifying the section on protected classes to read something more like “including but not limited by definitions of protected classes” to give more contextualization to the groups of people we want to specifically protect

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- Thank you to Council on behalf of J-Comm for working with us on this process
 - “Black Lives Matter” was not intended to be a political movement, those who categorize it as such are speaking the language of the oppressor
 - There is no distinction between BLM and “Mothers Against Drunk Driving”, an organization to prevent deaths due to drunk driving
 - For people and students of color in this community, BLM is a human rights issue and should not be in the same class as a political statement
 - Going back to the reasonable request of an adult conversation earlier, it is important to remember that we have J-Comm for students to appeal a judgement they believe is not fair
 - This serves a check on the power of the reasonable request rule and all other parts of the handbook

Meeting adjourns