

# Agenda + Minutes of 11.17.21

## Hanover High Council [Meeting #11]

*“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be.”*

-- Rosalynn Carter [Former First Lady of the United States] --

- Bring a Motion to Council - ANYONE Can! -



## General Meeting Info

Every Wednesday from 11:00 am - 11:50 am in the HHS Auditorium. Please come join!

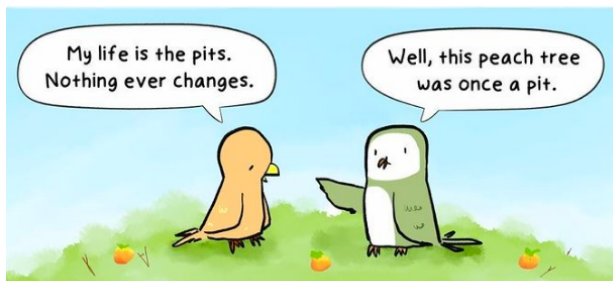
## The Bitesize Council Agenda 🍪

### 1. Agenda

- a. Leadership Allocation Bylaw Revision (Notification) 💰🕒
- b. Honors Social Studies Resolution 📖📌
  - i. Read more in *The Broadside*
- c. Discussion on Wednesday Workday 📅🕒
  - i. Should homework be given on Wednesdays or should it only be used for asking questions (no introduction of new material)?

### 2. Minutes

- a. Honors Social Studies Resolution
  - i. Would support the addition of Honors United States History, American Government, and Geography + Geopolitics
    1. Recommendation to the Social Studies dept. to implement Honors level classes (Council can't vote on curriculum)
    2. SS is the only dept. without Honors level classes
  - ii. Is this a debate between supporting those who excel in SS vs those who struggle? Or those who love SS vs those who don't?
  - iii. Should SS have a "phase" system (like the English Dept.) instead of a leveling system (like Math, Science, and FL Depts.)?
- b. Email [hhs-council@hanovernorwichschools.org](mailto:hhs-council@hanovernorwichschools.org) with questions



Have patience and you will see the fruits of your labor.

Fun Fact #21: Goats have unique accents.



## Agenda [11.17.21]

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Reports
3. Leadership Allocation Bylaw Revision (Notification)
4. Honors Social Studies Resolution
5. Discussion on Wednesday Work Day

## Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Reports
  - **Moderator [*Pierce Seigne*]:**
    - Be respectful to speakers (please stay off your technology, do not clap unless the vote is unanimous, etc.)
  - **Assistant Moderator [*Zane Schiffman*]:**
    - Do not vote unless you are a Council member
  - **Mod + A-Mod Report on Meeting with Administration [*Zane Schiffman*]:**
    - Discussed Wednesday Work Day
      - Proposal that Wednesdays should only be used for review / Q+As
      - Council does not have jurisdiction over curriculum + school day
      - Will try to figure out ways (with Administration) to contribute Council's voice to the Wednesday Work Day intent
    - Discussed how the Time for Time motion needs to be discussed within staff meetings to add their perspectives
  - **Treasurer [*Riley McGuire*]:**
    - Council Fund: \$4,516.20
    - Co-Curricular Fund: \$10,300.79
    - Treasurer, Council Executive, and Ms. Hess will work on processing the allocations passed during the last meeting
  - **Dresden School Board Representative [*Kate McCaull*]:**
    - Not present at Council meeting [Lisa Christie gave report in her place]
    - Met on 11.16.21
      - Heard reports from . . .
        - Principals of the middle school and high school
        - Mascot Committee [recapping the debate, discussion, and future steps]
        - Approved the March Intensive Program of Studies
  - **Committee on Programming and Procedure Representative [*Sora Shirai*]:**
    - Did not meet on 11.15.21

- **Public Relations Person [Lily Versteeg]:**
  - Not present at Council meeting
- **Administrative Committee [Vidushi Sharma]:**
  - Met on 11.12.21
  - Met with Ms. Beaupre about MLK Day
- **Curriculum Committee [Alex Rockmore]:**
  - Met on 11.15.21
  - Finalized motion to bring back the Course Concern Form
  - Discussed the Honors Social Studies Resolution
- **Student Activities Committee [Theo Burdick]:**
  - Met on 11.16.21
  - Discussed upcoming Advisory challenges
- **Organizational Engineering Committee [Sophie Wise]:**
  - Met on 11.15.21
  - Discussed the future of the 3 Tests in a Day motion
    - Sent out a survey to all HHS teachers asking them to describe what constitutes a “major assessment”
- **Student Life Committee [Kavi Patel]:**
  - Met on 11.15.21
  - Reviewed the start of the year Student Life survey
  - 6 people indicated that they were interested in bringing a motion
    - Followed up with them
- **Scheduling Committee [Shayna Rockmore]:**
  - Will meet on 11.18.21
  - Will discuss the Wednesday schedule and bring notes to Council
- **Historical Records Committee [Patrick Elder]:**
  - No Report
- **New Mascot Selection and Implementation Committee [Josh Stearns]:**
  - Will meet on 11.18.21
    - To create a plan about Mascot elections moving forward
  - Gave a report to the Dresden School Board about Mascot updates
  - Please come - all are welcome!
- **Secretary [Saia Patel]:**
  - [Recording Disclaimer](#)
  - Senior + Staff Alternate may vote

### 3. Leadership Allocation Bylaw Revision (Notification) [Theo Burdick]

- Will not discuss until next week, since it is a bylaw revision notification
- Intent Statement

- Save time during Council meetings + make small allocations approval more efficient
- Authorship Speech
  - In my experience, small allocations (\$11.00 for Advisory Challenges, \$20.00 for committee spending, etc) that pass unanimously often either take up valuable time during a session or get pushed back to further sessions many times because there is more important business. This can be frustrating and delay Council proceedings; I think this motion would be a solution to this problem.
- Discussion . . . Next week's Council meeting

#### 4. Honors Social Studies Resolution [Alex Rockmore]

- \* *What is a resolution?* \*
  - *Council does not have jurisdiction over courses in the HHS Program of Studies and general curriculum*
  - *However, Council can present a resolution (holds no legislative power)*
    - *Statement of overwhelming support for the resolution's intent*
    - *Strongest form of recommendation that Council can provide*
- \* *Terminology* \* . . . Link to SS Dept. class descriptions
  - *Am Gov - American Government; Geopol / G+G - Geopolitics; USH - United States History; SS - Social Studies*
- Intent Statement
  - To make a formal statement showing Council's support for the addition of Honors-level classes to the Social Studies department as per the motion that is soon to be introduced to the HHS Social Studies dept.
  - Seconded by Mack Levy
- Authorship Speech
  - Find full speech on 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the Honors Social Studies Resolution
- Question Session [with the input of Mr. Gentine, SS Dept. Head]
  - Do the proposed SS honors classes already exist under other names? Or would these honors classes be entirely new?
    - Department has not had the SS Honors conversation yet
    - Honors classes in United States History, American Government, and Geography + Geopolitics will be proposed to the department
  - How much of an impact do the option of Honors level SS classes have on college admissions (specifically directed to an HHS counselor)?
    - \* No counselor in the room at this time to answer question \*
  - Would American Experience / AMEX [an alternative United States History course option within the SS Dept.] still exist?

- Yes, AMEX is for students who want to work more on essential skills and want more one-on-one teacher help in the classroom
    - Hopefully, AMEX would use a different textbook than the textbook used for Regular USH or Honors USH
  - There would be three levels of USH (AMEX, Regular, and Honors)
- Would you be willing to offer an Honors level designation for elective classes (such as Economics, Eastern Religions, etc.)
  - This resolution would only support Honors level USH, Am Gov, and G+G classes (what Mr. Gentine will be proposing to SS Dept.)
- Why is an Honors level Citizenship and World History (CWH - a mandatory non-leveled SS class for 9<sup>th</sup> graders) not being proposed?
  - A cohesive 9<sup>th</sup> grade class is a good thing (shared experience)
    - Every student is taught the same material
  - Lots of value to have 9<sup>th</sup> graders coming from various schools have at least one class together
  - There is an impression that SS is just memorizing facts (not true)
  - Vision is that students would have free rein after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Would these changes be implemented next year?
  - To clarify, this resolution has no implementation
    - It is simply a recommendation that Council could give
    - Mr. Gentine is proposing the same content to the SS Dept. in the near future
    - By supporting this resolution, Council would recommend that Honors SS classes should be added (only USH, Am Gov, and G+G) ... carries more weight in influencing decisions
- If Council decides to not support this motion, would it have an influence on the decision that the SS Dept. will make?
  - If Council does not think that adding these Honors level classes would be a good idea, SS Dept. would take that into account
  - However, SS Dept. can add these classes, regardless, if they deem it ultimately beneficial
- If these classes have already been / are being taken by upperclassmen, would their transcript be changed to reflect the [potential] addition of Honors level classes?
  - No, something would most likely be written in the school profile saying that Honors level SS classes were recently added [no harm to the student]
- One clause states that supporting excelling students is important while another clause states that opportunities should be given to all students

to use their minds. How do you envision that impacting the class experience for students who decide to stay in “regular” SS classes?

- Reference to 1<sup>st</sup> Clause: “WHEREAS, the need for students who excel in areas such as government and history is becoming ever more clear in our society today”
- Reference to 2<sup>nd</sup> Clause: “WHEREAS, the HHS mission statement states that Hanover gives all students the opportunity to use their minds to pursue academic challenge and personal success”
- The regular SS class would remain the same as it currently is
  - A base level science class is base level whereas an honors level science class requires more depth of understanding and covers more material, and is therefore more work
  - There should not be a big change for regular SS classes
- What we do here, as Council, is not binding and everything is up to the SS Dept.
  - Curricular fine-tuning should be left to the professionals
  - Just trying to start a conversation about Honors SS classes
- Would a regular SS class with “embedded honors” not meet the needs that you are trying to address?
  - Embedded Honors
    - All students would be in the homogenous USH class
    - There would be an option for students to receive an “Honors” designation for extra work that could be completed, along with meeting a certain GPA in the class
  - As written, this motion is to support the motion that will be introduced to the SS Dept.
  - If that is the direction that the SS Dept. would decide to go, it would support the needs that are trying to be addressed
- Debate
  - Came from a school with one level in classes
    - No opportunity for students who are interested or advanced in subjects to demonstrate their knowledge
    - I fully support Honors classes at HHS
    - There are so many experiences I've had where only a few students in the class were engaged in the material, and everyone else was silent, leading to unproductive discussions
  - As a parent of many HHS alums, many of them did not take Honors classes, but would have taken and benefited from Honors SS classes
    - The only current ways to learn more in the Social Studies classroom are to take electives or a Dartmouth class

- As an alum and long-time SS teacher, many students who would not typically take Honors classes would definitely take Honors SS classes
- Not in favor of Honors SS classes
  - In favor of a system mirroring the English Dept.
  - 1 year of non-leveled CWH for 9<sup>th</sup> graders (which is current practice) followed by phased classes from which students can choose their appropriate levels of challenge
  - Not in favor of another department going into the “general, regular, honors” model
    - Becomes more of a tracking system
    - Leaves students little flexibility to choose the appropriate level of challenge
    - Keeps students in cohorts
      - Students take classes with students with whom they take most of their Honors classes with
  - In English, students often start at a Phase II or III one semester, then move to a higher phase the next semester, with some eventually choosing Phase V Honors classes
  - Phase system allows teachers more flexibility and can teach what they want to teach, while still covering materials and skills
  - What could be better than having teachers teaching what they love, and students learning what they love?
- Strongly in favor of this resolution
  - Would urge all Council members to speak to their constituents to determine what the entire student body wants
- Point of Information
  - Proposal that is being put forth would allow students to move from a Regular SS class to an Honors SS class at the semester mark
    - Allows more flexibility for the student
- Students who excel in STEM subjects have the ability to thrive at HHS, while SS students are left in the dust
  - Many students are in the same boat (not sure it is a majority)
  - Would urge everyone to consider if there are any real negative effects in letting students take Honors SS classes?
- In favor of this resolution
  - Referring to the general transcript, many students feel that they have to take an Honors class to demonstrate their ability to take a rigorous course, even if they are not interested in that subject
  - You would perform better in a class that you actually like

- If you take Honors classes, it should be in a department that you actually enjoy (like SS)
- In favor of this resolution
  - Would strongly recommend to the SS department that students should be able to at least pass AP tests when taking these potential Honors level SS classes
- Would hope this body would take the time to challenge their intuitions about whether this is a good or bad decision and review literature on this topic . . . not just soliciting opinions from students
  - Would recommend to table this resolution for the time being
  - Should consider real costs or absolute benefits to students
  - We should be more deliberate and have a deeper and richer conversation about this topic
- We have Honors classes in every other department → implies that SS does not matter because they do not have Honors classes
  - Could not be further from the truth
    - Critically important to send people into society who are critical thinkers and will be good citizens
  - However, we should look at this with more facts in front of us
    - Concerned that we will make a decision that we think will remedy the problem but does not in reality
    - The “phase” system idea should not be written off
      - It's important to keep many ideas on the table
      - We should not pass a resolution that we think will make change but really doesn't
        - We'll be back here in a year debating over why it didn't work and how we're going to fix it
- As a certified SS teacher, there is complete value in more options for SS classes and the significance of SS being more emphasized at HHS
  - The phrase in the Authorship Speech “Hanover must stop forcing students into academic boxes they simply don't fit into” stood out
  - Fearful of Council making a hasty decision without seeking more outside input
    - Council does not have enough of a wide variety of opinions to say how this would affect everyone
    - There are already people being forced into academic boxes at levels that are too challenging for them
      - We neglect them if we only talk about increasing SS difficulty level for some students

- We need to include the entire student voice in this decision and not just what happens to be the makeup of Council
    - Clearly made up of people who are generally more interested in political science
- As a student and a TA this semester, I have been able to see all of the material that has been cut in a standard SS class
  - In one G+G unit, I did not learn anything in three weeks
    - Truly a waste of time and is an indictment to our teaching
    - Honors SS classes are absolutely necessary to have students ensure that they learned material in their courses
  - Currently in elective classes targeted toward people who actually enjoy that material
    - Was able to engage in much better discussions
    - Was able to learn material that was interesting and new
    - Having Honors SS classes would have a similar effect
  - While we don't want to leave students behind, we are continuing to adhere to the current model
    - Makes sure that the lowest denominator is keeping up
    - Subsequently neglecting the top denominator
    - By having a “no child left behind” mentality, it is harmful to the top demographic
      - Missing out on achieving more academic success
      - If I spend more time learning history outside of the classroom, what am I doing inside the classroom?

*Meeting Adjourns*

### **- Past Council Agenda and Minutes -**

[Agenda 11.17.21 / Minutes 11.10.21](#)

[Agenda 11.10.21 / Minutes 11.3.21](#)

[Agenda 11.3.21 / Minutes 10.27.21](#)

[Agenda 10.27.21 / Minutes 10.20.21](#)

[Agenda 10.20.21 / Minutes 10.6.21](#)

[Agenda 10.6.21 / Minutes 9.29.21](#)

[Agenda 9.29.21 / Minutes 9.22.21](#)

[Agenda 9.22.21 / Minutes 9.15.21](#)

[Agenda 9.15.21 / Minutes 9.8.21](#)

[Agenda 9.8.21 / Minutes 9.1.21](#)

[Agenda 9.1.21 / Minutes 5.26.21](#)

[Agenda 5.26.21 / Minutes 5.12.21](#)

### **- Council Links -**

[HHS Handbook](#)

Council [Broadside Archives](#)

Council [Bylaws](#)

Council [Website](#)

Council [Feedback Form](#)

Council [Roll Call Record](#)

Council [Meeting Attendance](#)

List of [Council Members](#)

[Bring a Motion](#) - Anyone Can!

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Email us at [hhs-council@hanovernorwichschools.org](mailto:hhs-council@hanovernorwichschools.org)

### **- Mascot Links -**

[Linktree \(All Links\)](#)

DM (and follow) us on [Instagram](#)

| <b><u>- HHS Club + Organization Links -</u></b>                                                                                            |                                                                                               |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b><u>Clubs + Organizations</u></b>                                                                                                        | <b><u>Links</u></b>                                                                           | <b><u>Meeting Time</u></b>      |
| <i>The Broadside</i>                                                                                                                       | <a href="#"><u>Instagram</u></a> / <a href="#"><u>Website</u></a>                             | Library on Thursday (Activity)  |
| DECA                                                                                                                                       | <a href="#"><u>Instagram</u></a> / <a href="#"><u>Website</u></a>                             | Room 118 on Thursday (Activity) |
| Environmental Club                                                                                                                         | <a href="#"><u>Instagram</u></a>                                                              | Room 226 on Tuesday (Activity)  |
| Fashion Club                                                                                                                               | <a href="#"><u>Instagram</u></a> / <a href="#"><u>Join</u></a> / <a href="#"><u>Email</u></a> |                                 |
| French Club                                                                                                                                | <a href="#"><u>Instagram</u></a>                                                              | Room 246 every other Friday     |
| The Hot Take                                                                                                                               | <a href="#"><u>Instagram</u></a>                                                              | Room R11 on Thursday (Activity) |
| Houseplant Club                                                                                                                            | <a href="#"><u>Instagram</u></a>                                                              | Room 233 on Monday (Lunch)      |
| Mokagraphia Club                                                                                                                           |                                                                                               | Room 107 on Tuesday (Activity)  |
| She's the First                                                                                                                            | <a href="#"><u>Instagram</u></a>                                                              | Room 124 on Thursday (Lunch)    |
| Please email <a href="mailto:hhs-council@hanovernorwichschools.org"><u>hhs-council@hanovernorwichschools.org</u></a> to add relevant info! |                                                                                               |                                 |

| <b><u>- Resources to Build Community + Well-Being -</u></b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Crisis Hotlines</u></a>                      |
| <a href="#"><u>AAPI Resources</u></a>                       |
| <a href="#"><u>BLM Resources</u></a>                        |
| <a href="#"><u>Change Resources</u></a>                     |
| <a href="#"><u>HHS Climate Action Plan</u></a>              |
| <a href="#"><u>HHS Support Services</u></a>                 |
| <a href="#"><u>The Broadside</u></a>                        |

| <b><u>- School Counseling Meeting Links -</u></b> |                                          |                                    |                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Tom Eberhardt</u></a>              | <a href="#"><u>Laurie Harrington</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>Wendy Kares</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>Elizabeth Keene</u></a> |
| <a href="#"><u>Chris Seibel</u></a>               | <a href="#"><u>Kyle Storey</u></a>       | <a href="#"><u>Devon Voake</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>Sara Wilmot</u></a>     |