

Minutes 1.8.25

Hanover High Council [Meeting #16]

“May all your troubles last as long as your New Year’s resolutions” -Joey Adams

- Bring a Motion to Council - ANYONE Can! -



Minutes [1.8.25]

1. Approval of Minutes 12.18.24

2. Reports

- a. Chair: I hope everyone had a lovely, long holiday break! We discussed trying to get the Microgrant committee up in action with the administration
- b. Treasurer: The Co-curricular fund is at \$3,473
- c. DSB: The school board held a budget meeting. There was discussion about reducing the yearly budget increases to closer to \$0. There were also discussions for a first year public school sports programs at RMS, with REC departments reducing for those age groups.
- d. PR: The first cookbook is dated to 700 BC. I hope you had a restful break!

3. Committee Reports

- a. Admin: The cellphone policy report will be sent out to the highschool soon.
- b. SAC: We are working on the pep rally for the 27th. We are planning a valentine's day activity.
- c. SL: We finalized a date for the second club fair for the next semester.

4. Club of the Month Allocation

a. Question Segment (Cont.)

- i. Is there a finalized list of clubs available?
 - 1. A: I don't there is a list available....
 - 2. A2: There is a new, updated link to all clubs on the HHS website
- ii. Q: If the goal of this motion is promotion and spread of information about clubs, what is the point of a financial reward?
 - 1. A: We wanted an incentive to encourage clubs to do better. If there was no financial benefit, it would not be as great a benefit for smaller clubs, and it might discourage clubs from the application process, which is a key way the club gains the information.

b. Debate Segment

- i. I think this is a great motion and good way to show people what is going on at the school. I hope this motion passes
- ii. Amendment: change sum from \$250 to \$200 (from \$50/month to \$40/month)
 - 1. Would achieve the same goals while saving money for the school

2. Debate Segment for amendment

- a. The whole point of this motion is for an incentive, and this would detract from its goals
- b. I think this would detract from the “wow” factor of the prize substantially.
- c. If we are saving \$50, my question is: where would that money go to that is a better cause than this motion?
 - i. I think that we should not embrace a mindset of “where would you find a better use for this money?” We should always strive to spend as little as possible to achieve our aims.
- d. I do support this motion because it does seem like a lot of money when applied to all 7-8 months of school, since it would reach a much larger sum of money.
- e. There is very little incoming money to the Council Fund, which pays for professional development for the body. But the co-curricular fund is to encourage clubs, and this motion is well within it’s financial guidelines.
- f. In response to a point about a larger next year expense: part of this motion involves an “investigation” to see where funds will go, and our hope is that if they go towards speakers, etc. the money will justify. But we will keep track of where the money goes.
- g. Is there any value to keeping money in the Co-Curricular fund?
 - i. Yes and no, we’ll still get money.
- h. Q: Is there a failsafe if the money just goes toward snacks? Would you end the prize if you discover money was only going for that sort of purpose?
 - i. A: We are sending out forms to gather information from clubs as to where the money earned went. We don’t know their goals and we won’t force them to do something. We’re hoping they will be guided toward community enhancing goals, but this motion is only for this year, and can change.

i. I don't think there is a meaningful difference between \$50 and \$40.

j. Debate Closed

3. Amendment Failed

iii. I think this motion is a good incentive. It gives clubs a way to earn money without the allocation process.

iv. Q: Does this come with the recommendation of the Student Life committee?

1. A: Yes

2. I trust that the student life committee has thought diligently about this proposal, and I think committee work should be celebrated when it seeks to improve student activity.

v. Debate Closed

vi. Motion Passed

5. Council Staff Membership Bylaw Reform

a. Brought by: Organizational Engineering Committee

b. Seconded by: Noah Brennan (Staff)

c. Make changes to the representation of staff on Council:

"Staff will have ~~five~~ eight voting members and one alternate, ~~one representative from~~ distributed in the following proportions:

i. One representative from the Math Department

ii. One representative from the Science Department

iii. One representative from the Social Studies Department

iv. One representative from the English Department

v. One representative from the Special Education Department

vi. One representative from the World Language Department

vii. Two representatives from two different departments or areas excluding those in the prior six "large" departments

Among other changes (full language linked above)

d. Have a better breadth of opinions from Staff would improve the legitimacy, efficacy, and democratic nature of Council.

e. Question Segment

i. Q: What was the motivation to split departments up individually, and not group them based on how they meet on Wednesdays?

1. A: The first six sections do meet based on their departments, and the two representatives from other departments will account for all different meetings, so technically not "split up".

ii. Q: For the two "extra" sports that are not part of the six "main" curriculum departments, will there be a runoff election to elect for these positions?

1. A: No, all the spots will be filled in the first election based on the raw vote totals. Runoffs only occur when spots aren't filled by someone.
- iii. Q: This seems like there is not a lot of flexibility if there is no staff interest in departments. For example, the math department. Even if there is a spot opened for these members, what happens if they still don't have interest, which is what causes this problem in the first place? Have you considered making the representative sections larger for more flexibility?
 1. A: The committee decided that it didn't want for staff to compete among departments, which is a continually cited complaint for staff not running.
- iv. Q: Has the motion passed last year which eliminates duties for Council representatives had an effect in encouraging more teachers to run?
 1. A: Word on the street is that there may be more interest this year from departments now that this rule is a guarantee on the books.
- v. Q: What is the feedback on this motion? Have staff expressed their interest from this change?
 1. A: At least one staff member has expressed this to me, but we have not received a huge amount of staff feedback.
- vi. Q: Can the committee explain why they removed staff from at large?
 1. A: This was part of reducing the "competition" that discouraged staff from running to be on the body.
 2. A: In a way, the alternate position will be like an "at large" position, being the most voted once all positions are filled.
- f. Debate Segment
 - i. I think this will cause staff membership to decrease. We have seen that staff do not want to be on Council because of the time loss. I don't think this will change the calculus for these staff members. I think our system provides a good staff voice for Council by filling all positions, and I am worried this new system won't have that.
 - ii. Is this a democratic school, yes or no? The point of democracy is that all members have a voice in the system. This motion will give a more diversified representation for the body, and get more opinions incorporated, improving our democratic standing.

- iii. I think the intent of this motion is wonderful, I do worry that in reality this may reduce the people we have from staff. I think the language in the motion which discourages department meetings from occurring on Wednesday lunch is very good. I think clumping the departments together into just two positions decreases their voice, while the six “core” departments do not all necessarily have graduation requirements while the “other” departments do offer credits for graduation requirements.
- iv. I think when discussion motions, we frequently have to ask what a department might think about a motion, without an easy answer. For example, we had no consultation from math and science departments for Retro day. With this plan, we would be able to take these opinions into consideration for motions, which would improve discussions.

6. Meeting Adjourned

Minutes [12.18.24]

1. Approval of minutes 12.11.24

2. Reports

- Moderator: Met with Administration to discuss how Town halls are going for Council members. Discussed getting the microgrant committee online
- Treasurer: The co-curricular fund is \$3,355 and the council fund is at \$2,094
- PR: Fun fact: a single noodle of spaghetti is a *spaghetto*!
- School Board: It's budget time! We discussed the Dresden school budget. There was a proposal to create a scholarship in memory of Skip Bean and Bob McCarthy, which has been slow due to interstate boundaries etc. Hopefully, a Senior will receive scholarship money at the end of the year from this fund. There was also a proposal to establish an athletic program at the Richmond school.
- CPP: The proposal for a new “World Religions” class was passed. There was a discussion about when students are allowed to drop and add a class. There was also a discussion about diligence in updating schoology with assignments so students and families (and others) can be up to date with student learning.

3. Committee Reports:

- Admin: Discussing sending out a survey about the Cellphone policy to relay student info to the Cellhpone committee.

- SAC: Planning spring carnival, as well as the January pep rally. Please vote to establish a name for the Bear mascot!
- OEC: discussed microgrant committee elections
- SL: Finalized the club of the month allocation proposal. Planning a second club fair for the beginning of Second semester.
- Examining Equity: Discussed an action plan for combatting hate speech at HHS. Noted that the responsibility should not fall solely on advocacy groups to do this but the school community at large. Discussed a driver's ed scholarship fund to improve equity for those who can't afford it.

4. Lateness Caused by School Travel Handbook Revision

- Report: It's rare that arrivals occur past 11pm for every sport group.
- Debate:
 - If we start moving events earlier in the day to go to bed earlier, people are going to need early athletic dismissal, which is missing school either way.
 - I think it's beyond our jurisdiction to change the sports schedule or move locations closer. While it's true that we should prioritize school and sleep over extracurriculars, if students are tired during the school day, a nap afterward, even if it's through their extracurricular, will not change their sleep deprivation during the school day.
 - We have great discussions in this body, but I think we need to build consensus in the community. I think "needing sleep" is a genuine argument, but it's used often when it serves us. I think you should go and make your views heard by teachers, and create more support among staff, so the whole school agrees with the motion when it goes out. One thing I've observed is that students missing class can be completely fine or create a compounding series of problems that puts the student behind and creates a lot of work for me.
 - Q: Should we delay the vote on this motion to consensus build?
 - A: I think we should get in the habit of doing this for every motion. A lot of times, staff bring up concerns that have already been discussed in the body. I think we should loop in staff, bring viewpoints in to these discussions and then relay them outward, too.
 - Q: Can you get a goldenrod to sleep in?

- A: Yes, if you get the goldenrod in the day before (you plan ahead to sleep even if the arrival doesn't cross the threshold), you are still eligible.
- Q: Can you sleep in for an indefinite period of time if you pass the threshold?
 - No. Any time you are absent from a period you aren't excused for, for any reason, you won't be eligible. If you miss school you need an eligibility reason.
- This isn't really a momentous change. The policy exists already, and this will help the policy be more effective and actually achieve it's goals to let student's sleep after a very late arrival. Now if we want to get rid of the policy altogether, we could have that discussion, but that shouldn't be factored in about this motion.
- There are a variety of aspects of sports that are beyond students' hands. We've had a bus driver shortage since Covid, it's often difficult to get officials to run games, and it's impossible to know when you'll be back when you don't make the scheduling. I'm going to vote for this, since it's only an hour of classtime for a small section of students. I think it's good to help them get that sleep. The discussion about the status of athletics intersecting on high school is a different discussion altogether, although I think we should have it.
- If you play a sport, I think you're willingly attending that event, acknowledging the potential loss of sleep or grade consequence. We have a system where students need to maintain a GPA level to stay in a sports team. I think students should need to plan things out and make the prioritizations of one or the other.
- It would be wonderful if the body could initiate a conversation with the NHIAA about scheduling sports games on Fridays, etc. to preserve student sleep. They need to feel the pressure, "the heat" to make this happen. It's not fair that games don't happen on good days or closer to Hanover.
- I just want to restate that we can separate the discussion about athletics overall and focus on the small, tangible positive this will have on the small number of people that arrive late. I think we should pass this motion.
- I agree with the prior speaker. I want to address the idea of prioritizing extracurriculars over school. Extracurricular activities, in this case sports, are the way a lot of students are able to stay

healthy. The consequences of damage to the sleep schedule or school are not in their control. I don't think it's fair to punish them for wanting to participate and maintain their health.

- I don't believe that playing a sport should mean you have to sacrifice academics. In fact, sports can be a way you can improve your academic future, particularly in college recruiting for sports. The motion isn't "mandating" people stay home, but it's giving them an option to sleep and go to school rested.
- Debate closed
- Motion passed

5. Club of the Month Allocation

- a. Brought by: Student Life Committee
- b. Seconded by: Sara Garr ('26)
- c. Our purpose is to promote student engagement and foster a positive environment, as well as expand community knowledge of clubs and their activities. We are requesting 250 dollars, each month a club will win \$50 dollars to spend as they see fit.
- d. Question Segment:
 - i. Q: How are you choosing who wins club of the month?
 1. A: The committee hasn't discussed this in depth, but the plan is to go over all the applications and then vote as a committee.
 - ii. Q: Can a club win multiple times?
 1. A: No.
 - iii. Q: Can I ask why you chose a monetary award over candy or just an acknowledgement?
 1. A: I think this is an appropriate amount to acknowledge the activities of clubs and encourage them to do good work. Also, since we are closing the funding stream for snacks in allocations for the most part, this is a good way for clubs to get revenue and reward themselves without a more strenuous process.
 2. A: This would be a good source of funds for a guest speaker giftcard, etc. We are also definitely planning to shout out the club on bulletin boards in the school and in the Principal's weekly.
 - iv. Q: How do you feel this fits in after passing a motion trying to curb superfluous allocations of cash to clubs?
 1. A: We are going to survey how clubs use this money over the year and decide whether to continue the procedure

next year. I think if it goes exclusively to snacks, we might close it down.

2. A: I actually think this ties in very well to the motion, considering clubs are earning the money for their activities.

v. Q: Is it \$250 or \$50?

1. It's \$250 spread across 5 months, for \$50 each.

vi. Q: What are clubs meant to do with the \$50 other than buy snacks though?

1. A: Guest speaker gift cards, for example.
2. A2: Clubs can do whatever they want. We're curious as a committee to see where it might go.

vii. Q: Is the criteria for the clubs that had a positive impact on the committee?

1. A: Yes.

viii. Q: One of the committees already has an existing "Club of the Year" award. Isn't this already an incentive for clubs to do better. Do the concepts tie together?

1. A: There are a lot of really cool clubs in the building that people don't know about. The only people that know what's happening are those that are on that club's mailing list. We don't know how to publicize club activities as a school or a committee and nominations will help put that information to our hands. For example, if you have a cool speaker or event at the end of the month, you could nominate yourself for it with details so it can be better publicized, and then you'll be considered for the award. The club of the year award is really for what clubs we remember doing things. The club of the month is to get people involved with cool opportunities as they unfold throughout the school.
2. A: The club of the year award was also formed as a "pushback" against the individual award ceremonies at the end of the year. Council wanted to recognize the efforts of clubs and groups on improving the community as a whole.

6. Meeting Adjourned