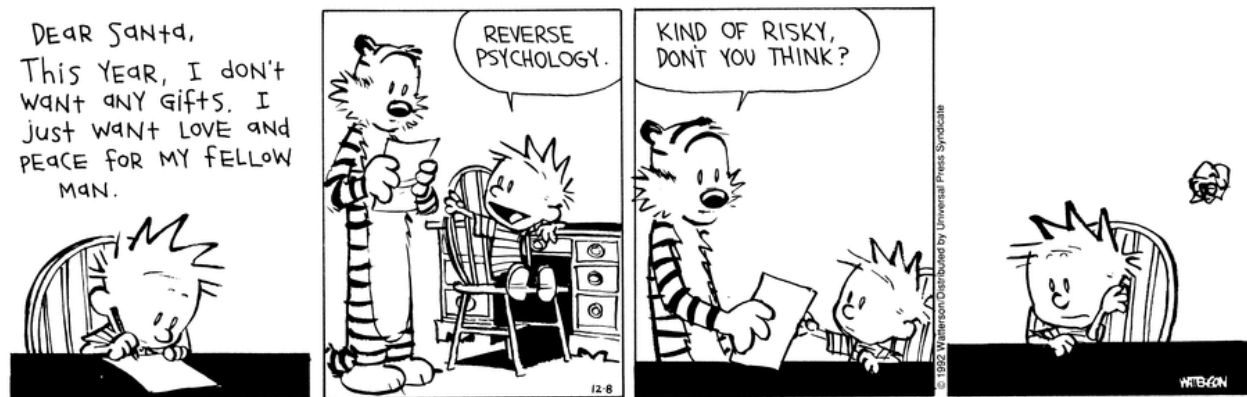


Minutes 12.3.25

Hanover High Council [Meeting #14]

"We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count" -Neal A. Maxwell

- Bring a Motion to Council - ANYONE Can! -



Minutes [12.3.25] [Short meeting! 10:45 - 11:20!]

1. Approval of minutes 11.19.25

2. Reports

- a. Treasurer: The Council fund is \$1,569 and the Co-Curricular program is \$8,145. From the SAU district, new policy requires that the Council estimate what expenditures it will make over the course of the year to approve and report to accounting. Our estimation for the remainder of the year is provided today. If you are concerned about how this affects Council's spontaneity, that's a good conversation to have!
- b. PR person: True or false? Butterflies taste with their antenna? False, they taste with their feet! I have emailed those interested in the Walk as One project and we are in progress on that.
 - i. Q: Are you open to other schools joining the walk?
 - 1. A: Yes. It's hard logistically to add new leaders, but we want participants.
- c. CPP: Voted in favor of the new CWH curriculum proposal. Examined two science classes proposals for vote next week.
 - i. Q: What changes to CWH curriculum?
 - 1. A: It will make it more focused on New Hampshire and Vermont civics and localized, eliminating global elements.
 - ii. Q: What science classes proposed?
 - 1. A: Woodworking II, a lot of kids had taken woodworking at RMS and a more advanced class can give kids the opportunity to experiment more. The next is a high altitude ballooning and research class like HABET.
- d. DSB: There is a school board on December 16th! I encourage you to attend.
- e. [Secretary](#): Townhall the week after Break, January 5th and January 8th! We will try to communicate these assignments to you. We have reports to the student body like communicating cafe pricing and the lost and found. I think describing our process and the listening process we have engaged with here will help with engaging the student body, for example regarding the Hanover pledge motion and the Cell Phone policy.

3. Committee Reports

- a. Curic: Discussed the Homework on Test Day motion and prepared recommendation.
- b. OEC: Soliciting student artwork for "I Voted" stickers—email artists you know! Looking into election day banner
- c. Student Life: Meeting with the cafeteria regularly, reviewing the budget process. Hoping to meet with both Ms. Taylor and cafeteria staff members.
 - i. Q: Why is the wellness center now referred to as "tranquility room"?
 - 1. A: There is not sufficient research on a "wellness center" or resources at the school, while a tranquility room does have

scientific backing and more support from the Counselling department

- d. Staff: K-12 groupings with individual meeting agendas.
- e. Community Report: We have stocked our food pantry very well and risen to the challenge as a community! But food insecurity persists and cannot be solved with just one successful drive. Please continue to keep it stocked.
 - i. And consider donating / gift shopping for children who will not be able to receive holiday gifts this season through the Listen Center.

4. Council Budget

- a. Brought by: Ben Hourdequin ('26)
- b. Seconded by: Harper Lewis ('27)
- c. Allocate \$8,145 from the taxpayer general fund to Council for its duties and operations in the 25-26 school year in compliance with the new SAU accounting policy request allocation budgeting in advance. This is NOT an allocation to anything new, only allocating to Council's funds so it can continue distributing money. From now on, a budget such as this one will be adopted in the spring.
- d. Question Segment
 - i. Q: Is the Fiscal Year the same as the school year for this allocation?
 - 1. A: The school budget is allocated with the school year, so June-June, meaning this allocation is for the remainder of this school year.
- e. Debate Segment
 - i. We are just earmarking the money we already had for the remainder of this year officially with the school board, so I think we are quite safe in passing this quickly.
 - ii. Debate Closed
- f. Motion passed

5. Spring Carnival Budget

- a. Brought by: Student Activities Committee (SAC)
- b. Seconded by: Salome Baertschiger ('27)
- c. Allocate \$1,199 from the Council fund to the SAC for the Winter Pep Rally and the Spring Carnival to entertain our students. This will provide supplies and prizes for these events.
- d. Question Segment:
 - i. Q: Why did the price go up from last year?
 - 1. A: The total cost last year was \$2,150, but \$2,000 of this was provided by Ms. Stevenson. This budget is just supplying the bouncy obstacle course, field games, and materials for all games. We have a problem of buying the same cheap materials that break, like paddles, nets, etc. We are hoping to buy lasting materials for field games etc that will be more durable and will not need to be priced repeatedly. However, there are a lot of consumable materials like food, arts and crafts, and face tattoos that get used up.

- ii. Q: Will there need to be more allocations in the future?
 - 1. A: Yes, one for the Ice truck prize to the winning team if Ms. Stevenson does not donate it. Although this was priced in to the Council budget for Spring Carnival we just passed.
 - iii. Q: Could you discuss purchasing more durable athletic equipment for spring carnival with the athletics department?
 - 1. A: A lot of their equipment is only for indoor use
 - iv. Q: I know there was a request on the Council ideas form for Hamburgers at Grill & Chill.
 - A: Too expensive, even cheap ground beef would be too expensive for the activity. The hotdogs themselves are beef rather than pork.
 - v. Q: Was there positive feedback about the Carnival portion that was new last year?
 - 1. A: Yes
 - e. Debate Segment
 - i. Motion to close debate fails
 - ii. This is my last spring carnival, and I appreciate all the effort SAC does to make this fun. I feel that handing out a quarter of the Council budget every year in perpetuity is too much though. I hope these efforts will help make Spring Carnival more sustainable and cheap and bring the eventual cost down for the future.
 - iii. I think we need to consider this motion next week when we have more time, rather than rushing such a large sum of money through at the end of the meeting.
 - iv. I understand there's increasing financial pressure from the administration to budget things quickly and far in advance, but I think as a body we have financial independence to a degree and just rushing here is a separation of powers issue. I would also like to see SAC move to more sustainable spending habits. We spend hundreds of dollars on candy for pep rallies and spirit days as well as now thousands for Spring Carnival. It's not renewable and while we do receive this money from the taxpayers, I think it's a concern that merits time.
 - v. Hopefully this budget will decrease the future cost of Spring Carnivals by needing less materials to be rebought. We as a committee are fairly confident in that.

6. Meeting adjourned

Minutes [11.19.25]

- 1. Approval of minutes 11.12.25
- 2. Reports

- a. Moderator: Welcome Lebanon Council members and Crossroads 8th graders to this meeting! Please try to speak this year at Council, you are here to represent students!
 - b. CPP: Discussed ELO opportunities expansion and how progress can be best monitored.
 - c. DSB: Viewed presentation about ELOs. Discussed the Cellphone policy and how it would be monitored and followed up on, after adopting the language recently.
 - d. Admin: The lost and found has been moved to be under camera surveillance! Hooray!!! Hopefully stealing is done.
 - i. Q: How do you know there was theft from the lost and found?
 - 1. A: There were a quite a few reports from the student body independently as well as this request coming at the town hall.
 - e. Treasurer: The coat rack ordered was too small initially, so it will be returned and replaced with one of a larger size. The Council fund is \$1,569 and the Co-Curricular program is \$8,145.
 - f. Curic: Will discuss the no homework on Test day motion including asking staff for their opinions and investigating what issues exist with the status quo to best determine what is needed from this motion
 - g. SAC: Preparing for spring carnival allocation
 - h. OEC: Published schoology post clarifying commonly misunderstood handbook language. Soliciting art from HHS students for "I voted" stickers to use in the election this spring.
 - i. SL: Met with counselling regarding the "Wellness room" and followed up on changes to make in the cafeteria.
 - j. Examining equity: we are awaiting responses from the Claremont superintendent on naming their school district in our resolution. We are attempting to iron out what the goal of the committee is to further this resolution; are we informing voters and spreading awareness, or are trying to push for a law in the NH legislature? These are very different directions to further the resolution. The NH legislature just rebuked the supreme court for its decision for increased funding, which the committee finds pretty distasteful.
 - k. Community Report: There is a stuff-a-truck event this Saturday at the Shaws market. Please come and volunteer to help sort and advertise to stuff food pantries.
3. Mary Matter update on a walk for wellness in collaboration with the Lebanon Council and the organization Positive Tracks
- a. I was asked last spring to collaborate on a Walk for Wellness that will connect both the Hanover and Lebanon communities to raise funds and awareness about mental health.
 - b. 1 in 5 adults will experience mental health issues each year. Mental health stigma silences and shames people and this applies to young people who struggle with mental health too. As the youth of the Upper Valley, we need to

raise awareness and acceptance in facing this issue and will donate funds to national and local nonprofits: the Jed foundation and Headrest (a local crisis counselling hotline).

- c. The Lebanon school board has agreed to sponsor this walk for funds. I would love Council members here to email me to help out, as we will need a team from both schools to work on all parts of the walk. We want the walk to occur in the springtime, sometime after APs, during Mental Health month (May), and without conflicting with sports games (as much as possible). We would like the walk to run in a loop for handicap accessible routes and so large transportation needs are not an issue. Student life can hopefully help set up stations along the walk with food, donation boxes and codes, activities and other ways to engage walkers. Our initial date, May 9th, was on Mother's day, but we are looking for a weekend around that time.
- d. Lebanon needs help with social media outreach. We are reaching out to the police department, finding out trails, and securing sponsors for food and funding. We would also like to involve the mental health center at Dartmouth.
- e. Question Segment:
 - i. Q: As an adult, do you accept adult volunteer workers?
 - 1. A: Yes!
 - ii. Q: Can we invite more communities from the upper valley?
 - 1. A: Certainly
 - iii. Q: I have never heard of positive tracks, what is that?
 - 1. Lebanon partnered with Positive Tracks last year, because they offer to cover expenses for any activity which makes community members more active. In this case, a walk fills that goal. They offer money for more leaders involved and guidance. Lebanon is donating about \$600 between its clubs and its Council, and is hoping Hanover Council will do the same.
- 4. [Community Service Hours Graduation Requirement- Recommendation Motion](#)
 - a. Brought by: Martin Mosdal ('26) and Kastner Anderson ('28)
 - b. Seconded by: Chris Chor ('26)
 - c. I move to recommend to the Dresden School board that they make 10 or more hours of community service a requirement to graduate in the district. I know this is a requirement at other schools and that Council has actually pushed quite hard for this change about 7 years ago, including doing a lot of work before the school board shot it down. With a new school board membership and circumstances, I think this is an interesting consideration. We are having discussions about if Hanover High School has a soul and what pledge we might have to read to espouse our values. I feel it would be best if we instead put our money where our mouth was and make a change that affects all students to reflect and carry out our values as a school. I have included Council

records of Council's push for this where the minutes are kept on the website, including surveys. Research says community service improves your self-esteem and perception of what you can do for others, it may improve your grades (although the direction of causality is uncertain), and volunteer hours help do good in the community. This can help make a cultural shift in our school to bring people's friends and all pitch in.

- d. It was eye opening how much student volunteers can do to help out other people. If everyone can chip in a little, we could help our community in a colossal way. Doing willing hands work has been gratifying. If 500 students do 10 hours of community service, that is 5,000 hours of community service we can give back, repeating multiple times.
- e. Question Segment:
 - i. Q: I was considering bringing a motion like this. The administration claimed that it would be too logistically difficult to track these hours and that was the reason for rejecting the motion.
 - 1. A: Youth in Action and most community service nonprofits track hours themselves and can easily communicate these to the school.
 - 2. A: It will be a challenge, but I think this is something we can do. States in the country have laws that every high school have community service requirements in the state, and I discussed with a teacher from Michigan this morning about his experience with the requirement in his High School. This is something that can be done feasibly.
 - ii. Q: What would count as Community Service hours? How will we verify those hours?
 - 1. Any work for a nonprofit that is signed by a supervisor will count.
 - iii. Q: Could you do these hours before high school and then just bank them, or would they have to be during High School?
 - 1. A: They are dated and would have to be during your high school career.
 - iv. Q: How much verification do you need? As someone who does community service, I feel extensive documentation would be a disincentive and a hassle.
 - 1. I reviewed the form the Council ad-hoc made when designing this push. It's very simple—just your signature and a date and the signature of your supervisor. The burden

of proof would not be great at all. I think about it like this: if we add 400 new students that are now doing community service and only 100 students who were not doing it before that are now skimping out of it, the change is only for the positive.

- v. Q: Would you really be held back from graduation for not doing this?
 - 1. A: Just like you need to have a certain amount of credits in classes to graduate, you would need this many hours.
- vi. Q: Do you see repercussions from forcing people to do community service?
 - 1. A: Compulsory volunteering is not as good as voluntary, but it still has some significant effects. It will be under supervision and especially if people can go with their friends who would also now have this requirement, I think the work done will still be helpful.
- vii. Q: When would this go into effect?
 - 1. A: It would probably go into effect for the incoming 9th graders or the grade after.
- viii. Q: Have you discussed with Youth in Action?
 - 1. A: Right now, the program is growing in number of events and access. There is a lot of community service that can be done in the local area and there's a lot of expansion that can be done that can be fulfilled by all these new volunteers.
- ix. Q: I am so excited for this change. We have an ELO coordinator with an ELO centered around community service, have you discussed with them?
 - 1. I haven't discussed with many people about this motion. This isn't an urgent change but rather a systematic shift I want Council to consider, and I haven't had time for a lot of due diligence planning work. There used to be a service ad-hoc committee and they did a great deal of work like connecting people and expanding this effort.
- x. Q: Have you talked to students? What are their opinions?
 - 1. A: I have discussed with about 10 people who said they enjoy community service, although some said they prefer it to remain voluntary. If we want the student body to do good, I think this is the best way to do this. I really treasure my community service time and do learn a lot

from it. From the 2017 survey, the student body was split $\frac{1}{3}$ in favor, $\frac{1}{3}$ unsure, and $\frac{1}{3}$ against this change.

2. A: Some people said they liked that there would be a tangible reward for the community service they have already done, and that would help them seek it out more. So this helps people who are already volunteers in a small way too.
- xi. Q: Thoughts on the amount of volunteer time of 10 hours?
 1. A: 10 hours is not actually that substantial an amount of time, but it was what the original push for was in 2017. That's about a weekend of work each year of school you have. This seems exceedingly reasonable. I don't have a lot of thoughts about a specific hour number.
 2. Starting small is a way to be accessible. It may encourage those that really like it to continue and will not turn away or daunt many people as a new change.
- xii. Q: Would transfer students into the district need 10 hours?
 1. A: I imagine they might, but I know there are special considerations and methods for transfer students to accommodate them.
- xiii. Q: Does this defeat the purpose of the sacrifice of volunteer work?
 1. A: I think that's a valid concern. Volunteer work does affect students more and more positively than if it is compulsory, including increasing likelihood to continue as adults. If Council feels strongly about this, we could make a large program to encourage voluntary service. But the other name is community service, and I think as youth we should serve the community.
- xiv. Q: Have you thought about involving March Intensive?
 1. A: That would be a great idea to get lots of MIs involved. Maybe they all should incorporate a little community service in their program? I haven't masterminded anything, I want Council to consider changes like these. But for the community service MIs that already exist, this would definitely be a way to knock out your graduation requirement.
- xv. Q: Could you make it a year by year requirement? I don't want people to cram it in.
 1. A: Yes. Parents were concerned about this change, and we obviously don't want anyone not graduating. We can have

interim requirements, going segment by segment, and make sure we track people doing this on benchmarks.

2. A: You could have the last target be halfway through senior year and then have the whole second semester to track people down to avoid affecting diplomas. And yes, YIA has a very effective hour tracking system we can expand.

xvi. Q: Have you considered meeting with the diploma committee?

1. A: Yes, I did consider that, imaging a system where some pathways for diplomas included signifiers like “50 hours of community service”, “100 hours of community service” and so forth under a voluntary basis.

f. Meeting Adjourned