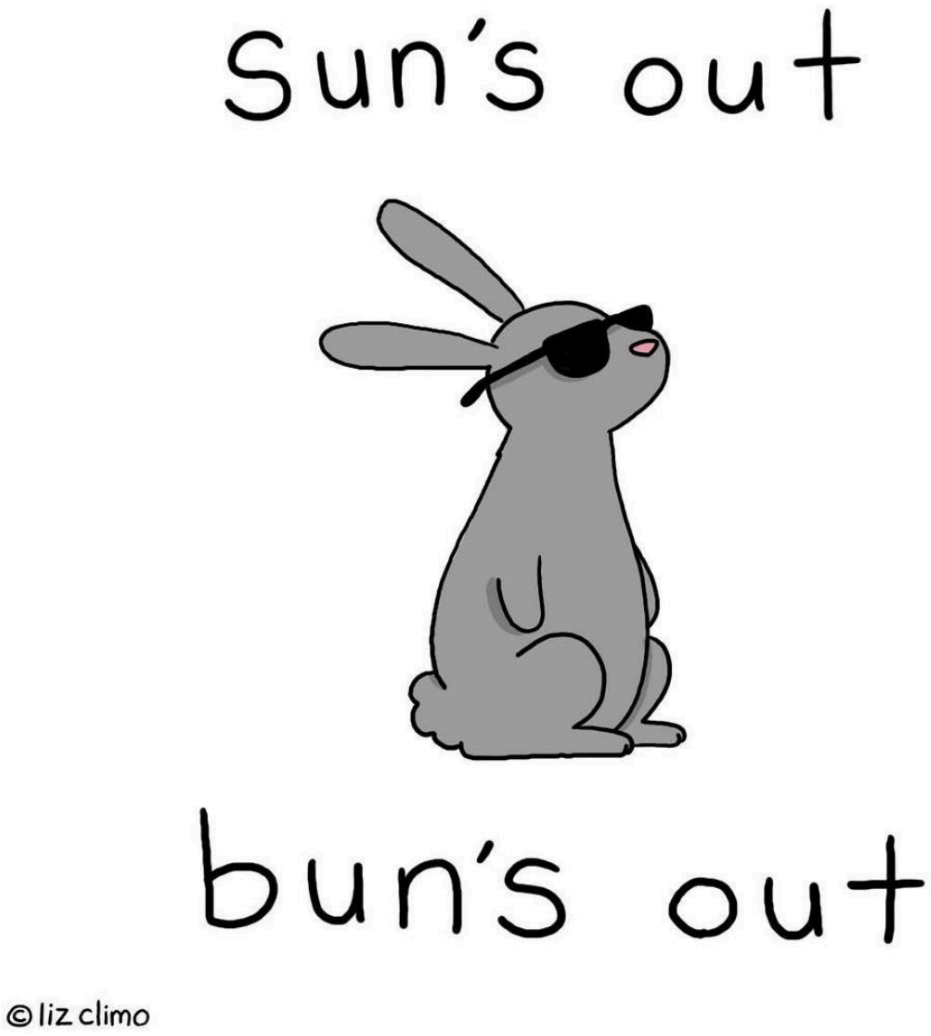
Agenda 3.24.21 / Minutes 3.17.21

Hanover High Council

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"The golden way is to be friends with the world and to regard the whole human family as one."

– Mahatma Gandhi



Agenda 3.24.21

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Reports
3. Tom Hanlon Award Nominations
4. Election Bylaw Revision Notification
5. Selection Ad Hoc Committee Motion
6. Freshman Off-campus Motion

Minutes 3.17.21

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Reports
    - **Mod:** Josh Stearns will represent Council on the Principal Search Committee, great to see so many non-Council members here, long speakers list remaining from last week's meeting
    - **A-Mod:** Worked with OEC to go through record from the hot room
    - **Secretary:** Junior and sophomore alternates can vote.
    - **Treasurer:** Council $2333.28 , Co-Curricular - $12058.79
    - **DSB:** Mascot presentation was given at the meeting last night and there were a few questions about financial details that were answered, presentation went well, new DSB leadership elected
    - **PR:** No before the show show today, problem with Zoom links posted to Schoology should be fixed now. Check out the NHL St. Patrick's day uniforms!
    - **CPP:** No report.
    - **Admin:** No report.
    - **Curric:** Discussed class leveling and plans to talk with teachers about that
    - **OEC:** Looked through Council files from the '80s to narrow down the location of the time capsule, when the ground thaws more we will try to find it with Student Life
    - **SAC:** Continued to work on advisory challenges
    - **SL:** Discussed a Circle plan and a potential virtual school visit
    - **Mascot Committee:** Report was officially filed on Tuesday and is available on DSB Board Docs, presented at the DSB last night, it seems the board is on board to help in any way, updated financial figures from Jamie Teague (SAU 70 Business Administrator) and Kelly McConnell (DSB Chair):
        - To remove marauder only from the turf: $16,000-27,000
        - To remove marauder only from the gym floor: $2,600 *if done as part of routine maintenance cycle
        - There is no separate budget for uniform replacement, there is an equipment budget for each sport and a general athletics budget. Typically when uniforms are purchased with district money it is from one of those two funds
        - $0-600,000 depending on phasing to change the mascot
            - Likely not either of the extremes but somewhere in that range, DSB Chair guesses the cost will end up being in the lower end of the range

- DSB Chair believes our mascot decision will have financial ramifications but that it shouldn't be the primary factor in our decision
- Link to Official Report

3. Mascot Ad Hoc Committee Update
   - Staff Co-Motion to Council on the HHS Mascot
     - Nine staff members on the mascot committee solicited feedback from others and engaged in discussion about the mascot
     - Last week's staff meeting was spent entirely discussing the mascot, notes from that discussion are included in the committee report
     - There was such strong support from staff that a co-motion has been written in support of changing the mascot

4. Mascot Motion
   - This project has been a win for Council and for education
     - Everyone on Council has wrestled with big ideas around supporting voices of the minority
     - In terms of education, people are evolving, the purpose of education is informed democracy, we have come a long way since the first "gut reaction" poll, if we took a new poll the numbers in support of changing the marauder would increase
   - The either or fallacy of supporting the mascot or actually supporting sexual assault education is a distraction and not actually the discussion here, this is a start to what we need to do
   - What does it feel like to be on the field as a female athlete with a marauder on your jersey?
   - Fail means first attempt in learning, this hasn't been a perfect path but we are getting there
   - We can't make everyone happy, there will always be people that are offended; the argument that one person is enough to change the mascot is not strong
     - There will always be a minority, we need to listen to what everyone wants as a whole and not disregard the minority but look at what everyone wants
   - We are not representing students of HHS in 2040, if they decide to change the mascot then because that's what is best for them so be it but for now passing the motion will have a negative impact
     - The presentation omitted the most important part of the matter--how the marauder relates to HHS and each of us
     - There has been an over analyzation of the noun which usage has clearly evolved as seen in the presentation, words evolve and meanings change
     - If we look at the worst parts of everything it will look bad
     - The HHS marauder is not the Napoleonic marauder
     - When the name was submitted a rapist and a symbol of sexual violence was clearly not the intent, intent is important
     - For the past 70 years the marauder has represented the very best of HHS students
       - Ex: Drive, determination, fighting spirit
     - Council is purposely neglecting what makes a symbol powerful for the right reasons
     - If we pass this motion we are endorsing everything that the presentation says about the marauder
     - It is dangerous to believe all of these things but to ignore that the symbol will remain in the school, if passed we would have to remove the mascot everywhere

    - We should not solely rely on societies definition of the word, it is up to us to define the meaning of the word, we can make it better
- Occasionally an argument is made that it is the minority that are being affected but it is important to remember that the minority affected by sexual violence is often much greater than we would expect
    - From the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2017 one in six females and one in twenty males were affected by sexual violence
        - This is a really large group of students affected
- If anyone at HHS were given the option to make a change to make people feel safer and more respected they would take it
    - The problem arises when the mascot is mixed into emotions that are attached to it which is understandable
    - We need to take a step back, detach ourselves from the situation and think about what it is really about-- making people feel safer and more respected
- Maybe the marauder shouldn't have been, but it has been striped down and now people are offended by it, don't like what is stands for, and don't want to be represented by it
- We are a community at HHS and in a community people support each other, especially those who need it most, like sexual assault survivors many of whom are negatively impacted by the maurader
- Alums have been overlooked in this process, they don't have a lot of grounds to be invested in things at HHS but this is one thing they should be included in
- Council members have not talked to all female athletes about this which is ironic because we are so focused minority voices
    - It doesn't seem fair that female athletes haven't been asked directly
- The survey results in the fall do not show significant support for changing the marauder and while the numbers might have changed since the data was collected it is important that we take data into account
    - If Council feels confident in their education process they should leave it up to the school to decide whether or not to keep the marauder
- The presentation is really outstanding and shows how much thought and effort has gone into this
    - It is time for the mascot to change and Council should take the lead
- A chair of the mascot committee worked to remain as unbiased as possible throughout the process and to immerse themself fully in the facts
    - The facts have been confusing as there have been some contradictions
    - The only thing that has been reassured is the feeling that the marauder is not fit for HHS
    - An 86 year old cheerleader alum spoken with talked about how the cheers he did, he did not think at the time were inappropriate but now he believes that we need to remove the mascot but wants to make it clear that it in no way vilifies our history
    - The mascot it part of our past, the gear we have now we will continue to have, but the mascot should not be a part of our future
- The original intent of the mascot does not matter anymore
    - Lebanon High School has set the precedent for changing a mascot and also for the idea that the original intent of a mascot does not matter
    - Additionally Lebanon High School showed that a mascot can be phased in at a cost of zero additional marauders

    - By looking at the past we can see the present and answer the questions concerning precedent
    - The LHS mascot is relevant to us because they chose a mascot only after HHS chose one and intentionally chose a similar mascot and similar colors to annoy us
        - This feud later lead to the abolition of both cheer squads demonstrating the interconnectedness of our schools
    - LHS made the right choice to change their mascot back in 2004, it should be even more clear to us now that the marauder is wrong and must be changed
- Male athletes support changing the mascot too
- Good memories related to sports are connected to people not to a symbol
- The most likely mascot replacement is a crimson H
    - If we are really worried about persevering our history that is probably the most represented because that was on jerseys before the marauder and a lot of teams already have that on their jerseys
- A t-shirt showing the marauder with the word “pillage” under it produced by the school for the school seems to clearly connect the marauder to pillaging and that is not something that should be associated with our school’s mascot
- A group of HHS Cross Country alums that discussed the issue feel we should change it, a lot of alums and a lot of our parents are really sensitive to this issue because a lot of them have been directly affected by it
    - Alums are probably more receptive to changing it then one may think
- It is a horrible ideological argument to make that just because someone is in the minority their voice is not equally important
- “I am a survivor of sexual assault and I cannot wear the marauder.” (Direct statement from a Council member)
    - Survivors should not have to out themselves for their voices to be heard, their voices are being silenced and they are being told that their voices are not as important as the majority
    - The response to the marauder has developed as the school has pushed back against changing it
        - People are so opposed to listening to the voices of the minority that the marauder has become attached to people who don’t care about listening to those who are deeply affected by the meaning of the word
    - Think about the very real people who this issue affects and that are very upset by how this is being received by the student body.
- It is upsetting that we have gotten to the point where survivors are sharing their own trauma to convince people that the marauder is bad
- Council is a representative body, we have been elected by students to represent them and to do what we think is best
    - If we let the whole school vote a lot of minority voices will be silenced
- We need to stop and think about how many people at HHS have been affected by sexual violence; it is really sad
    - If it is not sexual violence, a very significant percentage of women have been affected by sexual harasment, it is really sad that that has become a universal experience for women
- We should listen to the professor of linguistics that said the marauder is inappropriate for a school

- The argument for keeping the marauder because of its intent is not strong, you wouldn't go to a team called the "Indians" and support keeping the name because it had a good intent, it is still awful and offensive
- The marauder is still the mascot of alumni, nothing is changing about their high school, we shouldn't worry about it
- We know that to marauder is to rape and pillage, the only reason that the affore mentioned shirt doesn't say "rape" on it is because this is a high school
- The simple fact that the marauder is male means that it does not represent the school as a whole
- Athletes do not play for the marauder, they play for HHS unless they are going to transfer schools to someone with a marauder if we change the mascot
- There should be some reason if we decide to keep the mascot but right now there are more reasons to change it then to keep it
- As leaders of the school community we should focus on the voices of the minority while taking into account the voices of the majority
    - We need to see and hear the minority because sometimes their voices are left out
- Council was put into place just a few years after Title IX was passed and was created to represent everyone, in all social circles
    - We need to be sensitive to all of the circles that we are a part of and represent everyone we are surrounded by not just the majority

Debate closes.

(Six speakers remain on the speakers list two of whom have not yet spoken.)

Motion passes.

Meeting adjourns