

**Honoka'a High & Intermediate School  
School Community Council Minutes  
September 10, 2019**

Call to Order at 5:03 p.m.

Present: R. Matsumura, T. Picklesimer, Johnalyn Margheim, Jamielyn Margheim, Odessa Mae Gancinia, S. Wood, A. Brandt and Nainoa (Guests)

Principal's Report:

*Safety:*

The list below covers the construction projects that the school has been awarded. Some of the projects are complete, while others have been delayed. Safety provisions at the school have been put in place until all projects are complete.

Gymnasium: The gymnasium has been completed! A formal opening took place about 1.5 weeks ago. Administration is working on usage guidelines to protect the floor.

Bleachers: The bleachers may be completed by December. The seats are ready to be installed. The roof has been ordered.

Bathrooms: The new bathrooms being constructed in the auditorium is scheduled to be completed by end December.

Buildings:

- D Building roof is next to be fixed.
- Covered walkways: a new upcoming project will be a covered walkway from Building E to the main office.

Principal Matsumura noted that it takes approximately 10-15 years from request to fruition in school renovations.

Honoka'a High & Intermediate Foundation: We are still waiting to hear from Mark Nakashima and the lawyer who is helping to set up the foundation. We are waiting to set up a checking account.

### Cell Phone Policy:

The updated “no cell phone use during instructional time” seems to be working. Administrators and other support staff are helping to support teachers with the policy. However, it was noted that the leadership students felt that it was important to have their phones to communicate about meetings and announcements. Administrators noted that there is support through other ways of communication such as group email or Google chat that could be utilized for communication.

It was also shared that some teachers are more compliant with the policy than others. In addition, many students are also noncompliant and still bringing speakers to school.

### Attendance Policy:

The new attendance policy is a work in progress and administrators are still working the kinks out. It is a pilot to address chronic absenteeism in school. The new pilot policy allows for **3 free unexcused absences** each quarter, a total of 12 each school year. If a student has **more than 3 unexcused absences**, their participation in sports, ensembles, jazz band and leadership will be compromised for the rest of the quarter.

Over 25% of the student population at HHIS is chronically absent from school 15 or more days per year.

**Excused absences** include illness, medical and dental appointments, court requirements and death in the family. Doctor’s notes are required for medical appointments.

A concern was raised about the policy. It was noted that when/if a parent calls the school reporting that their child is out sick but they weren’t taken to the doctor that it would be deemed an unexcused absence. It was reiterated that this was a pilot and there is no hard and fast rule at this point. The administrations/staff’s overall message is that they want all kids in school.

There was discussion of creating a level reward system for students. The reward system would have bronze, silver and platinum levels based on grades and zero absences.

Several ideas were shared on how to appeal to the students who are chronically absent to come to school. Using technology (short videos) to talk about school and its message of caring for all students was suggested.

School deadlines/activities:

- This is the 6<sup>th</sup> week of school and mid-quarter reports are due on Friday, September 13.
- Kake High School visitors were here from Japan. Three students and one teacher were at the school for two weeks.
- We are in need of two math teachers for our math department. One of the teachers has already left and we have a substitute teacher in place. The second teacher will be departing soon and a substitute teacher has already accepted to help until we can find permanent teachers for this department.
- The students will be participating in a 9/11 ceremony honoring first responders and remembering those who gave the ultimate sacrifice on Wednesday, September 11.
- Students and staff of HHIS will be participating in the Peace Parade on Saturday, September 21.
- Homecoming week will kick off starting Monday, September 23. Various activities will be held throughout the week. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, September 23: Student dress up: Wacky Monday; Parents Night Coronation at the County Gym at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 24: Student dress up: Tie Dye; Lunch activity

Wednesday, September 25: Student dress up: Class Colors; Powder Puff

Thursday, September 26: Student dress up: Super Hero/Villain; Lunch activity

Friday, September 27: Student dress up: Pajama Day; Lunch Activity; Homecoming Football beginning at 5:00 p.m.

- New student voice communication system: A new communication system for increased student voice has been developed. The components are as follows:

*Executive Council:* All student government officers, class presidents, HSSC and SSC representatives

*Leadership Training Students:* Committee Chairpersons (enrolled in leadership) part of the executive council

*Class Executive Councils:* (grade level class officers)

*Representative Assembly:* One representative from each advisory (40).  
Elected and the executive council

*School Community Council* representative

*Hawaii State Student Council* representative

#### Title 1 Report:

Each year HHIS is awarded Federal Funds based on a school community's socio-economic status. The purpose is to support the underserved population. Over 60% of the student population qualifies for increased support. This allows the school to offer free and reduced lunches, bus passes and more. It is important that each family fill out the forms that are sent home at the beginning of each school year.

This year, over \$240,000 was awarded to the school. The monies are typically used for free and reduced lunch, extra support staff such as part-time teachers or para-professionals, chrome books and its repair and maintenance, school supplies, online programs and more. There are strict guidelines as to the use of these Federal Funds. For example, the school is not allowed to purchase furniture with these funds.

The SCC body discussed the spending of \$45,000 of the Title 1 funds. A suggestion was to purchase additional chrome books as the older chrome books warranties are expiring. \$5,000 has been allocated for dragon pride initiatives. The leadership executive council students are also assembling 300 care pouches for students in need. These care pouches are filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap and shampoos. A total of 58 pouches have been completed. The council is in need of more supplies to complete the care pouches. Any other suggestions are welcomed.

#### New Business:

##### *College & Career Center Renovations:*

The College & Career Student Center is being renovated. It is a work in progress based on funds available. The goal is to create a friendly and comfortable student environment as seen in various colleges.

*School Community Hub:*

There is a dream to create a school-community hub for those in need. Having the space for those who live in our community to wash and dry laundry, take warm showers and come together in a safe and comfortable zone was discussed. Brainstorming will continue. Any ideas or support are welcomed.

It was noted that we should share the school's needs and ideas to the dragon pride subscribers on the HHIS 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Facebook page.

Old Business: None

Public Testimony: None

Next SCC Meetings: (All meetings held in the College & Career Center)

*Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.*

*Tuesday, November 12, 2019*

*Tuesday, December 10, 2019*

*Tuesday, January 14, 2020*

Adjournment: 6:11 p.m.