

# Huntington School Council Meeting

**Date:** Sept 1, 2015

**Members Present:** B. Braunstein, T. Love, J. Heath, B. Blackwell, Mrs. Smith, Mr Scott, Dr. Taylor

**Members Absent:**

Mrs. Ethridge (out of town on business), Mrs. Young (caring for her daughter who recently had surgery)

**Call to order:** Braunstein, secretary, called meeting to order

**Reflection:** T. Love –We constantly work hard examining data, but we don't need to miss the true purpose of our being here; our students.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Braunstein, secretary, led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of Agenda:** Mrs. Braunstein distributed the agenda posted pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the school council approve the agenda as presented.

**MOTION:** Heath ; **SECOND:** Love

**VOTE:** YES 7 NO 0

**Approval of Minutes:**

Moved, seconded, and carried that the school council approve the minutes of the May 5, 2015 meeting of the HMS School Council.

**MOTION:** Love ; **SECOND:** Taylor

**VOTE:** YES 7 NO 0

**Visitors:**

Braunstein welcomed our newest Councilmember: Mr. Stewart Scott. The floor was opened for nominations for our new Chairperson. Mrs. Smith was nominated and willingly accepted the nomination. All councilmembers were in favor of Mrs. Smith as new chairperson.

**Report of Principal:**

Dr. Taylor reported that HMS is a Focus School (10% of Title I schools state wide must make the list). Originally, the achievement gap between multiracial students and ESOL students was our reason for making the list. Now, the gap is between SWD's and multiracial students. However, our students showed the most growth of all students in the county, not just the Title I schools. We have high expectations for our students. A recent newspaper article stated that we are a "struggling school," just because we are labeled a Focus school. The data does not support that. The reporter has been invited to come to HMS and gain a true understanding of HMS's success that includes 9 Title I Distinguished School awards. Dr. Taylor will be sharing this information with parents at our upcoming Open House.

Dr. Taylor stated that many of our ESOL students are being bussed from Bonaire Middle School, and they are losing 25 minutes of instruction each day because they arrive late and leave early. These are the very students who need extra support, not less, in order to close that achievement gap. Dr. Taylor is working toward improving that situation.

HMS has been approved for the grant that provides free meals for all students every day. It has been extremely successful, and we will continue to encourage students to eat breakfast and lunch every day.

**Old Business –**

The new training center on Wall Street continues construction. We are still concerned with traffic impacts during construction and after the center opens.

**New Business**

We have had a great start to this school year. We have started an advisement group (Growing Up Hawks) in which each faculty member has a group of students meeting weekly for the entire year. Students will gain strategies for success, as well as have mentors who will check on their progress throughout the year.

**Adjourn:** Motion – Heath ; Second- Love

Vote: YES 7 NO 0