

Summary of October 2022 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Cougar Pride

HKIS Principal Eric Larson introduced the 2022-2023 elected Student Council members who provided the Board with examples of the initiatives that they would like to accomplish this year. Some examples are raising money for children's hospitals, creating a recess shed for materials to be readily available outside, and fundraisers for animal shelters. There are three student council advisors that will assist with prioritizing the ideas and creating a plan with to move forward with the projects.

HKMS Principal Dolores Bates presented on the recognition of HKMS as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School for their efforts to provide inclusive sports and activities for students with and without disabilities. HKMS achieved this honor by meeting national standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy, and respect. Principal Bates introduced three students who spoke to the Board about their experiences in the Unified Sports program. CT Unified Sports Director, Bob Hale recognized HKMS as one of four new schools to be recognized this year as a National Unified Champion School for 2021-2025. Mr. Hale presented a banner that will be proudly displayed at the HKMS.

Student Representatives

The Board is thrilled to welcome our new student representatives: Senior Callen Powers and Junior Madison Moriarty. Callen and Madison reported on the 8th grade preview night and 9th-11th graders taking the PSATs while Seniors worked on post-secondary planning. The Fall play, "This Is A Test" will take place the first week in November. They reported that Fall sports have had a strong start to the season and advised on fundraising efforts. On November 16th there will be the "Names Can Really Hurt Us" assembly which increases awareness of diversity and equity and also allows students to connect on topics of identity.

Enrollment

The current October 1st student enrollment count was 1819, up 26 students from last year.

Academic Awards

Alexander Engler, Abigail Jones, and Andrew Melnick were named Commended Students in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program for scoring in the top 50,000 students who took the PSAT across the nation.

Operations

Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board on the free HVAC clean air audit to be completed at HKHS in preparation for the submission of an HVAC grant.

Food Services

Three new hires bring the department to full staffing, and we also now have an HKHS senior intern who is interested in a career in food service.

Recent HK Graduates

HKHS Principal Donna Hayward provided data on recent graduates, reporting that there has been an overall increase in students choosing higher education with small decrease in the applications sent to the most competitive schools. Principal Hayward noted that there were a high number of students who pursue majors in Health and Science.

ON OUR WEBSITE:

The 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, District Core Values and District Vision can be found on the RSD17.org District Website under "District"