

Saturday, November 13, 2010

11/5

Agenda: 11/12/10

1. Approve Minutes
2. Reports
3. Bylaw Notifications
4. Bullying Motion
5. J-Comm. Motion
6. Notes & New Business

Council Minutes 11/5/10

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

1. 1. Approval of Minutes
2. 2. Reports:
 - [Mod]: Just a reminder that you can disagree with ideas, but not the people stating them.
 - [A-Mod]: Look over the survey that SL put out.
 - [PR]: Carl and I wrote an article for the Broadside. Please send us your feedback!
 - [Secretary]: Sophomore alternate may vote. Committee chairs please send me attendance reports.
 - [Exec]: Rumors of Council members cheating, remember your role in the school and the importance of academic integrity. Teachers were alerted.
 - [Admin]: Met about duties for the year.
 - [Curric]: X-day motion, sent email to department heads as reminder for mid-course evaluations.
 - [OEC]: Freshmen class committee met, working on bylaws.
 - [SL]: Council will be doing recycling next week, please look over the survey and tell us what you think.
 - [SA]: Today was the final day of quidditch, dodgeball sign-ups next week.
 - [MI]: Sign-ups happened yesterday, Tuesday will be the placements.
3. 3. Bullying Motion
 - Motion: I move to recommend to the administration to make the minimum school response for physical bullying, harassment, or intimidation a 1-day suspension.
 - o [Dmitry]: Students committing suicide because of bullying, our current policy isn't severe enough (warning + call home), we have a moral obligation to protect our students and community
 - Clarifications
 - o This would apply outside of school as well as during school
 - o 2 major changes in the RSA:
 - Repeated action not necessary to give punishment
 - Cyber bullying is a kind of bullying that we can act on
 - o Suspension is out of school – no place for in school suspensions

- o Why not verbal/emotional bullying included?
 - [Dmitry]: there's too much grey area, but I support that
 - o This would go on someone's permanent record
 - o Physical bullying = any incident where there is an imbalance of power where a student feels uncomfortable attending school
 - o Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicated that 23% of freshmen/11% school said they were bullied, 3% of students felt unsafe at one point, 6% students carry a weapon on school property
 - These results are projections
 - Discussion
 - o Great message to send to community
 - o There doesn't need to be a problem before we make this policy
 - o This has full support from the suicide awareness committee
 - o An in-school suspension would create a more level playing field
 - o An out of school suspension creates a appropriate punishment, not associated with the school, severe message, forces parents to take responsibility
 - Amendment
 - o Motion: I move to expand the motion to read, "...bullying (physical, emotional, cyber, or verbal)..."
 - o [Ms. Caldwell]: I'd rather be all-inclusive and have the debate on grey areas, then not include these important aspects.
 - Discussion on the Amendment
 - o Isn't emotional bullying hard to quantify/judge?
 - [Ms. Caldwell]: It's worth the debate, are we saying it's ok to be bullied if it isn't physical?
 - o POI: the RSA is the state bill on bullying in schools, investigation
 - o Threats count as a kind of physical intimidation
 - o School consequences of bullying: meeting with principal, formal warning, notifying parents, restrictions on unscheduled time
 - o SAU definition: insults, taunts, challenges whether verbal or physical that are meant to intimidate and provoke a disorderly response
 - o Verbal bullying can be just as or more hurtful
 - o [Dmitry]: this is against the spirit of my motion, too much grey area
 - o We don't want to send the wrong message, we care about all bullying
 - o We can't use the "grey area" problem as an excuse
 - o Once a situation arises, we'll be able to make a clear judgment
 - o This wouldn't change anything that happens in the Dean's office, just if you figure out it's bullying, it's a suspension
 - o Motion: I move to adjourn.
- Motion Fails
- o Emotional bullying can be more scarring than physical bullying
 - o Motion: I move to adjourn.
- Motion Fails
- Motion: I move to close debate.

Debate Closes
Amendment Passes

Meeting Adjourns