



HCCS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, April 19 – 5:30 PM – Cafeteria

Public Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91820682227>

- I. **Call to Order & Roll Call -**
 - a. **Called to order - 5:48pm**
 - b. **In Attendance: Sherry, Dillon, Laura, Matt, Woodrow, Craig Absent: Mary, Bridgette (present 6:55pm), Mouna**
 - c. **Admin in attendance: Shranda. Mary Bassett as the teacher liaison.**
- II. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda - Deferral of last meetings minutes approval to the May meeting with the official minutes.**
- III. **Public Comment**
 - a. Fernanda Cross: In favor the the sex ed curriculum and looks forward to today's presentation
 - b. Katie (Katedid): Read through the curriculum and in favor of it. She appreciates the inclusivity in the curriculum including the specificity of the language.
 - c. Bill Albin-Frey: 100% in favor of the curriculum, would like to mirror the previous comments.
- IV. **Board Correspondence - specifically applies to SEAB work and will be included in that discussion.**
- V. **Presentations: None**
- VI. **Reports**
 - a. Director's Report:
 - i. Read by Schranda: Thank Mariolga for all her hard work getting us to this point. Our enrollment window closed today. The lottery will take place next Wednesday.
 - b. President's Report:
 - i. We will implement additional public comment opportunities throughout the meeting - after the discussion items but before the board discussion. We hope to increase input to the board before we make decisions without input. The original public comment section will remain at the beginning and ending of the meeting as well.
 - ii. Reminder: Special meeting next Wednesday April 26th for the second reading and vote on the SEAB curriculum for 8th grade.
 - iii. Emails will be coming out before the next meeting in May to initiate board elections for next year. We are hoping for community members who would like to serve on the board. We will include info on how the board operates.
 - c. Teacher's Report
 - i. Mary: Working on projects, testing, and conference schedule.
 - d. Parent-Teacher Organization Report
 - i. Read by Sherry: PTO would like to thank the awesome middle school team of students who organized the Talent Night! It was such an amazing team that worked together and contributed above and beyond to make the night a success. Thank you to the parent volunteers and the generous donors. The video was posted today!
 - ii. Earth Day celebration - Friday April 21st. All about pollinators! Thank you Sarah Roland for your expertise. Volunteers are needed!
 - iii. Teacher Appreciation Week a week early this year! May 1-5th. Staff luncheon (Chela's) for the ½ day on Friday.
 - iv. New executive committee: Bridgette Carr PTO Chair, Amie Anderson PTO Co-Chair, Mouna PTO Treasurer, Melanie PTO Secretary.
 - v. Buddy Paul Memorial. A Special Thank you from Mary.

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- e. Committee Reports as Applicable
 - i. Finance: Sherry: Working through the last changes of the 2023-2024 budget. Expect updates soon.
 - ii. Governance: Sherry: Evaluation work - Laura Pasek is the lead on that.
 - iii. Advancement: Woodrow: Working on a survey estimated to be sent out around memorial day and another at the end of the year.
- f. Equity Report: At the May Meeting

VII. Discussion Items

- a. Sex Education Advisory Board 8th Grade Curriculum
 - i. This is our first reading of the truncated 8th grade sexual health curriculum. Noah Hagen and Sarah Hakala are the co-chairs of the SEAB. Presentation. Open for public comment. Open up for the board discussion. Clarifications answered. A second reading will take place next week on Wednesday followed by a vote.
 - ii. Kim: Legal Requirements
 - 1. Honeycreek Mission Statement, Commitment to Social Justice Statement, Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Education Opportunity Policy (2260 BP).
 - 2. Sex Ed is not required by law in MI but HIV education is. We are a local control state.
 - 3. See Presentation for additional requirements.
 - iii. Noah: SEAB Development
 - 1. List of members
 - 2. goals and objectives
 - iv. Will: Parent survey presentation
 - v. Sarah: Curriculum
 - 1. Reviewed several and primarily used from the Advocates for Youth's 3 R as well as Our Whole Lives.
 - 2. Maturation was last taught in 2019. 13.25 hours for 6-8th grade levels. SEAB hasn't reviewed the curriculum since 2017.
 - 3. Brief overview of lessons (4-90 minute sessions). Foundation on "healthy and normal" building up to more difficult topics later in the course.
 - 4. Lesson 1: Introductions, build trust, establish norms and rules, and how to find support. Introduction to puberty and anatomy. Anonymous question box.
 - 5. Lesson 2: Anatomy, Physiology, and Identity. Hygiene. Sexual Identity and gender expression. Pregnancy prevention (with abstinence emphasized as the only 100% preventative technique). Emphasis on how many versions of normal there are for the human body.
 - vi. Deb: Curriculum
 - 1. Lesson 3: Sexual and Relational Health: Characteristics of health relationships, what consistent ongoing consent looks like. The benefits of social connection and expression. Understanding STIs & HIV. Skills: asking for and giving or declining consent, types of communication (varying levels of assertiveness).
 - 2. Lesson 4: Knowing the laws in Michigan. Understanding harassment, assault, and abuse. Unhealthy relationship symptoms. Strategies and toolboxes for response and healing. Reinforcement of the agency and opportunities for each individual. Reflection on the classes.
 - 3. Pre-work reflection worksheets that will go home a week before the class to prepare the students for the upcoming week's agenda. Includes a crossword as well as some reflection questions. Will seek student input on the pre-work.
 - vii. Received a lot of helpful and thoughtful feedback through this process. Only dissent received was for specific inclusive language for human anatomy. Kim took the time to explain their use of those specific terms and their medical accuracy and age appropriate.

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Teaching with binary language is exclusionary. Michigan is an opt-out state and parents are able to remove their child from instruction without penalty.

- viii. Goals for next year: work together to build a full middle school curriculum.
- ix. Statement from Sherry: Immense thank you for the hard work and commitment to our school's mission and policy. The governance committee gave specific feedback to a previous draft. Acknowledge the large amount of information being covered. We asked for clarification on which documents will be for students and which are behind the scenes for the teaching staff. We asked to ensure that accommodations for neurodivergence are built into the current and future curriculums. A majority of the governance committee has approved the curriculum to come to the full board.
 - 1. Curriculum disseminated for review was the syllabus and lesson summaries. Full details of the curriculum is available for review in the school office. If you're unable to review during the school day please email the board communications email to set up a time outside of office hours to review.
- x. Public Comment:
 - 1. Marolyn Valenzuela: Expressed her full support for the curriculum and the work that went into it. She's excited to have this opportunity for her current 8th grade.
 - 2. Katie: Older child missed out of the sex ed during the pandemic. They used the UU church OWL curriculum. She is glad to see the SEAB use OWL materials. She is hopeful and glad to hear that the curriculums will be developed for younger grades.
 - 3. Abby Adams: 1) As a parent (daughter is the SEAB student representative) - she would encourage other parents to nudge their kids to participate as a student rep in the future. Parental inclusion during this process was appreciated. Impressed and in support. 2) As the PTO co-chair, the PTO executive committee is whole heartedly in support of the curriculum. It is completely in line with what the PTO does in its work.
 - 4. Leigh Ann Phillips-Knope: Son is in 5th grade - offering such big thanks to the SEAB for their hard work. Hours organizing, surveying, researching best practices. So happy to have a curriculum in front of us that truly reflects who we are - our history and values. In full support of this medically accurate, best-practices, inclusive curriculum. Emphasized the importance of a sense of belonging in how it affects our kids overall well-being. It feels so precious that that is what we're holding in our hands. Our commitment to social justice is being made a reality to our kids - the body-first language reflects that. Many of our LGBT+ kids are tenderly coming out in our community and they deserve our support. Eliminating person-first language would erase their life experience. Emphasized the importance of this work in relation to what is going on in our country right now.
 - 5. Jaimie Griffith from Chat: "We fully support this curriculum and applaud the hard work, medical expertise and dedication of the SEAB team. I really appreciate its focus on healthy communication, consent and gender inclusivity in a safe space. Thank you for this opportunity for our families."
 - 6. Fernanda Cross from Chat: "I just would like to thank the SEAB for their hard work in such a time crunch and yet the quality of the curriculum has not been compromised. I'm so impressed with the thoughtful, careful, inclusive, and intentional way in which the curriculum has been designed. I am also thankful that our 8th graders will not graduate without learning and having a safe discussion about these important topics. I'm looking forward to learning more about what will be shared with younger grades in the future. Lastly, as one of the founders and current members of the HCCS equity team I am in full support of the curriculum use of language that includes the identities of all students and families. I am SO IMPRESSED by this incredible work! Thank you very much!"

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7. Correspondence from Kati Stoermer: Summary requesting reworking language around abstinence as it relates to waiting until marriage. "Teaching "wait until marriage" rather than extolling the benefits of abstinence are two very different approaches." "I would propose the curriculum be updated to: A. Discuss the positive benefits of abstinence in preventing STDs and unplanned and out-of-wedlock pregnancy as a positive lifestyle choice for unmarried young people. My goal here was to suggest that - being stuck with this language, we shouldn't then be introducing additional language to the mix. "Abstaining until marriage" is much more prescriptive compared to emphasizing the benefits of abstinence, a persuasive stance that resulted from the Abstinence- Plus position that helped guide revisions to the guidelines in 2016. Thank you for considering this important matter. I appreciate this has likely been a lot of time and effort on the part of the committee working on this and appreciate the opportunity to introduce my viewpoint."
- xi. SEAB response from Noah: The Language from the statute will likely not make it into the classroom itself but the spirit of the statute will be taught.
- xii. Board Discussion:
 1. Bridgette: Thank you! This was such a task that has only just begun. Deeply grateful that we are upfront about our values and our commitment to medically accurate terminology (body first-language). For some of us this is debate or discussion - this is human dignity - this is people's lives. We cannot minimize the power of language to either dehumanize or welcome and my vote will always be to welcome because I've seen what dehumanization does.
 2. Matt: It's very obvious that the SEAB put a lot of work into this - skilled individuals put work into this. The point I want to bring up is in lesson 2: The difference between body first language and male/female distinction. How did you come to the decision to explicitly exclude the terms male and female?
 - a. Kim's response: When we're talking about anatomy and teaching anatomy we want to make sure we're using language that students understand and that applies to them.
 - b. Matt: Struggling to understand that terms like male/female are less accurate.
 - c. Kim: Categorizing bodies into a binary is disregarding and excluding the reality of the diversity of the human body.
 - d. Matt: Where are the best practices approved by [list of acronyms] - can you provide the link to resources?
 - e. SEAB: Yes those were provided to the governance committee and to Sherry. They can be provided again.
 3. Woodrow: Extremely grateful for all the work that was done. Question: Are there plans to go back further - to younger aged children?
 - a. Sarah: Tonight we're reviewing the 8th grade curriculum. Now that we have an SEAB at the school our goal is to work backwards from 8th grade - then to middle school - then maturation (%) - with an option to formalize younger than that. The survey reflects wanting to extend to younger students.
 - b. Will: Kids in school for 12 years now - it would be good to go to %.
 4. Laura: This year are there any plans for evaluation and reflection?
 - a. SEAB: Yes. Goal is to take what they've done - talk to Deb and Thaddeus after class is done to see what needs to be adjusted and added. Silver lining that this shorter span could inform the larger curriculum.
 5. Mouna from Chat: "I'd like to add my own thank you's to the SEAB advisory board for their efforts and diligence with such a sensitive and important topic. Your work

is much needed and appreciated. The only question I have is about the requirement to have clergy on the board.. could you inform us which clergy are involved? How was this person selected? How are they able to represent the wide variety of faith traditions and non-religious views equally?"

- a. SEAB/Noah: The clergy member is a united church of christ pastor - very familiar with the OWL curriculum and trained Noah on how to be an OWL facilitator. She participated in the Ann Arbor SEAB as well. She likely wouldn't assert that she represents other faiths.
6. Dillon: With the massive transitions the last few years with the changes in administration, moving, the pandemic and virtual school - I felt the true heart of Honeycreek in this process and was reminded of why we left our local school to come be a part of this community.
7. Sherry: Such a transformational step for the school - I would request on behalf of the board that the SEAB considers ways for the parents/community to have transparent access to information and learning experiences about different perspectives. We can set a real standard on what information is shared. We can enhance the student classroom curricula with resources.
 - a. Sarah: would like to connect with the Wellness Committee on the PTO to help make that happen.
8. Matt: Personal impression for an aspect to pay special attention to: Lesson 3 has a video on consent and therefore assault - using a metaphor of "tea consent". Would like the board to review the video and ensure they think it pays enough respect to the issue of sexual assault.
 - a. Sherry: Video is widely available. Importance on how the video is introduced to the video. Watched it alone and then with her son - it had a lot of valuable conversations - because it was light he was able to stay focused. Personally, no concerns but important to review because all students receive information in a different way. We respect the skills that teachers bring to the classroom.
 - b. Bridgette: She has seen the video multiple times. She represents sexual assault survivors. She doesn't feel it plays too lightly. Clarification with Sherry's statement.
- b. My Future Fund:
 - i. Sherry overview: Program offered to HC from the WISD. We would be participating because of our affiliation with the ISD. It's a part of a larger national program. A savings account that would be set up for every student in the district.
 - ii. Seed money (min \$25 per student, with additional money depending on household income using COVID recovery Deposit program). would be transferred to the accounts and parents encouraged to add to it. Once an account has been set up typically future deposits would be used for college and post HS technical training.
 - iii. Asking for the board to review with an action item coming to the May meeting. Kevin is the lead with the ISD and can provide more information next month and answer specific questions.

VIII. Action Items

- a. Pandemic Response. No changes, no vote.
- b. Hiring Recommendations
 - i. Jeff Hamilton - Instructional Aide -
 1. Moved: Bridgette, Seconded: Dillon. Approved by all present.

IX. Acknowledgements & Thank You's

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- a. **Sherry: Thank you to the staff. This is a busy time of year with testing and warm weather. And Thank you Schranda for being here! Thank you for an active and respectful discussion tonight. We look forward to next week's**
- b. **Bridgette: Thank you to everyone involved in the talent show! It was a really beautiful community event.**

X. Public Comment - None.

XI. Adjournment - 7:55PM