

Student Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday 27th June 2024

11:10 - 12:10

Attendees: AW, BS, MDa, MDy, CS, HC, LS

Minutes:

Introductions -

AW introduced herself and thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting today. She invited students and staff to give a brief introduction as we work our way around the table. CS introduced himself as the Slade Road rep and explained he had been with the school since January. HC introduced himself as the WEL rep and explained he has been a student at SHHS for almost 2 years and LS introduced herself as the Hunton Rd rep and explained she had been with the school for two years. BS introduced herself as the chair of governors and MDa explained his role as staff governor within the school. AW went through some general housekeeping such as refreshments, toilets, and respect for each other. AW discussed what to expect in the meetings and opened up the discussion about increasing student council meetings to twice a term (once a half term) instead of just once a whole term. This would ensure issues are actioned quickly and communication between councillors is strengthened. All councillors nodded in agreement.

Mission statement -

AW asked students if they knew what a mission statement was. HC suggested something to do with achieving something and CS suggested something to help get something done. LS explained it is something to do with having an aim. AW shared our current school council mission statement as found on the website and opened up a discussion around how this may be improved. LS, HC, CS and MD were invited to list key words they would like to see in the statement. Some of the words listed were: safety, respect, environment, peaceful, trust. AW pointed out how these words link in with our whole school values and student CS said this would be a good idea to have the same words in the overall statement. AW explained she will use input from all 4 students and draft a new mission statement for their approval.

Action: AW to draft mission statement using student input and share with students before the end of Summer term.

Newsletter -

Students were given a copy of last year's newsletter to review and discuss. HC and CS raised concerns about the format of the newsletter and questioned how pupil-friendly it was. LS commented on the use of font and how engaging the text was to read. Students were then given a copy of the newly updated version to discuss. CS explained he thought the

layout was a lot easier to read and he liked how the school's values were included at the top. HC liked the colour of the font as he said this ties in with the overall theme well. Lacey liked how the information was set out and suggested having photos of the councillors included on the next newsletter. This then opened up a discussion about having the councillors contribute to the writing of the newsletter when it came to events and student experience. CS agreed this would be better so that the students are telling us about their experience rather than the staff. Students debated about whether this should be written by the councillors or opened out to the whole school. CS suggested having a quote from a range of students to increase contribution. HC and LS agreed this would be a good idea.

Action: For the AUT newsletter, councillors will be introduced with a photo and have input on the events page.

Student Surveys -

Students were given a copy of the student survey and asked to review for discussion. All students agreed it is too lengthy and there are some questions - particularly at the back of the document (PSHE/Careers) that are too long and confusing. MD suggested having a fun activity at the end of the survey as a reward for students who completed it. MD also suggested using a traffic light system to make the document more engaging and easier to use.

Action: AW to review PSHE/Careers section and reduce wordy statements. Consider the use of red, amber, green to be more inclusive for all.

AOB -

LS suggested a school animal such as a chicken to help students engage and regulate. AW discussed how this may also be a good opportunity to help students develop life skills such as taking care of something, CS added that each student could potentially have a chicken and they could be responsible for them. HC said he would like students from across sites to interact more and have opportunities where they can meet up. MD seconded this by suggesting whole school walks every week and CS suggested a whole school walk every half term as every week may be hard to facilitate. HC also asked if students could have a separate section on tutorial forms where they raise issues with student councillors so they could have access to this information and feed it back to the meetings. MD also suggested having more colours available for school uniform tops so students can choose which colours they like the most. MDa made notes of these suggestions throughout the discussions so he can feed this back to his next governors meeting.

Action: AW to ask site leaders/ops to ensure there is a student suggestion box on each site which councillors will be responsible for.

AW thanked all for attending the meeting and encouraged students to take their documents from today with them in a folder. BS emphasised the value of being a school councillor by comparing this role to the role of a member of parliament. AW gave all students her school email address and asked them to keep a look out for future emails regarding upcoming meetings and the draft mission statement.