

## **SGC Elections**

Election results are still being tallied, and the good news is there seems to be strong parent interest in SGC participation, and possibly a somewhat more diverse group of candidates, particularly at the high school. However, the process has not been without some issues and glitches. There have unfortunately been requests for a recount at one site, for a recall at another, for clarification on the role of alternates, and other questions which may rise to the level of an eventual need for board direction, policy setting, and/or bylaws revision before next year's elections raise the same questions.

A full report will go to the P&O in November and the Board in December. This is a preliminary heads-up on a few issues that have come to our attention:

### *1. Online Voting vs Paper*

This year BHS had an online ballot (via SurveyMonkey) for the first time, and participation more than tripled (from about 80 to about 260 ballots). Cragmont, Thousand Oaks, Oxford, Longfellow and King also used online voting, (Google Forms or SurveyMonkey). Paper ballots at the high school were proving problematic – parents are on campus less, and the pace of BHS Back to School Night is not conducive to voting. There are issues associated with online voting that may require some review, such as whether it be the only method, and whether to have safeguards against multiple votes.

### *2. Voting Options*

Most sites use multiple choice, some use rank order, some allow write-ins. Approaches such as rank order are leading to confusion as to the outcome.

### *3. Verification of Voters*

At BHS, a complaint was lodged because there was no way to prove for certain that a voter (paper or online) is a current parent. In consultation with BHS, we erred on ensuring that voting methods favored greater participation and inclusion rather than possibly damping the vote by requiring some kind of voter i.d. Parents are asked (on paper and online) the grade and SLC their child belongs to, but the vote is anonymous.

### *4. Removal for Absence or for Cause.*

The P&O bylaws and the state SSC template provide an option for removal of members who miss 3 meetings in a row. We don't have this for SGC, and this has been raised as an issue. The P&O (and state template) also permit a member to be removed for cause (disruption, etc) by a 2/3 vote. The SGC does not have that option at present.

### *5. Role of Alternates*

Some sites are encouraging alternates to be full participants in order to expand participation of new voices, and insure that alternates are fully informed and available at every meeting. There has been a move towards having alternates at the table, only making a distinction when there needs to be a vote. Whether an alternate is always an understudy, or whether they can be seated as full member, is part of issue #4 above.