

February 2022 Policy Recommendations

SUPPORT FHPS ADVOCACY POINTS

Support FHPS embraces the core values of Support, Safety and Success for all students. We are incredibly proud to have chosen the top-rated Forest Hills Public Schools district for our children and believe in advocating whole-heartedly for public education, our educators, administrators and the unique 21st Century programs that make our district so special.

We value & trust our Board of Education and superintendent, but that doesn't make us complacent. With the goals of protecting the integrity of our schools and helping the district evolve to meet the needs of students in a dynamic environment, we advocate for topics we deem essential to the Support, Safety and Success of all.

Support FHPS believes in elevating policy recommendations only when they are truly necessary and applicable specifically to the operations of Forest Hills Public Schools as not to disrupt and distract our educators from their everyday responsibilities. We're about raising solutions, not noise.

Support:

Policy for Instructional and Library Material Challenges

- **Summary:** To Support representation for all, FHPS should institute a clear, detailed review policy to address challenges to instructional and library materials. The review process should be transparent, education-focused and led, with most review committee members being teachers and library media specialists. Materials under review should not be removed from schools until a final decision is reached by the review committee.
- **Rationale:** Instructional and library materials are selected by experts in their fields. Students, families and educators deserve to understand the clear review process to mitigate disruption and avoid the [anguish kids feel](#) over the threat of removing material that may provide necessary, age-appropriate answers. We condemn censorship of reasonable material and support students' First Amendment Rights for access to content from their public institution, which acts as a window and a mirror to their lives.
- **Expected Timeline:** By April 30, 2022

Establish a "Transportation Support Organization"

- **Summary:** Create a dedicated "PTO" for FHPS transportation department staff to provide ongoing acknowledgement and support for employees. This can either be implemented by appointing members from the Parent Advisory Council or school PTOs to collaborate on standard PTO offerings for these essential workers to be provided at the FHPS Transportation Center.
- **Rationale:** Most FHPS employees benefit from PTO support, fundraising and tokens of appreciation inside each school building. The importance of transportation and our transportation staff has never been clearer, yet there is not presently a formal way to recognize staff contributions since they work "remotely" or in an offsite building. We believe that the Transportation staff deserves respect and consideration in this manner.
- **Expected Timeline:** Launch Transportation Support Organization by April 1, 2022

Safety:

District-Wide Gun Ban (On and In School Property)

- **Summary:** FHPS should immediately enact a district-wide gun ban in our schools, regardless of Concealed Pistol License (CPL) status, to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and visitors during the school day and at district meetings and events. In light of the horrifying tragedies experienced in other communities, and the presence of guns on FHPS property (e.g. the vehicle incident at Meadow Brook Elementary), FHPS needs to act on this policy.
- **Rationale:** This ban has been instituted by numerous districts across our state and has been deemed constitutional by the Michigan Supreme Court. (Michigan Gun Owners Inc v. Ann Arbor Public Schools; Michigan Open Carry Inc v. Clio Area Public Schools) Guns have no place in our schools.
- **Expected Timeline:** By March 15, 2022

Success:

Shift the Global Learner's Initiative from Opt-In to Opt-Out

- **Summary:** Implement FHPS's stellar GLI programming for ALL staff, students and families, with students having an opt-out option. The GLI program was specifically developed by and for FHPS in response to student requests and has been honed for over a decade to address our district's unique needs. The GLI programming equips students to succeed in the 21st Century and our global economy.
- **Rationale:** Data shows a startling number of students (20%) do not complete their first year of college, with many citing the sense of overwhelm they experience when they realize the broader world is not anything like the "bubble" they experience in Forest Hills. [The district also has received numerous recommendations from respected groups](#), including the NAACP, Latino Community Coalition, and the Urban League in response to repeated incident to help students and families "understand how a mostly white, affluent school district can impart on its student body critical thinking skills about racism, insight on how Forest Hills came to be so mostly white and why ongoing incidents are problematic." Ongoing attacks over GLI and negative Niche reviews illustrate a deeper need for this program.
- **Expected Timeline:** Implement opt-out beginning with the 2022-2023 school year

