**NHS School Council**

**December 12, 2023**

**Attendance:** Renee Ames, Jim Antonelli, Amber Barbere, Chris Cain, Stacey Gijsbers, Declan Hocheiser, Laurie Kench, Mr. Aaron Ribaudo-Smith, Mike Testa, Andy Wulf

**I) High School Updates**

* **HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE**

* Positive reports on vibe and energy, good introduction to NHS
* Feedback from parents part of the council and attended included adding more student reps from sports to answer questions for the 8th graders.
* **WINTER CONCERT TONIGHT AT 7:00 PM**
* The music and performing arts program is starting to rebound
* Tonight’s performance will have performances from the Dance Group, Chorus, Band, Orchestra, Guitar Troupe, and the NHS Rock Band, Clippers Up.
* **SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE AT NHS AND DISTRICT**

Mr. Antonelli updated the team on work he has been leading for the school system. Below are the updates:

* Training with first responders (fire, police, EMT) in mid fall at NHS.
* On 12/11/23 NHS Crisis Response Team went to the Hope Church to plan for reunification. The other district building admin teams have seen or will next week this reunification space.
* Other Details: Larger exterior numbers at NHS for first responders to see and identify exterior doors #1-18. Police have maps of the buildings so responders can find the proper door.
* Walkie Talkie Radios have been programmed for NHS admin to directly communicate with local police.
* Each principal has a radio that can directly communicate with the fire department.
* The DPW had been involved in planning to help in blocking roads/campus entrances during a crisis.
* Principals have a mobile app that can be used to send communications to families in a crisis.
* Updated district wide crisis response manual.
* Estimate on protective ballistic film for glass on main office/vestibules by main entrances.
* “inForce911” communication tool might be rolled out to help with staff members having direct communication.
* District Threat Assessment Team being built and trained.

**II) School Improvement Plan Updates/Edits - 2024**

Mr. Wulf made noted updates to the SIP based on feedback provided at the November School Council Meeting. The additions are shown below. Link to [2024 SIP](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vuWenpY1skfzncDH8m3Rlo5FlAdWT763GeAOAy3gOtU/edit?usp=sharing).

* Actions Added to Goal: Become a Favorable School Climate

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| Create and administer a school climate survey to all students. |
| Engage student council in the problem-solving process around school climate through use of school-wide survey results |
| Implement a faculty council to improve faculty voice in the areas of climate and professional development needs. |

* Additional Goal Added: Make more efficient use of building spaces to support NHS's programs and varied course offerings.
  + - Mr. Wulf explained based on feedback from the accreditation process to explore more efficient use of building space. This was recommended based on the School Addition Proposal to help update and increase lab spaces most-likely not happening due to other priorities for the city and state.
    - Mr. Wulf also shared that through the support of the NEF an architecture firm has worked with teachers and staff to rethink the space in the basement to support a more inviting space that fosters creativity and better allows arts and technical programming to be accessed across the school’s curricular programs. Mr. Wulf also shared how the architecture firm is developing the proposal so that the updates to the spaces can happen in components so that the work is more digestible for the school system.
    - Below is the measure and actions for the new goal:

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| Measure | Actions |
| Yearly updates regarding improvements to the use of building space | Engage teachers and families in the possibilities of the ground floor area. |
| Convene a school building team to reflect on current use of space in the building. |
| Identify priorities based on program impact and complexity of fix. |
| Generate proposals for basic changes that do not require significant redesign but align with current program objectives of the school. |

**III)** **Budget Consideration**

1. [Dual Enrollment Trade Program Overview](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1fmmZSgyJLrTWB5FjI6jXt2_z6x6bOOdr/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106693342116642249853&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Mr. Wulf and Mr. Ribaudo-Smith (College and Career Counselor) provided an overview of the Dual Enrollment Trade Program that has been developed.

* The Pilot Program would focus on having students do some summer course work in between junior and senior year through the Peterson School, then dual enrollment through senior year.
* The main obstacle will be transportation, but that is similar to students who choose to drive to take courses at NECCO. For now students will need to provide their own transportation.
* Mr. Gallagher has already shared an overview of the idea with the School Committee at the Dec. 4th meeting. [Link to presentation.](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1fmmZSgyJLrTWB5FjI6jXt2_z6x6bOOdr/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106693342116642249853&rtpof=true&sd=true)

1. [2024-25 Budget Considerations](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1UgpLXH4H9eyc7DEVdnirMUzKQQHecafdx3oIcV9iBeA/edit?usp=sharing)

Mr. Wulf reviewed the considerations for this year’s budget. Mr. Wulf also emphasized that for the considerations discussed tonight, beyond funding for the Peterson program, he will be looking to ensure any addition will be cost-neutral.

* Increasing Advanced Coursework for Students: Mr. Wulf referred back to council feedback from last year and this year’s October meeting to explore more accessible AP courses. *(Last year the council asked Mr. Wulf to talk with other schools that had a very high percentage of students completing advanced coursework. The common area for these schools involved more AP courses in the humanities area. For example, the principal from Lynnfield explained that almost every senior takes AP Psychology.)* With this feedback along with students and parents commenting at the October meeting how the school only offers 1 section of AP Psychology and no sections of AP Geography, Mr. Wulf shared the consideration for a humanities teacher.
* Mr. Wulf shared that the school has been accepted to the next round of the Innovation Pathways Program. Though NHS has not been awarded funding for an Environmental and Life Sciences Pathway, we are in the final part of the application process. Mr. Wulf explained how beyond the Environmental Pathway program there are other state funded pathways the school will be able to apply for once we earn our first one. Examples of the other pathways include: Information technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare and Social Assistance, and Business and Finance. Acknowledging the application process for the pathways is extensive, Mr. Wulf shared the consideration for a partime pathways coordinator to support grant writing that will allow the school to expand pathways and then also secure capital skills funding for pathway equipment and machinery.

[2024-25 NHS BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1UgpLXH4H9eyc7DEVdnirMUzKQQHecafdx3oIcV9iBeA/edit?usp=sharing)