**NHS School Council**

**October 10, 2023**

**Attendance:** Renee Ames, Jim Antonelli, Amber Barbere, Jessica Buchman, David Clay, Chris Cain, Stacey Gijsbers, Declan Hochheiser, Priya Kaur, Laurie Kench, Emerson Leahy, Rourke Lee, Mike Testa, Andy Wulf

**Introductions: Highlight and Hope for School Year**

* Highlights from teachers present centered around the positive energy displayed by the students in the halls, classrooms, and at events. The structure of the school schedule in regards to better balanced classes.
* Highlights from students present centered on a safe learning environment in their classrooms and the efforts of their teachers to ensure their students have a community where they can take academic risks.
* Highlights of parents present centered around the on-going communications, general welcoming environment especially for the incoming freshmen, and the sense of belonging in activities/teams.
* Overall consensus on the Hope was to maintain the positive energy across the school year. Students also mentioned a hope to look at schedule sectioning decisions for next year as some students were not able to get into popular classes due to one section being offered.
  + Some limitations to accessing AP Psych/AP Bio and some students having to take on-line courses
  + One student reported a positive experience with an exchange student being able to shift his assigned classes to more appropriate levels.
  + Possible shift to firm up the waiver process.
  + Positive feedback on administrative attempts to regulate cell phone use and add consistency.

**SCHOOL OPENING AND REFLECTIONS**

* Andy Wulf shared highlights from the opening of school and also commented that due to the later than normal start, a lot of the calendar activities were condensed.
  + He explained the new peer mentor program called Ignite Nation. This is how last year’s CLIPS program evolved to better enhance the freshmen experience. Declan Hocheiser who is a mentor talked about the program and that it was providing a strong leadership foundation for the students part of it. Its been great to work with the freshmen and support their transition.
  + Grade 10 and 11 on Oct. 5 took the PSAT while freshmen continued with their transition activities. Seniors had the opportunity to visit colleges, job shadow, or receive help on their applications.
* School & Building Safety: Dean Jim Antonelli reviewed work that has taken place around School and Building Safety.
  + NHS has completed 1 fire drill and 1 lockdown drill.
  + Addition of magnets to door jams, addition of more walkie talkie radios, SRO has access to security camera system.
  + Saturday, Oct. 21 Police, Fire & EMT are invited to do an active shooter intruder drill at NHS. Still in the planning stages, date is hopeful.
  + Next phase of planning will be to drill/practice with a reunification point to have a plan in place when parents/guardians can pick up their child at the reunification point rather than at NHS.
  + Addition of school maps within each police cruiser.
  + Improvement of signage/numbers of exterior doors at NHS.

**Review school performance and accreditation information to reflect on current school improvement plan**

* **NEASC Accreditation Visit Summary (Andy Wulf Summarized)**
  + The Accreditation team visited NHS last week. (Sept 27-28)
  + The visiting team agreed with the findings of the self-study conducted by the faculty last spring.
  + Mr. Wulf provided a summary of the next action steps:
    - How do we enact the components of the Portrait of a Graduate
    - Increase Faculty Voice alongside Student Voice
    - Use of building space & being more efficient /creative with what we have.
    - Teaching & Learning Cycles
    - Interventions for students who demonstrate they aren’t meeting targets.
* **SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**
  + Overview of accountability data from the state:
  1. Council members reviewed a summary of [ELA, Math and Biology results from 2022 and 2023 This sheet also includes other accountability measures such as attendance, graduation rates, and advanced coursework..](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pAuMGg_TCM_wgPeE4lUhNN_JStQx1jSkURVp7kyesTE/edit?usp=sharing)
  2. General Summary Discussed by the Council below:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | HIGHLIGHTS | |  | AREAS FOR ACTION PLANNING | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ELA | Increase ALL Students Exceeding | 2022 - 8% |  | Decrease High Needs Meeting/Exceeding | 2022 - 46 |
| 2023 - 21% |  | 2023 - 37 |
| Decrease SWD Not Meeting | 2022 - 11% |  | Incease High Needs Not Meeting | 2022 - 7% |
| 2023 - 6% |  | 2023 - 21% |
|  |  |  | Low Typcial Growth - SWD + High Needs | SWD - 40 |
|  |  |  | HN - 45 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Math | Increase Students Meeting/Exceeding | 2022 - 66% |  | Decrease students exceeding | 2022 - 16% |
| 2023 - 71% |  | 2023 - 10% |
| Decrease SWD Not Meeting | 2022 - 14% |  | Slight decrease SWD Meets/Exceeds | 2022 - 35% |
| 2023 - 3% |  | 2023 - 32% |
| High Typical Growth for ALL Category | SGP - 58 |  | Slight decrease HN Meets/Exceeds | 2022 - 41% |
|  | 2023 - 37% |
| Both Subgroups slightly over 50 SGP | SWD - 52 |  | Slight increase HN Not Meeting | 2022 - 11% |
| HN - 53 |  | 2023 - 14% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Biology | Slight Increase HN - Meeting/Exceeding | 2022 - 48% |  | FLAT OVERALL PERFORMANCE OVER PAST 2 YEARS | |
| 2023 - 52% |  |
| Decreased SWD Not Meeting | 2022 - 14% |  |  |  |
| 2023 - 3% |  |  |  |
| Decreased HN Not Meeting | 2022 - 10% |  |  |  |
| 2023 - 2% |  |  |  |

**QUESTIONS FROM DISCUSSION**

* What is SGP?
  + A growth score shows how much a student’s score changed compared to other students who had a similar score the year before.
* Advanced Coursework - Drop in Numbers?
  + Andy Wulf acknowledged that the school did not meet its target for students taking advanced coursework courses.
  + Students at the start of the meeting mentioned how certain higher level classes such as AP Psychology only had 1 section run despite the interest. As a result many students were not able to get in.
* Is it possible to further separate the results by group.
  + Andy Wulf will provide that information for the next meeting.