



Meeting Summary

Present: Andy Wulf, Mike Testa, Dave Clay, Hillary Lynch, Jill Moran, Anya Brunnick, Stacey Gijbsers, Phoebe Longbord-Lewis, Laurie Kench, Riya Kaur, Emerson Leahy, Rourke Lee, Tuala Sullivan, Chris Cain, Dr. Orlando.

Introductions and hopes for 2022-23

- Members introduced themselves and shared affiliation with the high school.
- Members also shared hopes for the 2022-23 school year.

Reflection on the opening of school and PSAT/College-Career Day

- Below is a summary of ideas shared on the opening of school
 - a. Participation is high (sports, after school activities, staff volunteers, art club)
 - b. Recovery of a sense of community & embracing the spirit
 - c. Positive & optimistic
 - d. Weekly calls & emails are good, good communication
 - e. Routines: no phones in class has been great, students are engaging and meeting new people more than before
 - f. USafe App, good step to make the community more welcome
 - g. Having fun/being silly, laughter/giggling
- Andy Wulf provided an update on CLIPS Leadership and our work towards continuing to improve our school climate. Jill and Dave shared that 10 teachers are teaching leadership to student leaders. Teachers did summer planning to create lessons to present throughout the year to students.
- All Grade 10 and 11 students took the PSAT on Oct. 12. Freshmen participated in sessions organized by the guidance department to start thinking about interests and passions relative to life after high school. Seniors on the council expressed having the day to work on applications or see a college was very useful. Andy Wulf added that some seniors also used the day to meet with English teachers who were made available to help students with their college essays. 12 seniors students also participated in a job shadow for the day.

Reflect on school performance

- Andy Wulf provided members with reports relative to last year's state accountability performance. Measures reviewed included MCAS results, 4-year graduation rate, Extended Engagement, Drop-Out Rate, Chronic Absenteeism, Participation and Successful Completion of Advanced Coursework.
- Before giving an overview of the data, Andy Wulf explained how the team will use this information to think through objectives for the school's improvement plan.
- Here is a [link to the information the council reviewed](#).
- Summary of highlights from results
 - To measure progress, a comparison of 2022 results were made to those of 2019.
 - **Achievement** declined in all three areas: ELA, Math, and Biology
 - **Growth Percentile** rating was high across the board for all students and the subgroups (Students with a disability, Low-Income, and High Needs Populations.)
 - Growth percentile shows a student's growth compared to other students with similar prior test scores (their academic peers). Though achievement levels declined when comparing 2022 to 2019, the average growth percentile of the NHS students was in the upper 50s to upper 60s. Andy explained that this shows students improved greatly from where they were in 2019 compared to students who scored similarly in 2019 from across the state.
 - **Chronic absenteeism** was significantly high. Students who miss 10% of the school year (excused or unexcused) are considered chronically absent. Due to last year's circumstances, the state increased the threshold to 20%.
 - The **4-year graduation rate** and the **drop-out rate** stayed flat, however **extended engagement** improved. Extended engagement involves students who finish high school in either 4 or 5 years. Andy Wulf explained how the school has increased programming for students who fall behind for multiple reasons and this has helped to keep students in school versus dropping out.
 - **Advanced Coursework** - The high school showed an increase in the percentage of juniors and seniors taking and succeeded in an advanced course. In summary, advanced courses include AP, Dual Enrollment, and approved higher level technical/vocational courses.
 - VOCAL Results (Views of Climate and Learning)
 - Andy Wulf explained that 10th grade students take the VOCAL

survey after completing the Math MCAS. VOCAL is an annual DESE school climate survey based on DESE dimensions of engagement, safety, and environment.

- Newburyport high school has shown growth in climate since 2018, but continues to be on the cusp of measuring as a favorable school climate. At a school of 49, NHS is considered at the high end of “somewhat favorable.”
- **Post-secondary Outcomes**
 - Andy Wulf explained the data here was not updated yet. The information on the DESE DART tool still shows results for the class of 2012.
 - The school council for the past three years has used data from the above tool to measure how well our program prepares students for time after graduation. The measure shows how many students from a graduating class earn a degree after 6 years after graduating from high school.

Wrap-up

- Andy Wulf asked the team to reflect on the summary of the high school’s performance.
- The team will use this information to brainstorm objectives for its school improvement plan.
- A team member asked if it is possible that objectives from the prior improvement plan could continue. Andy Wulf responded, yes as not all of the objectives had been met.
- The next meeting will be held on November 15 at 5:00 PM