

NHS School Council Meeting Notes

November 9, 2011

Notes:

- **Present:** Mike Gauthier, Stevie Bentley, Beth Denault, Kathryn Ducey, Gretchen Roche, Scott Zuidema, Jeff Andrews, Peter Lavallee, Mrs. Leon, Anthony Leofanti, Jess Schnurfeil, Anthony DosReis, Kerran Goff, & Tom Stanovich.
- **G.P.A.:** Currently on a 5.5 scale and would like to change it to a 4.0 scale to help kids pinpoint safety schools and what they can get into. All schools have their own system of scoring and the colleges recalculate it for themselves. It does **NOT** affect scholarships. UMass recalculated two of our recent applicants and one had a 3.39 at NHS and when recalculated had a 3.6 at UMass. Another had a 3.6 here and a 3.8 at UMass when recalculated. They recalculate because every school has its own standard. A student's GPA could go down if their GPA is high because of electives instead of core classes.
 - Most colleges count 1st quarter grades for seniors as FULL YEAR grades.
 - The admission standards for state schools are online.
 - Most college only count Math, Science, English, & History but not electives. And they will eventually include computer.
 - They want to see kids doing well in electives but they don't count.
- **Adams Scholarships:** We have 36 this year – they will be announced 11/10.
 - Next year there should be 50 based on class size. It's the top 25 and it's the overall scores between the English and Math MCAs.
 - If you get it you get free tuition to any state college in MA and it can be used as a bargaining chip for private schools.
 - Once in college, you need to maintain a 3.0 to keep it.
- **iParent:** Can not apply online- must be there in person.
 - Once the middle school opens it, it will be used more.
 - Push it to parents.
 - Parents need to look at the progress report to see up to date grades. Some aren't looking in the right place.
 - Each teacher has different settings.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Wednesday November 16 from noon-2. Thursday November 17 from 6-8:30.
 - There will also be a coalition meeting for myths on street drugs on the night of the 17.
- **School Improvement Plan:** Look it over and come up with suggestions. Small adjustments were made – changed data for MCAs #s.
 - Schedule change next year? There's a committee looking into it.
 - Will be done by December.
 - 6 classes instead of 7 won't affect graduation requirements.
 - Mentor/Mentee program?
 - Community service to graduate? Just for sports teams at first then for the whole school?
- **Budget:** Gorky is going to ask for an increase from the town. Right now we have \$7000 per student per year.
 - We have a 0 based budget and build up based on department needs. SMART boards? Document cameras? MMSI got us 6 new SMART boards. We have \$4000 from them next year and \$3000 the year after.
 - Stella program? Travers is piloting the program. Counts as a science class and the kids each get a laptop bought by Mitchell.
- **Athletics:** Good fall season so far!

- Fan bus for girls soccer on 11/11 at noon?
- All teams made districts.
- Winter sports should be good.
- Hockey practice was moved to the afternoon and Nipmuc is joining our cooperative.
- **Questions?:** Season wide banquet for sports but not football?
 - Naviance messenger?
 - Columbus retired so updates on website thru Jones-Riolo.
 - Announcements: hard to hear or kids/teachers talk through them in the morning.
 - OpGrad is going well. Thanks to Tubbs for sending out information on OpGrad.
 - Rumors/misinformation?:
 - Nothing about soccer on website – why?
 - Is track team getting jackets through the booster club?