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NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.
COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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December 17, 2014

Sean Gilrein
Principal
Mashpee High School
500 Old Barnstable Road
Mashpee, MA 02649

Dear Mr. Gilrein:

The Committee on Public Secondary Schools, at its October 19-20, 2014 meeting, reviewed the decennial evaluation report from the recent visit to Mashpee High School and voted to award the school continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Committee was impressed with many of the programs and services and wishes to commend the following:

- the commitment on the part of the professional staff in embracing the core values, beliefs, and learning expectations
- the development of school-wide analytic rubrics to guide 21st century learning expectations
- the completion of a review and revision of the school's learning expectations based on data and school community priorities
- the purposeful design of the curriculum that provides students with ample opportunities to practice and achieve the school's learning expectations
- the authentic learning opportunities afforded to Mashpee High School students both in and outside of school
- the sincere and committed faculty who make a concerted effort to meet the needs of their students
- the application of knowledge and skills to authentic tasks that is happening frequently and effectively throughout classes
- the initial implementation of a process to communicate individual student progress in achieving the school's 21st century learning expectations to individual students and their families
- the variety of strategies used for formative and summative assessment of student knowledge and understanding of the content

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- the opportunity provided to students across many content areas to revise their work in an effort to demonstrate acquired knowledge
- the effort to provide state-of-the-art technology courses and Advanced Placement courses to attract students to the school

The Committee was equally pleased to commend the following:

- the safe and supportive school culture
- the enrollment of all grade nine students in a heterogeneously-grouped biology course
- the ongoing review and revision of the advisory program to meet the needs of the students and the skills of the professional staff while providing the students the opportunity to make a connection with an adult in the school building
- the instructional leadership provided by the principal which is rooted in the school's core values, beliefs, and learning expectations
- the school's encouragement of all stakeholders to participate in the decision making of the school
- the genuine passion and commitment of the guidance, special services, school administration, and health services toward a unified approach toward providing intervention strategies for at-risk students
- the nurse's effective collaboration with guidance and special services which has fostered a very professional and collegial approach toward preventative health care
- the library/media specialist who has expertise in cutting edge library/media services and technology
- the development and implementation of a successful Intervention Support Team
- the attractive displays of student work, illustration of the learning standards and various student artifacts
- the ongoing pursuit of advanced technology, software, and equipment to maintain a state of the art facility
- the partnerships that are in place with businesses and colleges to support the students success in achieving the 21st century learning expectations
- the quality and thoroughness of the school's self-study prepared by the professional staff in collaboration with representatives from other school constituencies

All accredited schools must submit a required Two-Year Progress Report, which in the case of Mashpee High School is due on October 1, 2016. Information about the proper preparation of the Two-Year Progress Report was provided to school representatives at the Follow-Up Seminar and is included in *Directions for the Preparation of the Two-Year Progress Report* which can be found at <http://cpss.neasc.org>. In that report school officials are required to respond to two types of recommendations: (1) highlighted recommendations from notification letter(s) and (2) general report recommendations from the school's decennial evaluation report

With regard to the reporting of action taken on evaluation report recommendations school officials should indicate the status of each recommendation by classifying it in one of five categories: Completed, In Progress, Planned for the Future, Rejected, or No Action. In addition, for each valid recommendation in the evaluation report there should be a brief description of the action that has been taken to address the recommendations, including anticipated dates of completion where applicable. Special care should be taken to include appropriate information to justify the Rejected or No Action status of any recommendation.

In addition to providing information on action taken to address each evaluation report recommendation, the Two-Year Progress Report should also provide detailed explanations regarding the manner in which each of the following highlighted recommendations has been addressed:

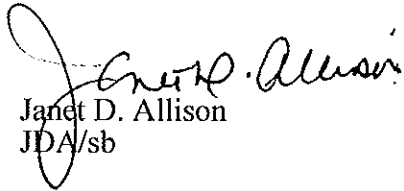
- ensure the school's 21st century learning expectations are embedded into the culture of the school to the extent that they drive the development of curriculum, instruction, and assessment and guide the schools policies, procedures, decisions, and resource allocations
- develop and adopt a common curriculum format that includes units of study with essential questions, concepts, content, skills, 21st century learning expectations, instructional strategies, and assessment practices that include the use of school-wide and course specific rubrics
- provide formal opportunities for teachers to improve their instructional practices through collaboratively discussing student work, current research, and curriculum related assessment data
- develop and implement a process to gather student assessment results/data from the use of school-wide analytic rubrics
- develop and implement a process for reporting individual student achievement of all of the 21st century learning expectations to students and their families
- develop and implement a professional development plan that provides professional discourse for reflection, inquiry, and analysis of teaching and learning; allows teachers to maintain currency with best practices; provides adequate formal time; and includes appropriate teacher input into determining needs
- ensure an effective working relationship between the high school and the department of public works so to develop an understanding of the facility issues that are reported through Schooldude
- provide professional staff with training on how to effectively incorporate the technology provided into their instructional practices

The Committee congratulates the school administration and faculty for completing the first two phases of the accreditation program: the self-study and the evaluation visit. The next step will be the follow-up process during which the school will implement valid recommendations in the evaluation report. The Committee's Follow-up Seminars should help you and your faculty develop a schedule for implementing valid recommendations. In addition, the Commission's *Accreditation Handbook* provides information on follow-up procedures.

Sean Gilrein
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The school's accreditation status will be reviewed when the Committee considers the Two-Year Progress Report. Consistent with the Committee's follow-up procedures, the Two-Year Progress Report should include an electronic signature of the principal and chair of the school's Follow-Up Committee and be sent electronically to the Committee office at the following address: cpssreports@neasc.org. As well, please notify the Committee office immediately of any changes in the names of the principal and/or superintendent along with their corresponding e-mail addresses by submitting this information electronically to cpss-air@neasc.org.

Sincerely,



Janet D. Allison
JDA/sb

cc: Brian Hyde, Superintendent, Mashpee School District
Scott McGee, Chair, Mashpee Public Schools
Catherine Knowles, Chair, Visiting Committee
Robert E. Littlefield, Chair, Committee on Public Secondary Schools