

Farouk Rajab, Board Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Members present were Heidi Simmons, Secretary, Chris Donahue, Dan Kelley, Craig Esposito, and Kevin Agnello. Also present were Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent of Schools, Student Government Representative Substitute, Will Fyke, members of the administration staff and citizens.

Board Member Absent: Sara Baker

Communications & Recognitions

Mary Anne Butler welcomed Will Fyke, Senior Class President who was filling in for the new Student Government Representative, Diya Patel. She shared that Diya Patel along with Porter Rodriguez were the recipients of this year's 2022 Martin Luther King Scholarship in the amount of \$20,000 each. She also gave a shout out to Mitch Evans for his work on designing a district logo, which includes the borough lighthouse and the "s" dividing the land and sea. She communicated that Officer Browning shared a letter with families concerning police involvement in the district. She thanked chorus teacher Chris Stanley and student Evan Anderson for her performances at Convocation. She recognized Alisha Stripling, Director of Finance for her work on the submission of an important grant.

Chris Donahue, welcomed everyone back, and wished staff, students and parents a successful year. He also communicated he is excited for the new HBI program which is going forward and is excited to see the results from it.

Dan Kelley thanked Peter Anderson for the tours of Deans Mill School and Stonington Middle School and looks forward to getting a tour of the other schools. He communicated about the recent editorial in the paper about paraeducators, and added they desire better. We have a shortage in Stonington and hopefully we can continue to work on this issue.

Heidi Simmons communicated about the 911 events and the Piver Cup taking place at the high school this weekend. She shared information regarding the soccer tournament which generates funds for the Josh Piver Scholarship. She noted she began this scholarship along with Josh Piver's sister and mother twenty years ago. This past year they gave out five \$5,000 scholarships to seniors and two to college students. There will be a dine-to-donate event with area restaurants to donate to the Josh Piver Scholarship fund also this weekend. Students are proud and grateful to be awarded this scholarship.

Farouk Rajab, Chair recognized all paraeducators, teachers and staff for the opening of school.

Comments from Citizens Regarding Items on the Agenda

Michelle Mania spoke about the shortage of paraeducators, their salary and benefits. She shared information regarding wage differences between Stonington and other area districts. She asked administration how we can retain the paras. She noted the recent resignations of tenured paras to other higher paying districts.

Ashley Tewell - spoke on the difference that paras make in the classroom, hopes we do something to retain the paras we have. She commented on the list of filled vacancies on the personnel report. She thanked administration for the parent involvements. She questioned the language on policy 4118.232 included on the list of policies for approval.

Rachel O'Dell agreed with the earlier comments from Ms. Mania regarding the loss of paras that have been in the district for many years. She noted that they feel they were not valued.

Board Presentation

State Testing Data – Tim Smith, Assistant Superintendent and Alicia Dawe, SHS Principal - Alicia Dawe and Tim Smith reported on various student scores and data. They shared high school student's scores for the SAT, reviewed advanced placement participation and scores, math and ERW scores in comparison to the state scores and from various school years. Ms. Dawe recognized the high school for receiving the U.S. News "Best High School In the Nation" award for the last two years, which reflects how hard our students and staff work. Mr. Smith spoke about the performance index for science, math and ELA. He also shared the affect the pandemic had on student state testing, achievement gaps in special ed students and high needs students. He reviewed the next steps and how the district will support students with interventions. (Power Point presentation attached) Dan Kelley asked what the plan is for going forward. Tim Smith shared there will be math labs and each school will take a look at their particular needs. Mr. Kelley asked if the funding is already there to assist with the needs. Ms. Butler said the funding is already available for mental health and interventions.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – August 11, 2022
August 25, 2022
- B. Checks and Bills - August
- C. Personnel Report

Dan Kelley commented on the formatting of the Checks and Bills document on the Consent Agenda.

The following motion was made by Dan Kelley and seconded by Chris Donahue:

Motion 1: To approve all items on the Consent Agenda Items A-C.
All: Aye

Sub Committee Reports

Teaching and Learning Sub-Committee – Kevin Agnello reported the committee is making their way thru the curriculum, which focuses on student choice and more student opportunities. He looks forward to reviewing them further next week.

Finance and Facilities Sub-Committee – Chris Donahue reported that we will have a firmer cost for the Stonington Middle School HVAC towards the end of September. The committee also discussed plans for funding when the ESSER funds go away.

Policy Sub-Committee – Dan Kelley reported the committee did not meet therefore there is nothing to report. He asked if Ms. Butler reviewed the policy in question by the community member. She suggested taking it to the committee for further review and not approving it.

Policies for Second Read – **Vote Required:** 1110.0, 4118.232/4218.232, 5131.6, 6141.51, 6141.52, 6146.11, 6148, 6172.1

The following motion was made by Dan Kelley and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 2: To pull Policy 4118.232 from approval and approve the remaining policies; 1110.0, 5131.6, 6141.51, 6141.52, 6146.11, 6148, 6172.1.
All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Mary Anne Butler reported about school safety, adding she met with Chief DelGrosso, Selectman Danielle Chesebrough and Tim O'Brien, Board of Finance member to discuss matching town funding for police presence in school buildings. She noted it is good to see the three legs of the town, school, police and town working together. She thanked Chair Rajab for joining us in the Back to School Zoom. We gave updates in real time and anyone can view the recorded Zoom on our website. We had 30 families participating. This has been a good opening of school and we are back to having 22 bus drivers. She added that she and Tim Smith did their walk about on the first day. She shared it was fun to see kids and teachers. She was excited to meet the West Vine Street School kindergarten class. She will be meeting them next month again and is waiting to also be matched up with the Deans Mill kindergarten class for monthly visits. Ms. Butler reported that she and Alisa Stripling are currently writing a grant for before and after school care. We will be collaborating with the Mystic Seaport, YMCA and COMO while they provide onsite activities for the students. The COMO will be our partner in the before and after school project. This is a two year project and will allow us to apply for additional funding and years. Mrs. Butler shared information on the agenda items for the upcoming legislative sessions. She communicated that she and Chair Rajab will hold a breakfast Zoom on September 30th at 8am where discussion will focus on a specific topic. The email for public to send questions ahead of time will be republished or questions can be asked in live time during the Zoom. Chris Donahue asked if the number of bus drivers is going up and when will the negotiations for a new contract start with the bus company. He also had questions regarding legislative relief from the state mandates. Ms. Butler explained she is meeting with the legislators and will be part of other committee meetings and will share more information with the Board as she receives it on specific issues.

Monthly Reports

The Board had no comments on the monthly reports.

Board Comments and Items for Future Agendas

The Board had no comments and no items for future agendas.

Adjournment

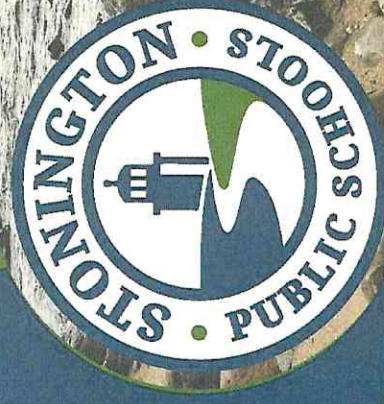
The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Chris Donahue:

Motion 3: To adjourn at 7:39 p.m.
All: Aye


Heidi Simmons, Secretary

Student Achievement Results

2022-2023



Alicia Sweet Dawe, Stonington High School Principal

Tim Smith, Assistant Superintendent

Outcomes

- Share SAT results
- Review AP participation and results
- Update on Pandemic Recovery & SBAC/NGSS
- Connect results to BOE Goals 1 & 2



BOE Goal 1: Academics

Stonington Public
Schools will
continue to improve
academic
performance,
growth, and
experiences in
mathematics and
ELA.



BOE Goal 2: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Stonington Public Schools will continue to develop students who have the social and emotional competencies needed to be successful citizens in a diverse, equitable and inclusive society.



A Note of Caution from the CSDE...

- Both comparisons of data from school to school and district to district vary too much to be useful
- Instructional settings varied across the state



High School SAT/AP Report

- SAT Suite Results
 - School Day Score Report
 - Where we stand
- AP Scores Report



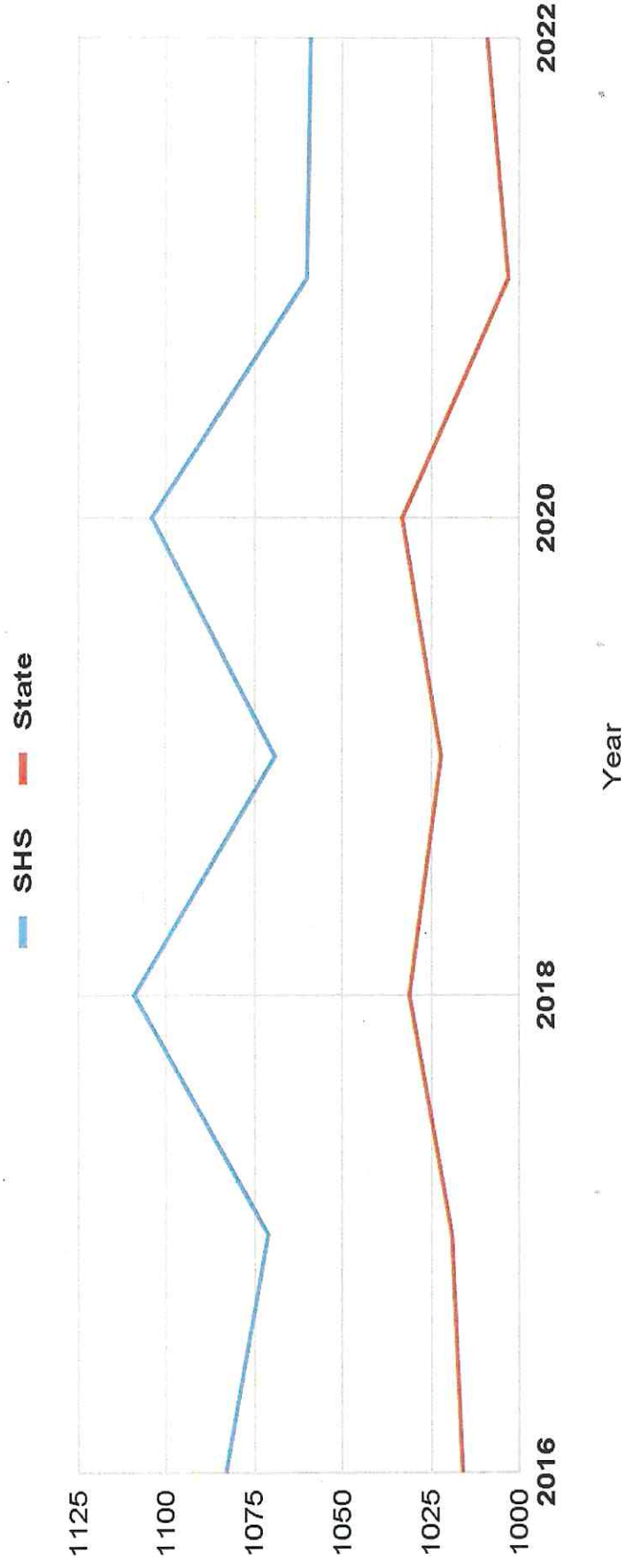
High School SAT/AP Data SAT Data

	# Tested	SHS	<u>ERW</u> State	<u>Mathematics</u> SHS	State
2022 School Day SAT Avg.	136	540	501	519	485
SHS/State Comparison % at level 3 / 4 Met/Ex goal	136	74%	56%	48%	35%



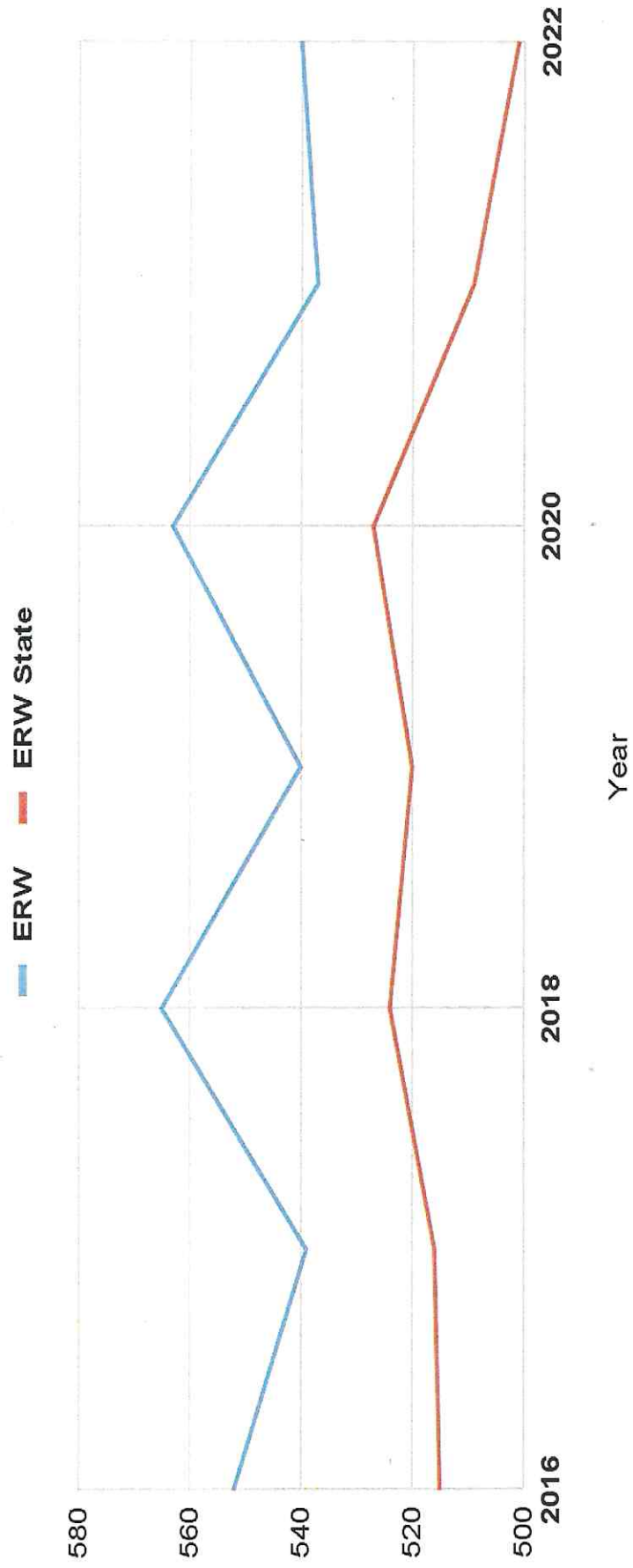
High School SAT Data

SAT Composite Scores



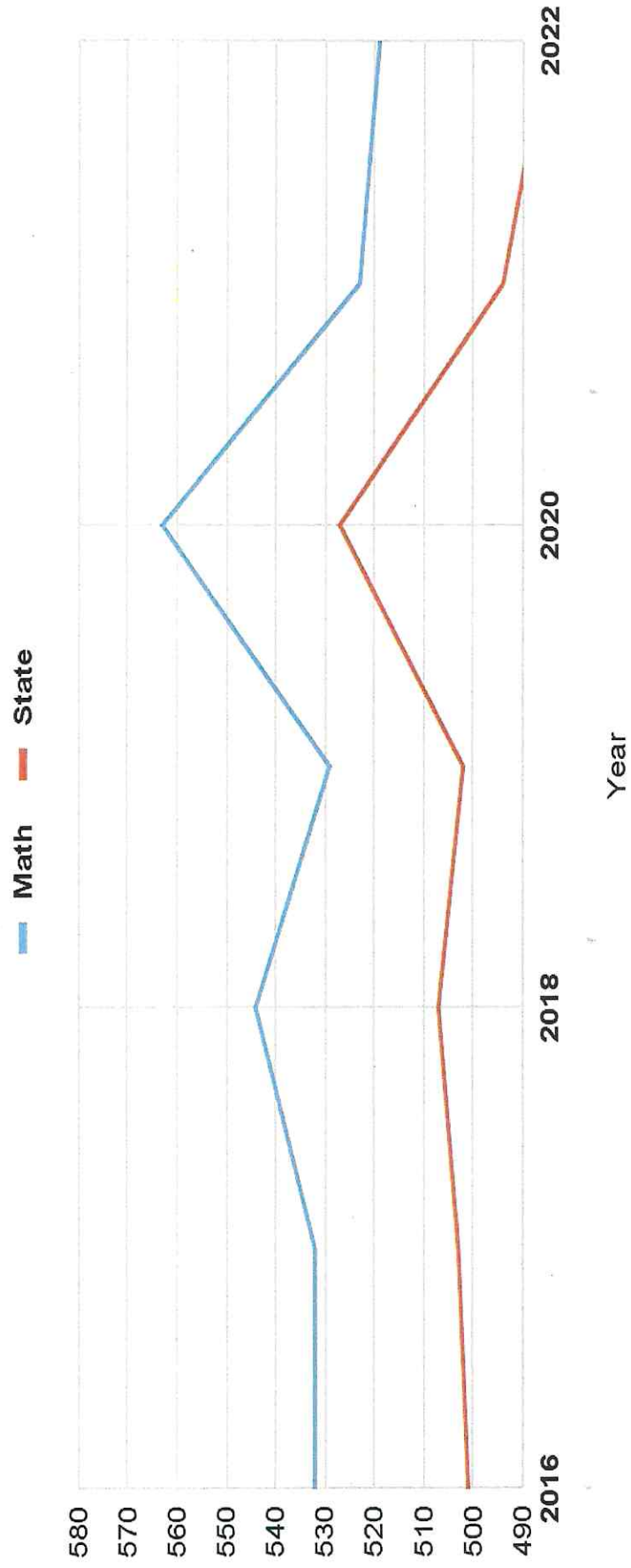
High School SAT Data

ERW and State



High School SAT Data

Math and State



High School SAT School Comparison

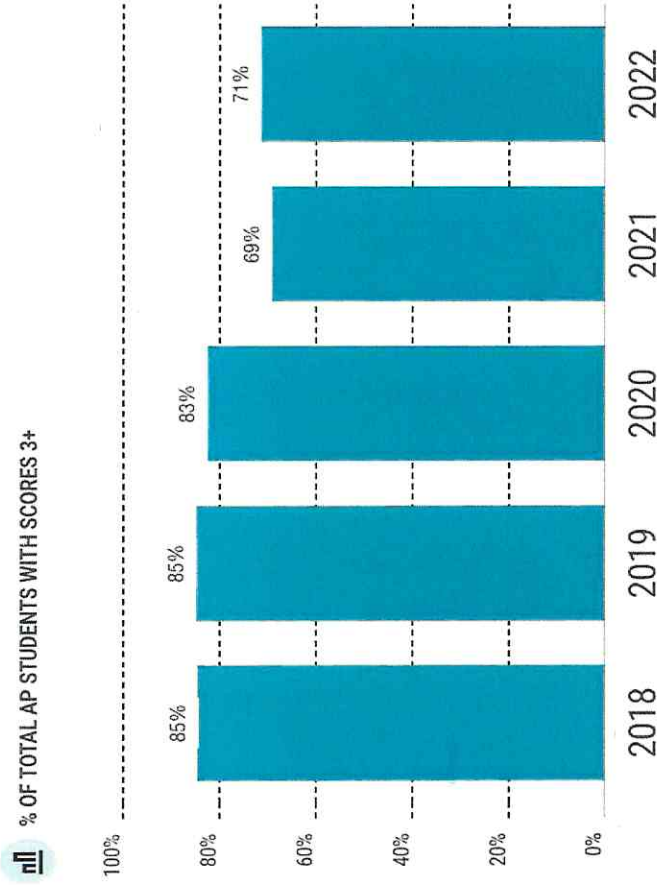
Stonington High
School had the third
highest scores in
the region in both
ERW and Math

ERW Score = 540
Math Score = 519



High School AP Data

• Multi Year Report



SCHOOL SUMMARY

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total AP Students	155	158	160	165	150
Number of Exams	265	289	282	296	271
AP Students with Scores 3+	131	134	132	114	107
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	84.52	84.81	82.50	69.09	71.33

High School AP Data

Scholar Summary (Total Scholars: 44; Average Score: 3.97)

	AP Scholar	AP Scholar with Honor	AP Scholar with Distinction
Number of Scholars	18	7	19
Average Score	3.56	3.77	4.22



High School AP Data

3 Year Trend

AP Data	21-22	20-21	19-20
Total Enrollment	155	155	172
BIPOC	10	16	19
	6.45%	10.32%	11.05%



Next Steps...

- Support all learners and staff with a physically, emotionally, and academically safe environment
- Focus on student engagement strategies to accelerate learning for all students
- Continue to triage the comprehensive K-12 curricula to focus on the most important content
- Recruit and retain a highly qualified faculty and staff



Stonington High School Recognition



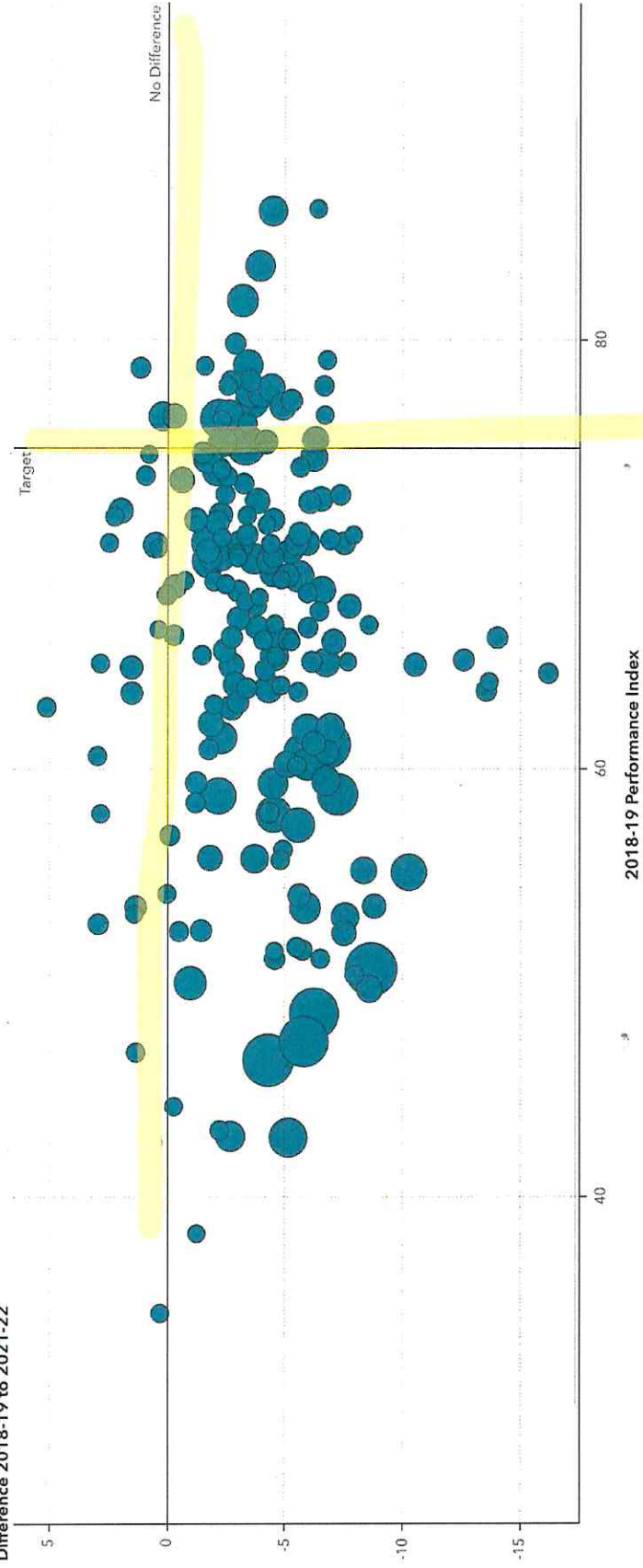
BOE Goal 1: Academics

CSDE Reports Pandemic Recovery Data



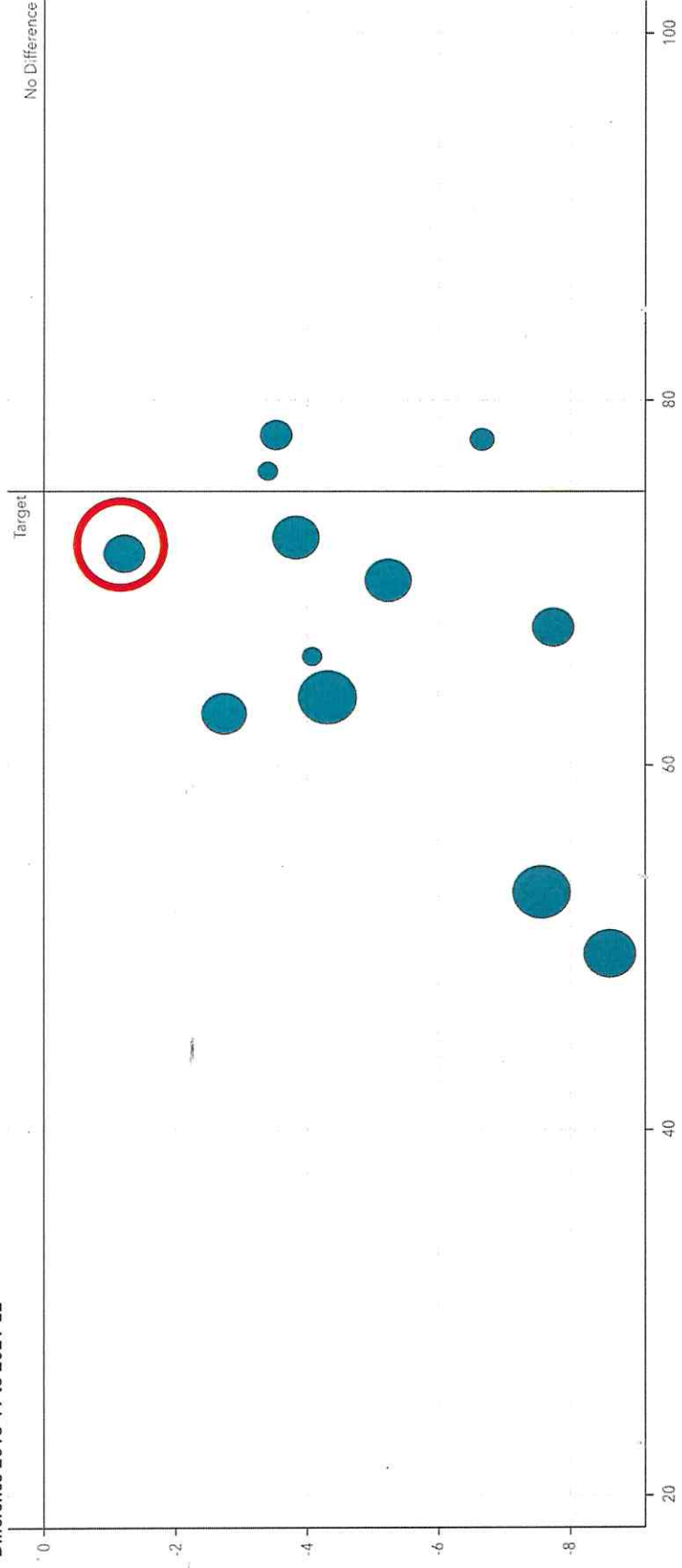
State-Wide View of Math

Change in Performance Index (2018-19 to 2021-22)
Difference 2018-19 to 2021-22



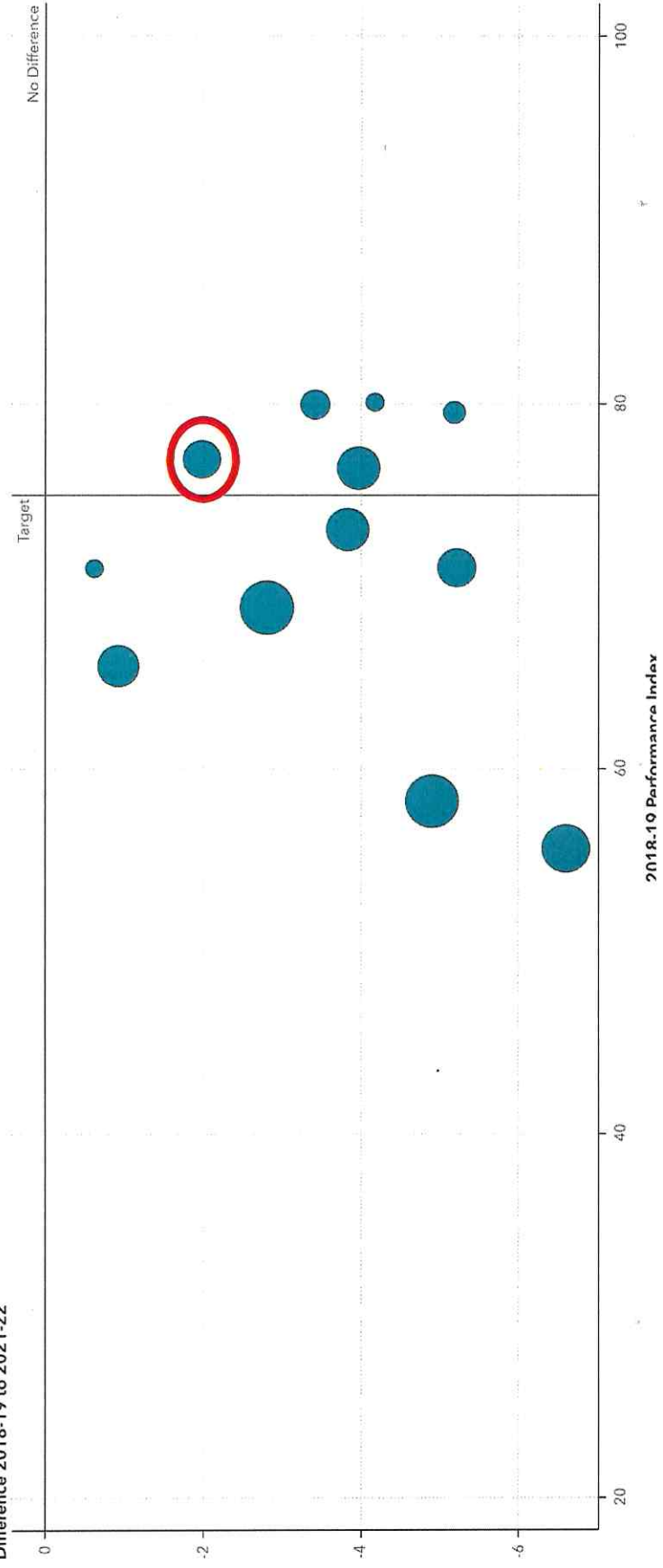
Regional View of Math

Change in Performance Index (2018-19 to 2021-22)
Difference 2018-19 to 2021-22



Regional View of ELA

Change in Performance Index (2018-19 to 2021-22)
Difference 2018-19 to 2021-22



Regional View of Science



BOE Goal 2: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Stonington Public Schools will continue to develop students who have the social and emotional competencies needed to be successful citizens in a diverse, equitable and inclusive society.



ELA HNS & SWD Achievement Gaps

High Needs Students

- Free/Reduced Lunch
- EL
- Students with Disabilities

Gap of less than .8 in ELA & Math

Gap of 2.3 in Science scores

SWD - Students with Disabilities

Less than .8 gap across all subjects

Gap of only .2 in Math



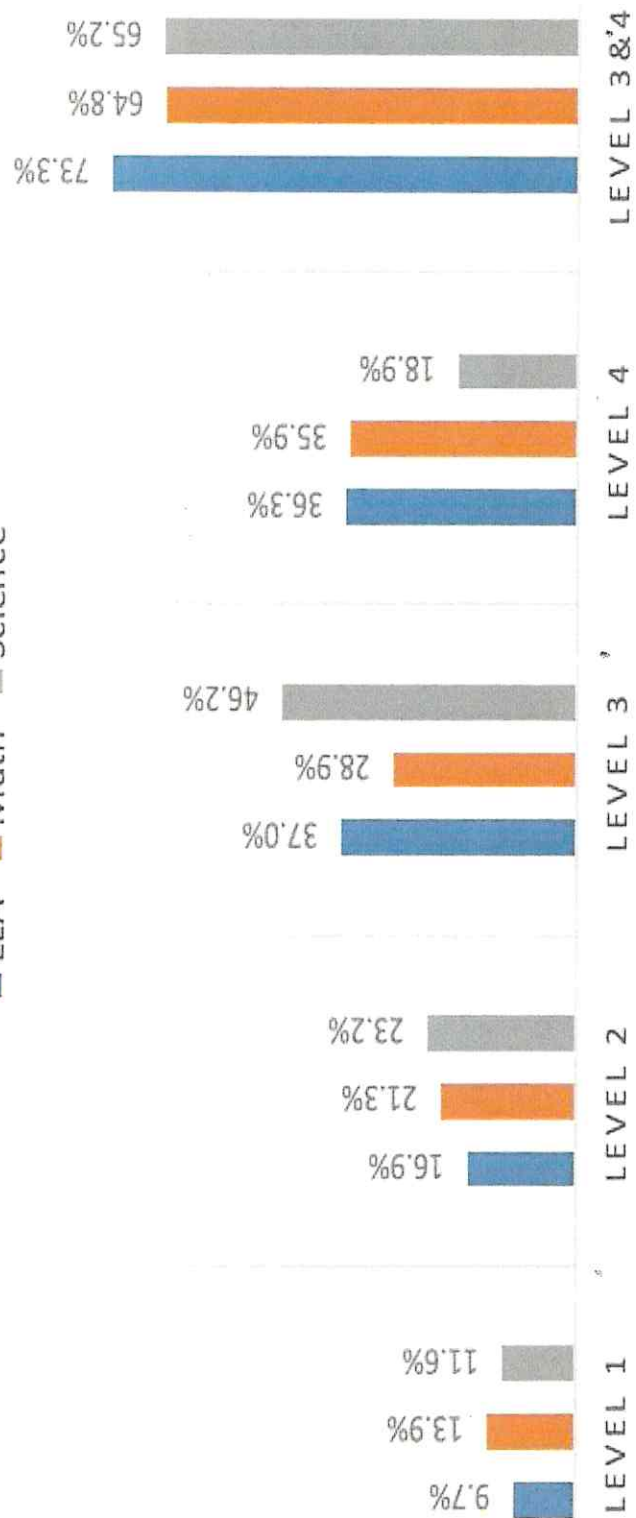
SBA & NGSS Results 2022



SBA Grades 3-8 Performance

2022 SBA & NGSS RESULTS

■ ELA ■ Math ■ Science



BOE Goal 2: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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Achievement Gaps SBA/NGSS

Ethnicity

Percent of students At/Above Goal

Students with Disabilities
37 -51 pt gap

10 - 16 pt gap (Science 16.4)

Largest gap in math, smallest in science

Percent at Level 4

High Needs Students

2.7 pt gap ELA/Science

26- 38 pt gap

0.1 pt gap in Math

Largest gap in math, smallest in science



Next Steps...

Schools will identify and address specific areas for improvement in their SIPs

Maximize use of Pandemic Relief funded interventions



Stonington- United and Rising



Thank You!