

SHS 2.0

Planning for the Future of Somers High School

BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 23, 2018

Why the Need for Change?

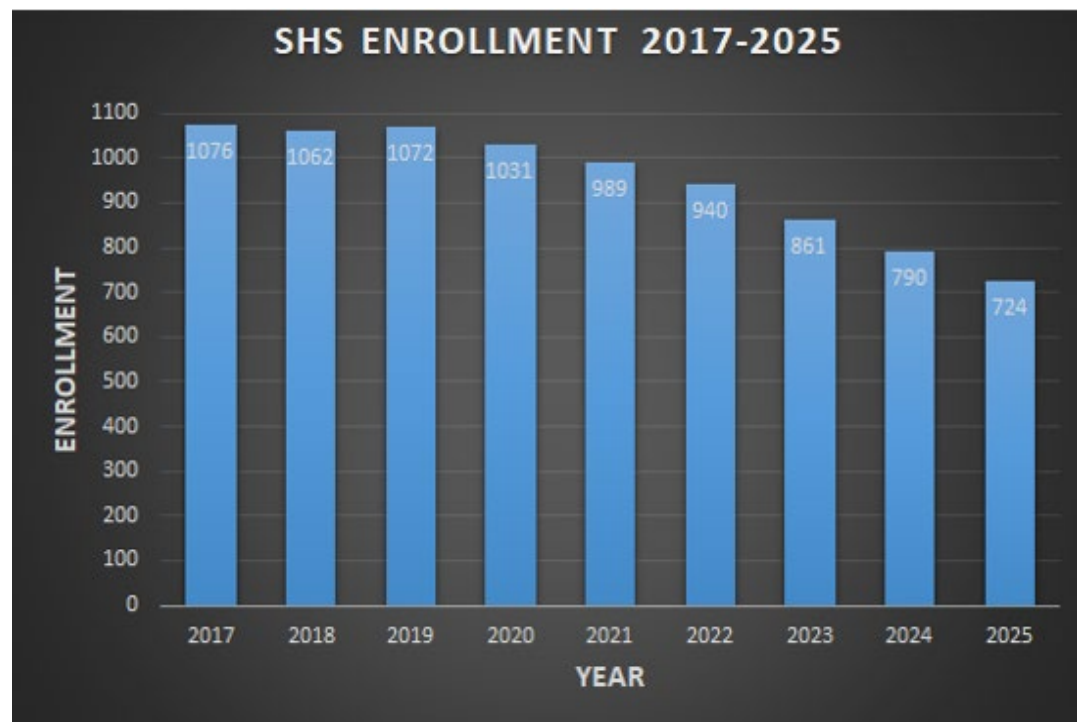
Sense of Urgency:

Enrollment Decline

- 2018 – 1062 students
- 2025 – 724 students

Growing research on effective schooling for our rapidly changing world

Global Citizenship



The Process

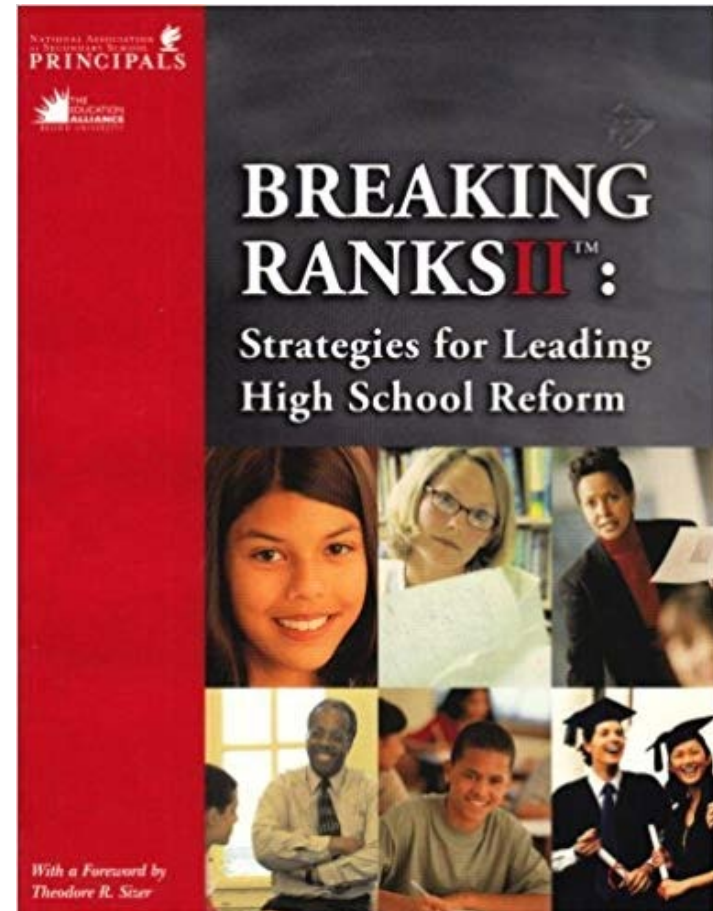
- September – Shared learning around Breaking Ranks and self-analysis.
- October – Change Theory around student engagement – Where do we currently stand on student engagement?
- November – How can we measure student engagement?
- December - Panorama student survey data protocol
- January Strategic Planning Meeting - Three Core Areas
- February - Analyzed data from student focus groups
- March – IPI Training
- May – Drafting SHS Success Plan

Three Core Areas of Focus

I. Collaborative Leadership
and Professional Learning
Communities

II. Personalization of the
School Environment
(Structure)

III. Making Learning Personal



Collaborative Leadership and Professional Learning Communities

Quick Wins

- Develop protocols & processes for department decision making
 - Using the DL job description, identify key tasks that should go through department leaders, such as curricular questions, parent concerns

Moderately Challenging Tasks

Develop, define and publish student learning goals.

Major Tasks

Re-structure the High School schedule to allow for a variety of consistent collaboration time for faculty/students/clubs, etc...

Scheduling Change: What are our priorities?



Promote creativity, deeper thinking and hands-on learning through **longer** blocks of time



Provide time for teachers to meet during the school day to discuss **curriculum, instruction, and assessment** (PLC)



Provide time for students to get academic **support** during the school day



Make the school day more manageable for **teachers** and **students**

SHS Schedule Change 2019-2020

Structural Change	Benefits of Schedule Change
• Longer blocks of time • Classes meet 3 out of 4 days • Classes rotate • Common Lunch for all	• Classes rotating throughout the day maximizes engagement potential • Less stress for students - not all subjects each day • Day is less frenetic for students and staff

Personalization of the School Environment

(Structure)

Quick Wins	• Coordinator of Student Life • Communicate to scheduling committee the importance of flexible period / lunch and learn engage students in their interests / leadership opportunities • Increase network in community to facilitate internship /community service opportunities for seniors • Exploratory committee for looking into expanding Alternative School.
Moderately Challenging Tasks	Provide an ongoing “access period” or "common lunch" to allow for collaboration in new schedule
Major Tasks	• Create an advisory period for all students. Perhaps once a cycle. • Change schedule to allow for collaboration time for teachers and students. • Re-structure into grade level teams for core subjects. (Freshman Academy) • Common Lunch - time to collaborate with teachers during the school day on topics both teachers and students are interested (not just clubs)

Coordinator of Student Life

Main Role:

- To make sure all students feel like they have a place at Somers High School.
- To serve as a trusted adult for students and to help match students to adults in the building.

How?

- Student Life Center – serves as a hub for students, with games, club meetings, a comfortable place to be
- Attendance check in- contacting home for students who have challenges related to attendance; serve as another resource to the family and a way to connect the student back to the school building
- Connect students to clubs (Change the dialogue from “Are you interested in any clubs/sports?” to “What clubs/sports are you interested in?”)
- Increase student access to information - via Schoology
- Increase communication for students in clubs - Create Schoology groups for all clubs
- Organize Student Senate to increase student voice
- Investigate advisory program

Making Learning Personal

Quick Wins	Examine the current PBL structures that already exist the HS
Moderately Challenging Tasks	• Introduce all staff to benefits of PBL on learning, memory, and retention and roll out the PBL protocol. • WISE (12th grade) – expand the program to all seniors to internship project • Capstone project • More interdisciplinary projects and whole grade level projects • Redevelop 9th and 10th to streamline it with the MYP at SMS • Humanities program • Develop a PBL Protocol. • Continue professional learning on effective PLCs. • Continue professional development for differentiation strategies.
Major Tasks	• Implement a project-based learning activity in each of the four years and make project-based learning an integral part of the culture of every discipline at every grade level in the high school. • Implement the MYP (9th and 10th grade) by 2024

Project-Based Learning

Overview:

- Project Based Learning (PBL) prepares students for academic, personal, and career success and readies young people to rise to the challenges of their lives and the world they will inherit.

Current Practices:

- Personal Learning Project (9th grade English)
- Human Rights Project (10th grade Social Studies)
- 20 Time Project (11th grade social studies)
- WISE program – expand to include more students
- Science Research
- Smaller classroom projects

