

Shepherd Hill Regional High School

School Council Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

- I. **School Council Members:** Principal, 2 SHRHS teachers, Booster Club representative, SHMPA representatives, Community Member, Student Representatives, SHRHS assistant principals (guests)
- II. **Review of Mission and Scope**
- III. **Selection of Chair (Mr. Elwell) and Vice Chair (KC Poplowski)**
- IV. **Review Meeting Dates:** January 15, 2025, March 19, 2025, May 14, 2025
- V. **2024-2025 School Year**
  - A. **Teaching and Learning**
    - Program of Studies Highlights-new courses approved by the School Committee
      1. Financial Algebra: (New) Increase financial literacy skills
      2. AP Precalculus: (New) Comprehensive study of functions
      3. World Drumming: (New) Learning drumming techniques from cultures across the world
      4. Introduction to Humanities: (Updated) Exploration of nine arts of humanities
      5. Introduction to Foods and Nutrition: (Returning) Provides a basic understanding of nutrition with hands-on study of the culinary arts
      6. AP Physics 1&2: (Returning) Provides an understanding of foundational physics principles through an inquiry-based instructional approach
      7. Terrorism: (Pilot) Memorialize this year; Exploration of the essence of terrorism and developing an understanding of its causes, nature, and consequences
      8. Introduction to Firefighting: (Pilot) Introductory overview of fire science, firefighting, and emergency service essentials
      9. Introduction to Criminal Justice: (Pilot) Introductory overview of the criminal justice system.
    - Innovation Pathways:
      1. Biomed(Health) going well.
      2. Engineering hasn't hit performance targets, so will shift to redesignation of Clean Energy. If approved, there will be another infusion of funds for modified science labs. Additionally, pathway grants may be used for upgrades.
    - Handbook Change:

Cell Phone Policy

More communities are moving toward cell phone bans. SHRHS did Not because the district is not a 1:1 district, meaning not every student has access to a chromebook. Cell phones are allowed at certain times of the day (i.e. lunch). With this policy in place, there has been a decrease in social media investigations. This can be attributed to staff and teachers following through, setting expectations, and holding accountability.

Parking adjustment: Decrease to \$100 for students who are eligible later in the school year

- NEASC - Self Study Committees Formed  
Surveys completed-good completion rate  
Self Study phase 10/2024-1/2025; will be worked on during Professional development days and faculty meetings. Submit by the Spring. 10/6-10/7 will have a visiting committee come in and tell which areas to work on. Decennial visit will be 10-17-2027 through 10-20-2027

**B. *School Climate and Culture***

1. Working on increasing staff morale and student engagement
2. The Energy Bus (overriding theme this year) Focuses on arriving at work with positive attitude and presenting more positivity to students by reframing thinking (increase positivity and decrease negativity)
3. Principal Advisory Council

**C. *Shepherd Hill Music Parents Association (SHMPA) Updates:***

1. Festival of Crafts: 32nd Year - Saturday, Nov 23rd - over 200 crafters coming - Expect about 4,000 visitors
2. A Disney Character Dinner: Shepherd Hill Chorus - Wednesday, October 30th
3. Marching Band Home Show was Saturday, October 12th - Successful day
4. Holiday Spectacular: Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th
5. Gillette Events - 3 Pats games left to volunteer for in 2024

**D. *Booster Club Updates:***

1. Meat raffle: Charlton Beagle Club on November 15th
2. Wizards basketball game: Working with PTO for event on November 21st
3. Breakfast with the Grinch at Nichols on December 6th - \$10/pp

**E. *Student Voice Update:***

1. Liking new cell phone policy-more engaged school peers
2. Student reps like that cafeteria is off limits following the end of school day-keeps cafeteria free from trash
3. Positive homecoming dance experience

**F *Teacher Voice:***

1. Cell phone policy has helped with engagement and behavior

**G. *Happenings:* Presented by Mr. Resener and Mr. Leach**

1. Jump Start - almost 200 incoming freshman attended
2. BOY - great start; minor issue with parking; Lifetouch school pics; Rep for class rings fell ill and is postponed
3. First Honors Dinner - 120 students eligible; Father-son co-speaker alumni
4. Fall sports winding down and Winter beginning soon
5. Drama production auditions complete; rehearsals started for January show
6. Band Home Show
7. Homecoming dance - 504 students attended and there were no issues
8. Lockdown happening on 10/24
9. Gym floor was refinished, will look into some company for auditorium

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55pm