

NHS School Council

October 07, 2025

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Violet Aldrich, Amber Barbere, Chris Cain, Priya Kaur, Luna Mutabzi, Aaron Ribaud-Smith, Cady Seaton, Erin Seaton, Andy Wulf

I) Introductions: Highlight and Hope for School Year

- Team members introduced themselves and shared their highlights from the start of school along with their hopes for the school year.
- In summary of the highlights, parents noted their students are in a good place. Students and teachers noted a positive energy in the building, but still work through establishing the routines of the school year. Students also expressed how they are really enjoying the classes they have this year.

In summary of the hopes, members expressed the following:

- A desire to express learning in the method that works best for each student
- Continue to have everyone celebrated
- Juniors in the meeting hoped to work on their post-secondary plans.
- Continuing the work from last year's council meetings.

II) Review Open Meeting Law and Sign-off on Receipt

- Council members received the Open Meeting Law information packet and then reviewed the meeting dates for the school year.

III) High School Update

- **Nov 3rd Budget Hearing:** Andy Wulf talked about the School Committee's budget hearing that will take place on Nov 3rd from 6 - 7:00 PM. He explained this is an opportunity for the community to express their hopes around the school system's budget for next year. He invited all council members to attend.

- Andy Wulf highlighted a few areas the school council has played a role in to expand the high school's offerings/programs through the budget.
 - Peterson School Partnership
 - PSATs for all sophomore and juniors.
 - Pathways Programming
 - College and Career Center
- Andy Wulf reminded the council that on Thursday Grades 10 and 11 will take the PSAT and the freshmen will participate in activities to support their transition. Seniors can participate in a job shadow, college tour, or come to the high school to receive help on their college essays.
- The school's first **safety drill** will take place this Friday.

Discussion happened around how the school communicates the drill for students. Students noted how the teachers do a very good job of explaining the purpose of the drills while not creating a sense of fear.

Clarification on the objectives of the ALICE drill was given. Andy Wulf explained how the drill is about giving students and teachers options with a given scenario of an intruder in the building.

IV) High School Accreditation

- Andy Wulf shared how last week a team of 8 educators visited the high school. They interviewed students and teachers. Observed every classroom and reviewed evidence around the following growth areas the high school has been working on:
 - The school will integrate the portrait of a graduate into the curriculum as well as the culture of the school.
 - The school will complete the written curriculum for all courses in all disciplines, including units of study with guiding/essential questions, concepts, content, skills, instructional strategies, and assessment practices.
 - Increase faculty voice and opportunities to take active roles in developing a culture where everyone is responsible for the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional well-being of every student and the professional culture. In addition, professional development must be geared toward faculty needs within the building.
 - Re-evaluate existing programming and systems designed to support students with social and emotional needs, disabilities, ELLs, non-identified students, students on

accommodation plans and regular education students.

- Develop and implement a plan to ensure that professional development is relevant to the goals of the high school improvement plan and the professional learning needs of teachers as they work to improve student learning and well-being.
- Improve learning spaces and capital improvements are needed to ensure the delivery of high-quality curriculum, programs, and services. NOTE: Newburyport High School is a safe space for students; however, it needs additional, flexible, and multi-use learning spaces to support all students.
- Andy Wulf shared how the team provided an overview of their findings to the faculty last Wednesday. In general, there has been growth/progress in all 6 areas. He explained that NEASC will provide an official report to the high school in 6-8 weeks.

V) School Improvement Planning Activity

- The council broke into 2 groups to review the goals, actions, and measures of the high school's improvement plan.

[NHS School Improvement Plan](#)

- For each goal the council participated in a discussion around the following 3 prompts:
 - What excites you about the goal?
 - What's missing or unclear?
 - What impact do you hope to see if this goal succeeds?
- Main points from the discussion are below. Andy Wulf will use the discussion to make edits to the improvement plan.
 - [Climate and Engagement Goal](#)
 - The importance of discussing the cultural climate of the school.
 - Need for clarity regarding the portrait of a graduate and its value.
 - Enhancing parent involvement and understanding of the portrait of a graduate.
 - Suggestions for conversation starters for parents to engage with their children about school.
 - [Student Learning Goals I and II](#)
 - The need for marketing the portrait of a graduate to enhance student awareness of various paths beyond traditional college.
 - The significance of including non-traditional students' voices in discussions about their educational pathways.
 - Sharing success stories of students who explored alternatives like trades and gap years to encourage others.
 - The value of portfolios as an alternative to traditional testing.
 - Encouraging flexibility in educational paths and recognizing students' unique learning opportunities.
 - The impact of student-led conferences and reflection in the learning process.

NOTES FROM DISCUSSION

| <u>CLIMATE AND ENGAGEMENT GOAL</u> | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Exciting About Goal | Recognizes not all do POG Measuring Success Being Flexible to Change |
| Missing or Unclear | Wording (What does this mean/look like All academic: No real Culture Recognition Expanding CLIPS to include advisors/teaches |
| Impact Hope to See | More depth of understanding across classes/education Including more non-traditional learners voices and opinions |

| <u>Student Learning Goal 1</u> | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Exciting About Goal | Flexible post-graduation plan Variety of options Exposure to college/graduation plan Reflect on learning |
| Missing or Unclear | More parent communication around portfolios Dual Enrollment When are portfolios made |
| Impact You Hope to See | A hub for information Make Post-graduation more inviting Emphasis outside of academics, the experiences |

| <u>Student Learning Goal 2</u> | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Exciting About Goal | Common Planning Time Student Portfolios Valuing Different Types of Learning |
| Missing or Unclear | Clearly Define the extent of situational absences Go beyond ELA and Math |
| Impact You Hope to See | Student dialogue/Input |