



Norwell High School

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Norwell High School
School Council
September 29, 2025
2:45 pm
High School Community Room

Attending: Morgan Reynolds (student), Henry Jacobs (student), Grace Hawk (student), Mary Lou O’Leary (community), Bryan Bechtel (teacher), Amy Cortright (teacher), Marc Bender (principal and chair), Sharon Rbeiz (parent), Valerie Shea (parent), Amy Harrison (parent)

Absent: Chris Schipani (parent), Lara Booras (parent)

Marc called the meeting to order at 2:49 pm

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions

Marc introduced the new student members and explained how the meetings work. Our major objective is to develop the School Improvement Plan aligned with the District Strategic Plan.

- Officer Election: Vice-Chair

Marc nominated Grace Hawk to serve as the vice chair for the 2025-2026 school year. Sharon seconded the motion.

Motion carries 10-0

- NPS Strategic Plan - Introduction to Flip Book

The district has created a digital Flip Book to present its current Strategic Plan. We will use recommendations from the high school NEASC visit this year and the NPS Strategic Plan to develop our new School Improvement Plan.

- 2025-2026 NHS School Improvement Plan - Revisited

1. Create rigorous and relevant learning experiences:

Refine curricular offerings: this is included in every School Improvement plan. Some highlights from the previous plan and how they are being implemented:

- We have introduced AP Economics and are running one section this year
- AP French and Arabic II are not running this year due to budget constraints but are still in the Program of Studies

Some other budget impacts:

- Some class sizes (particularly senior English classes) are very large
- Study halls are larger
- The proposed one-term writing class is not running

Assessment and grading:

- Departments are increasing the number of common assessments per course so that the essential learning is consistent regardless of teacher

2. Provide a safe and inclusive environment to support social, emotional, and personal growth:

Provide tiered systems of support:

- Panorama software used to match students with the supports they need
- Panorama AI tools can provide additional suggestions for suggesting supports
- Types of supports include preferential seating, check ins, meeting with support staff, etc.

3. Enhance knowledge, foster innovation, and drive continuous improvement

NEASC Accreditation process:

- Self-study, collect evidence, site visit, report
- Areas of focus from the report will inform our next School Improvement Plan-- a new building will likely be one of their recommendations

Vision of the Graduate:

- Key component of accreditation
 - Qualities we expect of a Norwell High School graduate
 - How do we measure each of the standards we set (typically done in other schools with a portfolio for each student)
 - There was discussion on how/if we are tracking post-graduation outcomes, and how the portfolio would help students develop a more holistic view of themselves as learners and people. The 9th-grade seminar addresses some of these issues (empathy, interpersonal skills, soft skills).
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- **School Council Focus Areas for Congress of Councils**

The expectation is that finances are going to be a challenge again this year. We will not be considering adding positions this year, but whether or not we need an override to maintain level services.

Marc explained to new members how Congress of Councils works. Members discussed impacts of budget cuts and possibilities for override options next budget season, the importance of timelines and sharing with the public how the process works, and communicating the impacts of budget cuts from last year.

*Grace Hawk left at 3:26

- **Review of Calendar for Future Meetings**
 - Congress of Councils - Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7:00 pm Central Office
- **Public Participation**

Motion to adjourn: Bryan Bechtel, second Amy Cortright

Motion carries 9-0