

Oct 28, 2025 | 📅 School Council Meeting

Attendees: Allison Hamilton Evan Blais Haley Budden Jamie Sokolowski
Kelly Garbarino Lauren O'Brien Molly Farrell Matthew Valli rani327@gmail.com

Notes

- Jamie presented updates on the timeline, indicators, and overall progress toward implementing the new standards-based report card.
- Parents asked clarifying questions about the purpose and benefits of shifting from traditional letter grades to a standards-based system.
- The team emphasized that this has been a year-plus long process, with teachers investing significant time to adjust and align instruction and assessments.

Suggestions & Discussion Highlights:

- Opening framing: Begin the presentation by inviting families to “put away the expectation of traditional A–B–C grading” and introduce what standards-based grading means.
- Mid-semester communication: Discuss how teachers will communicate if a child requires additional support (teacher outreach, school assessments, intervention cycles).
- Family communication:
 - Kelly shared that there will be a cover letter with detailed information about curriculum, expectations, and personalized teacher comments.
 - Rani noted that families will be reassured by understanding that this is the gold standard in reporting and by hearing the benefits of the change.
- Visual aids:
 - Add a slide showing past versions of report cards for comparison.
 - Haley B shared the document outlining cut points for consistency across grades.
 - Teams explained the grading rubric used to determine proficiency levels.
- Anticipated parent questions:
 - “Will this clearer form of reporting correspond with what we see on MCAS results?”

- Rani noted the report card serves as an ongoing reference point for progress toward standards.
- Design & Presentation Ideas:
 - Create an infographic showing how state assessments, school assessments, and the report card connect.
 - Use color schemes to indicate progression (e.g., green to red), tied to a timeline (Sept – Jan – June) to show expectations across the year.
 - Consider flipping the layout (left to right) so progression moves naturally toward the end-of-year goal.
 - Visuals will help with clarity and family understanding.

Next Steps:

- Incorporate visuals and parent-facing explanations into the presentation for 10/29.
- Refine messaging to clearly define standards-based grading and its advantages (*the why)
- Finalize the rollout communication plan, ensuring alignment with assessment cycles and family touchpoints.
- Assessment conversation on 11/25