

School Governance Council Meeting Minutes **Dec 8, 2025**

Date: December 8, 2025

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 PM

Attendees:

Rosae Rivera-Hainaj, Donald Moses, Eric Jackson, Tina DeAmicis, Emily McClain, Madison Ly, Chris Wuersh, Mubarra Elahee, Savannah Nazaire, Muriel Drake

1. **NEASC Update**

- Emily provided an overview of the NEASC process and shared that the school is currently in the self-reflection phase.
- Staff are divided into standards-based committees and are actively rating each principle and providing rationale based on collected evidence.
- Committees will soon transition into writing the official report, due in mid-February.
- The school is preparing for the Collaborative Conference Visiting Team on March 4–5.
- Emphasis was placed on thoughtful reflection, continuous improvement, and aligning systems and structures with student success.
- Standards not met will become priority focus areas.

2. **Introductions**

- New members were welcomed, and introductions were made.

3. **Data Review (Presented by Emily McClain)**

Key Observations

- The number of F grades exceeds the number of students failing, indicating that many students have multiple failing grades.
- Juniors currently have the highest percentage of honors/high honors.
- Freshmen remain the most vulnerable group as they adjust to high school expectations.
- Seniors may not always be choosing the most appropriate courses for postsecondary preparation.
- High-achieving students seem to have more course options than mid- and lower-achieving students.

- Questions were raised about whether demographics or expectations influence these differences.

4. Data Questions and Next Steps

- Additional demographic and leveled data are needed for a clearer understanding.
- Questions emerged about why 11th graders are performing the strongest.
- Members discussed historical dips in performance, especially in quarters 2 and 3.
- Sharing transparent data is important for awareness and intervention planning.

5. Engagement, Behavior, and Accountability

- Concerns were raised about students lingering in hallways or skipping classes.
- Members discussed the need to strengthen student accountability during lunch and study hall.
- Despite high honors percentages, failure rates remain concerning.
- Council members emphasized the importance of a K–12 approach to preparing students for high school expectations.
- Questions were raised about the status of the second full-time SRBI position that had been previously recommended.
- Members noted ongoing trust issues between the town and district regarding funding.
- With a new mayor and Town Council, there may be opportunities to build stronger relationships and advocate for school needs.
- Discussion centered on aligning HHS needs with district and Board support.

6. On Track for Success (9th Grade Initiative)

- The school is implementing an On Track for Success system for 9th graders.
- Plans are in place to expand this system to additional grade levels.
- The council discussed gaps between high school expectations and student readiness.
- Teaching students how to be successful learners remains a priority.

7. Purpose of the SGC

- The SGC aims to advise the principal on actionable next steps.

- Members discussed identifying one or two powerful actions to drive improvement.
- Concerns were expressed that past recommendations have not resulted in district-level changes.

8. Schedule Rotation Discussion

- Early feedback on the rotating 1–3 period schedule has been positive regarding engagement and attendance.
- Students report that the rotation is refreshing, though sometimes confusing.
- The council emphasized reviewing data to determine whether the schedule impacts failure rates.

9. Peer Mentoring Program

- The peer mentoring program is active but remains in early development.
- Challenges include finding appropriate mentors and scheduling time.
- The goal is to expand mentoring efforts in the second half of the school year.

10. Additional Discussion Items

- Members explored the question: What motivates unmotivated students?
- Brief discussion took place regarding morning arrival processes and metal detectors.
- Continued conversation is expected to support meaningful improvement.

11. Next Steps

- The next meeting will include more disaggregated data for review.

12. Approval of Minutes

- Emily and Mubarra moved to approve the previous meeting's minutes.
- Last month's minutes were approved.

13. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.