

Nock Middle School School Council

Meeting Notes

Monday, October 19, 2026

1. Follow Up: Parent Grading Coffee Hour

Discussion:

- Feedback from the Parent Grading Coffee Hour was positive. The meeting provided an opportunity to explain the school's grading practices, report cards, and Habits of Success.
- The discussion helped clarify expectations and provided parents with an opportunity to ask questions and better understand the school's approach to assessing student progress.
- The council discussed the possibility of scheduling a second Coffee Hour in November to accommodate parents who were unable to attend the initial session.
- The council also discussed ways to increase parent participation and ensure more families have access to this information.

2. Preliminary Budget Assessment

Discussion:

- Special education needs will be reviewed first to help establish an accurate picture of projected student support requirements and staffing needs.
- The council reviewed an overview of the school district's budget development process, including how school needs are identified, staffing considerations are evaluated, and priorities are established for the upcoming school year.
- The preliminary budget assessment will focus on identifying student needs, evaluating current staffing patterns, and determining where additional resources may be necessary.
- School counseling services were identified as an area to review as part of the budget planning process.
- The council discussed reviewing enrollment projections and reading groups for the 2027–2028 school year, accounting for outgoing eighth-grade students and incoming fifth-grade students.
- This review will help the school assess staffing patterns, anticipate changes in student needs, and make informed decisions as the budget process moves forward.

3. Community News

Discussion:

- Council members shared school and community updates and discussed upcoming events and initiatives.
- The council continued to emphasize the importance of communication between the school, families, and the broader Newburyport community.
- Upcoming school activities and opportunities for family engagement were identified as important ways to strengthen school-community relationships.

Summary of Follow-Up Items

1. Explore a second Parent Grading Coffee Hour in November and identify ways to increase parent attendance.
2. Review projected enrollment and reading groups for the 2027–2028 school year.
3. Review special education needs and staffing patterns before determining broader staffing priorities.
4. Assess school counseling needs as part of the preliminary budget process.
5. Continue sharing school and community updates to strengthen family engagement.