NHS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

November 3, 2026

In Attendance: Jeanne Coffey, Neve Mullin, Luna Mutabdzija, Lenny Provost, Aaron Ribaudo-Smith, Tom Rich, Erin Seaton, Cady Seaton, Meilia Simone, Andy Wulf

I) High School Updates

- Activities - Andy Wulf shared the following information:
    - Opening night of Romeo/Juliet is just over 2-weeks away, Thursday, November Post-Season, Winter Concert(12/11)
- Parent Conferences
    - Andy Wulf noted the first conference session took place last Wednesday. The second session will take place tomorrow morning
    - Parents commented how they like having the 2 sessions and the variation of eventing and morning. They also noted how many high schools no longer conduct conferences.
- High School Showcase (Dec 2)
    - Andy Wulf this is the event where the high school showcases all programs and activities it has to offer. It is an opportunity for middle school families to learn about the school's offerings.
- Activities Fair 2 weeks ago
    - During the October 22 Onward Block, the school held its main activities fair.
    - Students noted it may best serve the freshmen and the sophomores. They recommended giving juniors and seniors an alternative activity if they are not sponsoring a club.
- Budget Listening Session - Nov 9 at 6:00 PM (Senior Center)

II) CTE/Pathway Grant Overview

- Andy Wulf reviewed the presentation he and Dr. Hobbs provided to the School Committee the previous week.

- The presentation provided an overview of the high school's existing pathway programs and the rationale for continuing to expand opportunities that connect students' classroom learning to future college and career interests.

- The work is grounded in the district's Portrait of a Graduate, which identifies five attributes of an NPS graduate: physically, socially, and emotionally well; literate across disciplines; creative, innovative, and collaborative problem-solvers; civically engaged; and prepared for life after graduation.

- The presentation also highlighted student engagement data from the VOCAL survey, as well as postsecondary outcomes tracked through the DESE DART dashboard. For example, 65% of the 214 students in the Class of 2017 earned a postsecondary degree within six years of graduating, compared to 57% of the 189 students in the Class of 2009.

- The school has already established three Innovation Pathways: Environmental and Life Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing, and Healthcare and Social Assistance. The continued development of these pathways has been supported by a CTE Steering Team that includes representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Merrimack Valley Workforce Board, Northern Essex Community College, and city and school officials.

- The presentation also provided an overview of what the $3.1 million CTE Capital Skills Annex Grant will support at Newburyport High School:

    - **ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING SPACE:** A large space in the basement currently used for general technology courses will be converted into a state-of-the-art engineering and manufacturing learning center. This will include industry-grade manufacturing and engineering equipment. Engineering technology firms within the Newburyport Business Park will provide consultation on the development of this space and the courses that will subsequently be offered.

    - **HEALTH ASSISTING SPACE:** The former College and Career Center will be converted into a medical lab designed to replicate a hospital setting, equipped with mannequin patient simulators. Anna Jaques Hospital will provide consultation on the development of this space.

- These renovations and equipment investments will provide the physical infrastructure needed to expand Chapter 74 and pathway programming and create additional opportunities for students to engage in hands-on, career-connected learning.

III) Internship Capstone Project Review and Feedback

- Andy Wulf explained that a primary goal for Newburyport High School is for every senior to be able to confidently share their educational story as it relates to the District's Portrait of a Graduate. Through this process, students will use evidence from their own work to talk about their growth as a student and as an individual. They will also make connections between their learning experiences and how these have informed their future planning.

- To work toward this goal, Mr. Ribaudo-Smith has developed a capstone project for students participating in the internship program. Andy Wulf explained that this project will provide valuable insight into how a similar capstone experience could eventually be incorporated into the educational experience of every student prior to graduation.

- Aaron Ribaudo-Smith reviewed the Senior Internship Capstone Project with the Council. The project asks students to:
    - reflect on their internship experience by considering what they did, what they learned, how they grew, and how they contributed to their organization.
    - identify skills and competencies connected to the Portrait of a Graduate, reflect on challenges they encountered, and consider how the experience has influenced their future interests and plans.
    - support their reflections with evidence from their internship, including photographs, work samples, projects, and other examples of their contributions.

- Council members felt the project overview was very clear. Student Tom Rich, who is currently completing an internship, noted, "The capstone does not seem to be overly burdensome in regards to additional work." He also commented that the questions provided on each slide were clear and would help guide the reflection students will complete.

- Andy Wulf shared that the Class of 2030 will be the first class expected to complete a full Capstone Project prior to graduation. The Classes of 2027, 2028, and 2029 will also participate in a smaller version of the project, with the goal of gradually building and strengthening the experience each year leading up to the Class of 2030.

- Andy Wulf also explained that this year, each senior will create a poster using a template modeled after the Portrait of a Graduate posters developed several years ago by 16 NHS students who served as POG Ambassadors. These posters currently hang in the district's K-8 schools. Once completed, the school will print a poster for each senior, who will then have an opportunity during a spring Onward Block to share their educational story with small groups of underclassmen.