

School Council Agenda

November 15, 2017

Room A106 5:30pm

Present: Chris Beyer, Dominic Beyer, Kathy Biel, Kris Collins, Roger Desrosiers, Lily Kimball, Lexi Hermans, Taylor Samuelson, Makayla Davis, Tara Bennett, Keri Vokes

1. **Call to Order** 5:33pm.

2. **Public Comment:** No Public Comment

3. **Approval of Minutes** from 10/19/17: Motion approved

4. **NEASC** - [the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. An accreditation program.]
Fall NEASC visit scheduled for October 2018.

Mr. Palano presented information to School Council. Mr. Palano explained that Mr. Lowe, himself and others work together to organize the information that will need to be gathered and shared with NEASC. This is a “look back” into how MHS is supporting the student’s academic and social/emotional needs coupled with community involvement, etc.

School Wide Rubrics (rubrics passed out to school council members to reference)

explained as to how it relates to NEASC: Feb. 2015 completed by Spring 2017; we worked on the skills we want students to exemplify. The NEASC steering committee works to develop rubrics. The development of a school wide rubric underscores the seven expectations and skills we want students to possess:

- Academic: Employ Critical Thinking Skills to Problem Solve, Communicate Effectively, Demonstrate Motivation and Resiliency
- Civic: Community Involvement, Display Integrity
- Social: Collaborate with Purpose, Exhibit Adaptability and Tolerance

when they graduate from MHS. Thus, everything that is taught we embed the seven expectations to foster skill development. In making this commitment, we as a school, have to have a way to measure our progress. This is why we developed the school wide rubrics; to which, NEASC visits, that occur every 10 years, function to aid the school in looking back as to whether we are making progress as intended. Teachers work on how to tie the seven expectations into their curriculum, in relevant subjects (not all subjects will have the same expectations to cover).

Important note is that the school wide rubrics have not been rolled out yet, next step is to roll out rubrics and gather feedback from students and parents. Departments have been assigned their rubric to hopefully be rolled out in February 2018. End result: there will be assessments tied to the student learning expectation standard guided by the rubric. Plan for students to be graded on their progress in the learning expectations.

NEASC website created by Mr. Palano: www.mhsneasc.org link on homepage on the left.

School council member questions:

- Will the grade on expectations be incorporated on our report card? No. It may look like a separate column and will not go into a grade; however, aspects related to the class may

have an expectation that could result in part of the grade. Example: participation is often part of a grade and may relate to communicating effectively.

- Is there a correlation expected between the grade and rubric. How is that being looked at or studied? What is the student achieving academically while considering the rubric? If we have community involvement and we have activities and the student is involved and doing well or not, and the grade could be influenced by that progress. However, the academic grade may or may not influence, we need to gather more information. This concept is being piloted by some teachers at this time.
- What is the purpose? How does this get buy in? Building the Culture.
- Would this be quarterly? I think we should do it maybe the second and fourth quarter reporting. Then, to improve culture to see if there is improvement and we can look at the data and they will have.
- How would you tell if we are motivated? How would you assess us? Perhaps many avenues, self report, teacher observation, class work that underscores the expectations. When you try really hard and show determination to reach a goal.
- So students get to self assess in relation to the goal/expectation?
- Would that be helpful?
- What if there is a discrepancy between teacher and student? This is why a student self assessment may be helpful.

- Student assessments; students look at themselves and figure out? Tara clarified self assessment and asked what is the best way to rollout? We could have an assembly explaining it then have the teachers talk about it with a question and answer. Students agreed that they would like some explanation for students. Maybe we should have different presentations in each class. We can have people from school council go to each CDS and present it and maybe people will pay attention more and ask questions, pass out rubric for visual. Each student could unpack it, create a presentation and present it to each CDS. Break them down and not present all at once. Unpack one at a time and take some time to go over it so students understand it. Present each line and what we do and don't want to see and how we want to grow. L. likes that idea.

"Sometimes when teachers talk, we don't always understand but we may be able to explain it so students understand it." NEED student level language, maybe a buddy system to create the unpacking of each rubric expectation. The How we present it and who (jrhs vs. hs) is important? Would grade level split up between the two students? Students would like a buddy to help them. May take some time to tweak and work them through. Each different goal has a different departments and it may make sense for department teachers to help in presenting with school council students. The envision is that of an ongoing process and not a grade for one time but throughout.

- Does every department have access to use rubric in different departments? Seems like some expectations would work to pick and choose.
- Parents, what do you need to unpack it? Video tape and put on cable television, as parent assemblies are not always well attended. Woolie news? Sure. Program of studies night presentation night..would that work? Parents may not

attend. Need follow up on how it is working and may have more questions after rolled out. Suggestion of roll out questions for Principals round table in the summer? Open house would probably work the best...Summer is tough..Maybe an online survey with report card. Differentiate between populations and simplify. Some people may wonder what a rubric is. Keep layers of learning in parents

- This is a good tool and the way they come to their community...Concern, will this be rolled out too quickly for students to understand what they are learning.
- How may come to parents night? How do we get parents on board without confusing them and making them feel concerned? How do we avoid students and parents getting a mixed message from numeric grade to skill building? How will it unfold and too quickly? Take it incrementally..make a plan for students to understand who they are and how they act and gain parent support before going to placing grades on too fast.
- Perhaps a mailing of report card explanation and connect ed messaging. We can link things. We have talked to many schools and had teachers go through a mock process without grades...Then we go through 4th quarter as communication goes out to parents....Teachers would take an assessments and just figure it out internally and correlation to work out how each piloted teacher came to their assessment. Only reporting out would be in all departments but students may not have all classes being reporting out. Fourth quarter report would you put rubric out with it? So parents would know what students are being graded on. Yes.

5. FY19 Budget Process Update:

Quick overview: Still in the works as some departments are just completing theirs. Some positions needed:

- Top requests are special education teacher to support caseloads.
- We currently have .6 language teacher and need to bring to a full time position and hope to provide more opportunity for expansion on language and improve our hiring pool.
- An adjustment counselor to support social emotional needs grades 7 - 12 for our tier1 programming and wellness week and bolster up outside agency connections and transition students to our building.
- Visual arts and performing arts teacher.
- Meeting after vacation about how to move towards implementing one on one chromebooks for Shaw and MHS.

6. Program of Studies potential new courses : We are looking to add a few new classes: AP Government for junior and senior high students. Change of History at the lower levels and state changing standards Nov. 28..we are waiting for standards. Adding a Ceramics class, Increase Electives in English to support more culturally diverse topics, and add a Music production class.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. **Next School Council Meeting:** December 14, 2017 at 5:30 pm

10. **Adjournment:** 7:35

