**NHS School Council**

**January 9, 2024**

**Attendance:** Renee Ames, Jim Antonelli, Amber Barbere, Jessica Buchman, Priya Kaur, Laurie Kench, Rourke Lee, Mike Testa, Andy Wulf

1. **High School Updates**
* **End of Semester Week Schedule:**
	+ Jan 23 - 26 - Early Release Schedule
	+ Each block has a 2 hour time slot during the week
	+ Students released at 12:25, Bus Pick-up at 12:45
	+ Students can schedule extra-help and make-ups from 12:55 - 2:42
* **Budget Updates**
	+ Andy Wulf shared he had a preliminary meeting with Sean Gallagher. He summarized the requests developed from discussion during the fall council meetings will need to be cost neutral.

[24-25 School Year Budget Considerations](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1UgpLXH4H9eyc7DEVdnirMUzKQQHecafdx3oIcV9iBeA/edit?usp=sharing)

* + Andy Wulf reviewed a more detailed proposal on the Peterson School Dual Enrollment Proposal.
* The objective is to subsidize cost for students who opt to participate in the program.
* The school anticipates 3-6 students participating starting this summer.
* [Peterson School Vocational/Technical Program Draft](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11sq-Hl-_d43-nivUHm0B_Mmck2hGdq59e6MCa_ttYCQ/edit?usp=sharing)
* The proposal shows the cost per program (Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing. Andy Wulf reviewed how the electrical program would work. A student takes the basic level course summer before senior year ($2500). During senior year, the student participates in 400+ hrs of apprenticeship while also completing 300 hrs of the Journeyman I Class ($3,000). This sets up the students to take Journeyman II Class post high school while continuing to complete their apprenticeship hours. The idea is to have the school budget accommodate summer course and senior course which would be approx. $5500/student.
	+ Ms. Barbere asked is there a rationale for paying for this while we will need to be paying for the Whittier Tech School
	+ Andy Wulf responded that regardless of what happens to the Whittier School, this provides an option for students who have elected to stay in Newburyport and recognize that they want to go into a trade career. Andy Wulf also noted that it currently costs Newburyport approximately $22,000/student to go to Whittier each year. If a student elects to stay in Newburyport vs going to Whittier due to this option, this would serve as a savings.
	+ Ms. Kench and Ms Barbere both acknowledged that should the funding exist that this would be a nice option for students so they can stay in Newburyport with their friends/peers and if they play a sport or participate in performing arts be able to continue in those activities.
1. **School Improvement Planning: Working Toward the Portrait of A Graduate**
* Andy Wulf explained how the school district is doing a lot of work around the portrait of a graduate. This is a main objective of the high school’s and District’s Improvement Plans.
	+ An NPS team went to a NEASC conference and took away some ideas of how to make the concept of the portrait of a graduate more tangible and personal to staff. Activities on the Early Release PD day on Dec 8, 2023 led by teacher leaders at NHS.
	+ To start the Jan 12 Staff Professional Development Day, students will present reflections on how they have developed the skills of a graduate over their time in Newburyport Public Schools. Andy Wulf acknowledged both Priya and Rourke who were going to be 2 of the students presenting. In total 12 students would be part of the presentation.
	+ Next steps with making the Portrait of a Graduate (POG) part of the culture of NPS, teachers will develop a tool they can use in the classrooms to help students connect what they are learning to the life skills part of the POG. Andy Wulf also noted how this will help with our school climate. One area where NHS scored low in a recent internal survey was students seeing the relevance to what they are learning in class. He is hopeful by being explicit around how a lesson connects to the development of a life skill that this should help in this area.

**3) Planning to Review and Update the Student Handbook**

* Mr. Testa provided an overview for reviewing the Student Handbook.
	1. To be reviewed independently between now and the next Council meeting. A Google Sheet will be shared for notes, comments, edits, questions.
	2. Two proposed item changes to be discussed further:
		1. Use of breathalyzers at school events. Make this more apparent. It’s embedded within the chemical health policy now. Make it a subset of Search and Seizure.
		2. Chemical Health Policy for Student-Athletes: Recommended to make the Clipper’s Compass language directly mirror the model policy of the MIAA. Both for 1st and 2nd offenses, and for the “guilt by association” or the “in the presence of” policies.