**NNHS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**April 8, 2019 6:30-8:00 pm, NNHS Room 103**

**In Attendance**: Sally Brickell, Jeanne White, Marcia Tabenken, Karen Cutone, Henry Turner

Jason Antonellis, Jessie Gilmartin, Rachel McCarthy, Valerie Pontiff, Alex Katz, Amy Xue, Dani Johnson

**Guests:** Jose Sierra, Patty McCabe, Leah, Dong Jiang

**Absent:** Star Lew, Kathryn Teissier Du Cros, Nancy Decoteau, Agi Sardi, Debbie Dashoff, Derek Krantz, Boden Pollack, Zoe Kronberg

**Introductions and Minutes:**

We introduced our visiting School Council candidates for next year as well as Patty MCCabe from the PTSO. The members then voted to accept the Minutes from the February and March meetings.

**Principals Update:**

Henry Turner said that the search for a new History Department Chair has concluded. Albert Cho was the interim Chair and Greg Drake has been appointed the new Chair of the department.

Kate McCarthy is stepping down as special education coordinator so we will be filling that post as well.

Newton North is currently in the middle of budget season. School funds are based on the number of enrolled students. The incoming freshman class is smaller than outgoing senior class which is posing so budget issues. The long term, 10 year growth projection is high and shows gradual growth in enrollment over time.

The proposed new school schedule will be presented at the School Committee tonight. The target implementation date is fall 2020. If approved the adoption of the new schedule will be dependent upon collective bargaining with teachers association.

Principal Turner then reviewed the SIP draft. He discussed that the school will need PD around adapting to long blocks (look at Natick HS). NN will be forming a Flex Block committee – and looking closely at the Lexington high school model. NN will be piloting a new accommodation plan next year. There now is substance abuse counseling funded by the marijuana dispensary tax. What do we want learning to look like and what skills do we want kids to have?

**Some discussion and questions from Members included:**

For the proposed long block, how will they fill the time in a way that is engaging for kids? How do you enforce it or measure it? Is there a way to check in and see if it is working? Checks and balances are needed.

Whose responsibility is it to adapt the new schedule to kids with accommodations? Special ed teachers will need to be heavily involved.

High School Students are bored – NY Times articles. Recommended reading.

Lecture in long block will not work.

A student suggested – 5 min break during a long block to get water, walk around, get out of seat. In English Class – doing skits and popcorn reading can help keep students engaged.

Frequent Breaks can eat up learning time.

How will the new schedule impact homework?

A faculty member asked about mandated curriculum requirements – can we accomplish this in the new schedule?

How do we make this student centered and how do we implement things that you can do for the long block for the long haul?

30 years ago school was about content now it is about skill development because information/content is available electronically to all.

School Committee does not approve schedule and the academic time. Are making changes without keeping students at the top of the list? Are we truly serving our students? More in depth study is needed.

**High School Transcript Initiative:**

Principal Turner then previewed the High School Transcript initiative that the SC will be tackling next year. Karen distributed a sample transcript and School Profile to members electronically. How do we reflect the students experience better on their transcript… and show the skills that they have mastered? Survey from Making Caring Common at Harvard is helping with goals and challenging the over competitiveness of the college process.

**1:1 Chromebook Initiative**

Members than proceeded to brainstorm on our three initiatives related to the 1:1 Chromebook Initiative.

* Damage and Insurance Education and Outreach
* 1:1 Top 10 Important Facts (Care Instructions and Tips)
* Survey for Families (Opportunity for parent feedback)

We will be surveying 10th grade students this spring for feedback.

Will there be a guide related to Teacher and Student Etiquette in the classroom?

The white board suggestions were as follows:

**Damage and Insurance**

Can it be mandatory with a waiver for those who financially challenged

Highly recommended sleeve and screen protector

User friendly info sheet with link

Recommended for students to buy an extra charger or will insurance include it?

Opt out language before you distribute device

Insurance info taped to the device

Admin heavy situation

**Top 10 Important Facts**

Don’t drink near your device

Don’t use pencils or pens on the touch screen

Close your device properly

School only device

Show the relative $ value of the device. (In Starbucks terms)

You will have this for 4 years so take care of it.

**Parent Survey**

How often is the device used per week?

In what classes is it used most?

This is a Pilot, should it continue?

What % of child’s chromebook usage is academic?

Do you view screen time as a concern