**NNHS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, December 17, 2018, 6:00-7:00, NN Room 103**

**Attendees:** Marcia Tabenken, Jen Letourneau, Greg Drake, Sally Brickell, Dani Johnson, Jean White, Jessie Gilmartin, Valerie Pontiff, Amy Xue, Derek Krantz, Alex Katz, Henry Turner, Karen Cutone, Rachel McCarthy, Debbie Dashoff

**Introductions**

**Acceptance of November 5th and December 5th Meeting Minutes**

**Proposed School Schedule Presentation:**

This was a special supplemental 1-hour meeting, in addition to our regular monthly meeting, that was call to review the proposed school schedules that were presented to the Newton School Committee earlier in the month. Principal Turner briefly outlined the School Schedule exploration process to date and introduced Gregory Drake and Jennifer Latourneau, two NN faculty members on the School Schedule working group, who joined us for the meeting. Greg and Jen then presented the thought process and priorities used by the working group in designing three proposed schedules for consideration in Newton. They then reviewed the three proposed schedules with school council and presented the “gives and takes” of each proposal as it compares to our current schedule.

Greg and Jen then opened the floor up to questions from the SC members. Some of the topics discussed by the group were:

\*Long blocks – issues with tiredness and length of time in one place for students. The teachers in the discussion said they plan to fill time with experiential learning and get kids up and around during the long blocks. The proposed schedules will require faculty to rethink how to fill the long block. Long blocks require more hands on and project based learning. The working group will look at best practices at other schools.

\*How does this impact homework? Can homework be done during longer blocks to reduce homework or will there be more homework to prepare for a longer block? How do we monitor the impact on students?

\*What is the impact on CTE? CTE does not need to push into flex block.

\*The Length of the proposed cycles - 6 or 7 day cycle is an improvement but is still hectic for students. Students still need to keep track of days.

\*There was concern expressed that the proposals were predominantly designed by and for adults rather student centered. 45 min of instructional time would be removed from the school day. Do the proposed schedules replace instructional time with chrome books and less instruction/contact time? Is this too much change at once with the addition of 1:1 Chromebooks?

\*What does flex block look like? What is it? How will it make up for fewer contact hours. Lexington does not use flex block for clubs. NN will maintain clubs during flex. Students will not be as tired during a mid-day flex block and more likely to get help. Do we need flex block every day? AM flex block could create issues for staff arrival and students who travel a long distance to school.

\*Should we include students more in this process and possibly be part of the working group?

As the decision to change the schedule was pushed out by the School Committee we will a lot more time for discussion in upcoming meetings.