



11/1/2018

## School Council Meeting

### ***Attendees:***

*Shannon Donnelly-Principal, Lisa Berube-Co-Op Coordinator, Rebecca Smith-Faculty, Maura Stone-Faculty, Chris Coleman-Parent, Lou Schirripa-Parent, Lisa LaPorte Pais-Parent, Nancy Santana-Parent, Brian Curley-Student, Cam Lampert-Student, Sunny Marcus-Student, Virginia Vienneau-Student, Erin Nestor-Recorder*

### ***Presenter:***

*Tom O'Toole-Director of Academic Programs-MCAS Presentation*

### ***Absent:***

*Richard Chouinard*

## **Welcome, Introductions & Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Meeting started at 7:50 am with welcome & introductions of those who were present. Handouts of the current agenda and previous meeting minutes were provided.
- A typo correction was requested by Mr. Coleman to change the section of the minutes on page three that referred to the marketing of our programs. “Our students \*were the best marketing tools and we should try and share our state-of-the-art programs with professionals more often.” Would like the correction to read as “Our students \*are the best marketing tools and we should try and share our state-of-the-art programs with professionals more often.” It was agreed that it would be updated and the typo corrected.
- There was a motion to accept the May 10, 2018 meeting minutes by Principal Donnelly, seconded by Mr. Coleman and the minutes were accepted.

## **Review Administrative Changes**

- Principal Donnelly reviewed the Administrative changes as follows:
  - Dr. Riccio appointed as Superintendent
  - Ms. Donnelly appointed as Principal
  - Mr. Spruance as the Assistant Principal of Freshman Academy and Admissions Coordinator
  - Mr. Ducharme appointed as East CTE Director
  - Ms. Carr appointed as Community Relations and Partnerships Coordinator
  - Ms. Holman appointed as HR Director (to start December 1, 2018)
  - Ms. Rodolico retiring as Technology Director (interviews being conducted within the coming weeks)
- Principal Donnelly commented that the removal of “Interim” from both her and Mr. Spruance’s titles provides a sense of stability and that she looks forward to many years here in the future.



## Cooperative Education Update

- A handout was provided and Ms. Berube commented that the numbers change daily as students move in and out of programs.
- There are 82 Co-Op placements right now.
- There is a plan for Ms. Berube and Ms. Garron to speak with Juniors next week and work with them on the preparation of their resumes and cover letters.
- Mr. D'Aloisio will also work with Juniors on Strands 4&5 Employability.
- MASS HIRE will provide workshops for grade 10.
- Juniors are technically eligible on January 18th, but 8 juniors have already been placed with a Co-Op employer.
- Ms. Santana asked a question regarding the programs listed on the handout at zero- "Is it because there are no jobs in that field?" referring to Environmental/Bio-Technology. Ms. Berube said that they are working on securing internships. There are currently 2 Senior Environmental Technology students on internships with Mass Audubon. Ms. Berube went on to explain that some students have issues traveling to jobs. They try to work with students that really want to go out.
- Ms. Stone asked a question regarding the difference between co-op and internship- "Is it that co-op gets paid?" Ms. Berube replied, "yes & no". She offered that DESE has guidelines regarding paid internships and whether the work is clearly defined or if the work involves learning at the same time.
- Mr. Lampert would like to see more on the job learning.
- Ms. Berube mentioned that students that go out on co-op 1&½ years in or ½ way through Junior year gain more experience and are more likely to get hired.
- Mr. Coleman asked what the target percentage goal for seniors on co-op would be? Ms. Berube replied that she would ideally like to see every senior have some type of co-op exposure, but would love to see 40-50% of seniors experience co-op.
- Ms. LaPorte Pais asked if it would be possible to reach out to potential employers to come to see the school? Or to form more community partnerships? Ms. Berube offered that Mass Bio was scheduled to tour the school soon.
- Ms. Santana asked if it was the expectation that all CTE participate with co-op?
- Ms. Smith offered that it is easier for some programs than others.
- Mr. Schrippa asked if there was any Alumni involvement? Ms. Berube answered yes that there was alumni participation.
  
- Mr. Lampert offered that he works at the transfer station and he often asks potential employers if they are looking for workers in the trade. He starts conversations with people that have company logos on their clothing to try to exploit possible employment opportunities for his peers.
- Ms. Berube mentioned that some teachers will find placements for their students on their own. She often has little involvement with placement in those fields. In the summertime,



often teachers are out working in the field so they continually re-establish those connections.

- Mr. Lampert proposed having an advertisement of some sort go out to potential employers.
- Ms. Berube asked the student representatives what could be done to encourage/motivate students to go out on Co-Op?
- Mr. Lampert mentioned enticing them by showing that by earning money on Co-Op you can buy material items ie. cars etc.
- Mr. Schirripa asked why students are not joining co-op?
- Ms. Stone said that the #1 reason for students to come to this school is for the Co-Op opportunity.
- Mr. Curley said that the curriculum senior year may be a deterrent for some students. That they would rather take part of the curriculum than go out on co-op. He gave an example of Haz-Mat training and that they would rather participate in that than work in the field and miss out on that opportunity.
- Mr. Lampert offered that the reasoning would vary depending on what shop the student was in.
- Ms. Berube offered that some students feel as though Senior Year is their “Last Hurrah” as a high school student. That they would miss out on some of the social aspects of senior year.
- Ms. Smith added that sports/extra-curricular activities sometimes interfere with the ability to adhere to the Co-Op schedule.
- Mr. Coleman asked what the hours were for Co-Op jobs?
- Ms. Berube answered that it would depend on the nature of the job. Also that if the schedule was set, that they still could be pulled on to another “emergency” job unexpectedly. It proposes sort of a balance/juggling act scenario that can be difficult.
- Principal Donnelly added that the goal is Co-Op as they move through the Senior year. Currently, 82 students are placed, which is much higher than in previous years.
- Mr. Coleman mentioned that transportation can also pose a challenge and asked if that was something that could be addressed? Possibly provided by the school?
- Ms. Berube answered that it can be looked into. Depends on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness. That offering transportation would make sense if multiple students were going to the same place (or vicinity) in order to be transported all together.
- Principal Donnelly added that transportation review is part of the initial evaluation for Co-Op.
- Mr. Coleman added that especially for students that need to get out to Co-Op then back to school for extracurricular activities and then home, would be particularly challenging.
- Mr. Lampert offered the suggestion of making driving school more accessible and less expensive. Advertise driving school in conjunction with Co-Op as a reason to get your license, to be able to get back and forth.



- Principal Donnelly offered that there is currently a limitation due to the fact that students would also need bussing home, after driving school. But that they could look into possibly adding an additional instructor for more classes.
- Ms. LaPorte Pais offered that driving schools would be thrilled to secure a contract with a school. Guaranteed business opportunity.
- Ms. LaPorte Pais then asked how the Co-Op program encouraged self-confidence/esteem in a new job environment?
- Ms. Berube answered that they learn job interview skills and that she assist with the interview process, in general
- Ms. Stone asked the student representatives if they felt as though they consider themselves career professionals? That Co-Op should be a priority.
- Mr. Lampert answered saying that Freshman/Sophomore year, they are super ambitious. Later they lose the ambition due to the idea that they're going to college and that they don't need a trade if they do that. They feel as though they don't have to. He said that he felt as though those students were wasting a spot for a potential student that would utilize the trade.
- Ms. Marcus added that Vet Tech has limited opportunity for work in the field that they may be interested in, ie: radiology or K9 officer. There aren't many opportunities for that type of work.
- Mr. Coleman took the opportunity to respectfully disagree with the approach of Ms. Stone that she tells students that they shouldn't bother coming here if they are not interested in Co-Op. He mentioned that as Freshmen, they are only just beginning with exploratory and that might deter them from sticking it out.
- Ms. Stone added that she also tells them to keep an open mind.

## **2018 MCAS Results & Presentation**

- Mr. O'Toole provided a handout of what was presented to the school committee and went over the MCAS results. It was then opened up for questions/comments from members.
- Mr. Lampert started by saying that students feel as though they are taught to focus on how to take the tests (memorization & comprehension) which takes away from actually learning the subject.
- Ms. Marcus added that she took the Biology test last year and would prefer a review prior to the test AND periodically throughout the year. She felt that would be more helpful for anyone taking the test.
- Mr. O'Toole added that they still needed to figure out how to add a testing structure to the curriculum without making it boring.
- Mr. Curley referred to the MCAS handout and asked what percentage of students were considered lowest performing?
- Mr. O'Toole answered that DESE has a specific list of what "lowest performing" consisted of, ie: economically challenged, students with disabilities, high risk etc... He



# ESSEX NORTH SHORE

## AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

said that he would share the link to the DESE information after the meeting which I have attached here...

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=http://www.doe.mass.edu/accountability/accountability-summary.docx>

- Ms. Stone asked what they referred to as “Criterion-Based Targets”?
- Mr. O’Toole also referred to the link mentioned/posted above for a specific explanation for “Criterion-Based Targets”.

### **New Business/Misc.**

- Principal Donnelly asked if there was any new business?
- Mr. Curley added that the FFA is selling paper turkeys. These are to provide Thanksgiving meals for underprivileged families. They are available for sale in the lunchrooms and also in the main office.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:22 am.**