



03/07/2019

School Council Meeting

Attendees: Shannon Donnelly, Tom O'Toole, Rebecca Smith, Sunny Marcus, Virginia Vienneau, Maura Fitzsimmons Stone, Lisa Pais, Christopher Coleman, Brian Curley, Cam Lampert, Rich Chouinard, Nancy Santana, Erin Nestor

● **Minutes approved**

- Motion by Ms. Santana
- Second by Ms. Pais

● **MCAS Preparations**

- MCAS preparations are underway this month
- ELA will be a computer-based test on 3/26/2019 & 3/27/2019
- Dr. O'Toole mentioned that today we have the math retest for 2 students
- Dr. O'Toole reviewed the MCAS Handout
 - IT will be loading of testNav software on 3/5/2019
 - MCAS was a topic of discussion at the Faculty meeting
 - Test security was reviewed
 - Made sure that all staff is prepared
 - Accountability is based on MCAS in part
 - We want students/staff to take it seriously but not too seriously to overwhelm them
 - MCAS test passing score will be low this year and next, but harder tests are coming
 - Long composition: is not on the test
 - Students have to compare two texts and a narrative and an expository is included
- Dr. O'Toole reviewed the Infrastructure Trial
 - Practice run to test IT system and make sure it will support test
 - DESE does allow two extra days for the real test to be sure everything works and to accommodate for issues or makeups
- 3/14/2019 and 3/15/2019 there will be face to face meetings
 - Talk with students about the test and procedures
- Dr. O'Toole explained that there are protocols for the classroom set up for the test
- Ms. Donnelly added that there will be changes in lunches, and seniors to arrive at 11:30
- 5/21/2019 and 5/22/2019 are Math MCAS - 6/4/2019 and 6/5/2019 are Biology MCAS
- Mr. Chouinard mentioned that it would help to have the grade 10 students in academics
 - The day before the math and biology MCAS are shop days for grade 10
- Ms. Donnelly said that students should be prepared, well rested and have ipads charged
- Dr. O'Toole mentioned that the tablets are a little small for this test
- Dr. O'Toole also mentioned that they are allowed scrap paper



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- Dr. O'Toole hopes that students will write the essays first and then type them as this will allow them to use their highlighters
- Keyboards will also be available for the iPads, which was the preference of the students
- Chromebooks were discussed, but introducing a new piece of equipment was not ideal

● Course Selection

- Foreign language - "Spanish in the Workplace" will be offered starting with grade 9
- Extra Math and English classes will be offered to those kids that may be having a hard transition to High School
- Elective offerings - Financial Literacy & US Govt & Politics
 - Mr. Coleman asked if Financial Literacy would include basics? Yes, starts with basic personal money mgmt
 - Ms. Santana asked if kids in engineering now would miss out on financial literacy as 10th graders? Tom & Shannon both answered that is something that will need to be considered
- Targeted academic assistance will now include Biology along with English & Math
 - Mr. Chouinard asked if we would put a lower cap on those classes? Tom answered Yes, numbers will be kept low.
 - Ms. Pais - Much of the focus has been on identifying students that need help with testing... is there anything else that identifies these students? Dr. O'Toole answered that we use a lot of other information to identify them, not only testing, including teacher input on particular students. Ms. Stone asked if the same applies for the students that are doing tremendously well? Dr. O'Toole answered yes, he loves the "Mover-uppers" Ms. Donnelly added that course recommendations also come from Middle School Guidance Counselors. Dr. O'Toole mentioned that most students get what they are asking for as far as course placement is concerned.
 - Ms. Pais asked if the terminology that is being focused on is also being introduced with the CTE programs as well? Dr. O'Toole answered that we are not there yet, but we are on the way to including that. He added that we will have a conversation with CTE to get that going. It is complicated with all of the schedules to get those plans in place.
 - Mr. Lampert mentioned that if we primarily focus on bringing it over to the shop side, it will be limited. He added that maybe if you had assignments on the academic side that included the CTE area, it might work out better
 - Ms. Donnelly added that Professional Development for CTE was a very well received program and that the March 20 Professional Development Day will include some of this also.
 - Mr. Curley mentioned that on the shop side, regarding the portfolio reflections, we are kind of given a template and that might be an area of opportunity to include more of a writing component
 - Ms. Stone added that in CTE they have a good point to include a little academic and technical writing in CTE



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- Mr. Lampert mentioned that he believes that students will be more receptive to writing essays in Academic than in CTE
- Mr. Chouinard said that he has talked with a number of CTE teachers and having a mixed group of kids from different CTE areas makes the cross planning more difficult
- Dr. O'Toole mentioned that Dr. Riccio traveled to High Tech High and they do not believe in grouping students according to ability. People contribute what they know and offer something different, therefore students see all of the possibilities of the connections between programs.
- Forensic Science offered in both 11th & 12th grade - either as science requirement or as an elective
 - Mr. Chouinard offered that we think about possibly bringing back Statistics and Probabilities
 - Mr. Lampert mentioned that having statistics and probabilities AND financial lit as elective/required may deter students from taking it
 - Ms. Stone offered that some students' education ends in high school. Maybe offer some electives in each discipline? Dr. O'Toole answered that there would be a staffing issue & enrollment issue. Mr. Curley mentioned that different electives usually go with different grades.
 - Mr. Coleman asked if financial literacy will be offered to both the junior and senior classes?
 - Ms. Stone asked if Spanish in the workplace would only be offered for one year?
 - Mr. Chouinard asked will students qualify for the waiver if they only do not take 2 yrs of Spanish? Ms. Donnelly answered that Mass schools do not require 2 yrs of Spanish, if the school of choice requires 2 yrs, they would most likely waive the 2nd year. Spanish will be phased out for jrs and srs. This will allow CTE programs that have a required # of hours to complete that requirement
 - Ms. Stone asked if students would choose related? Ms. Donnelly answered No, they would be assigned
 - Mr. Curley asked if students will be allowed to choose their science? Ms. Donnelly answered No, they will be encouraged to steer towards their related science
 - Ms. Marcus asked if a student is on CoOp do they choose "related" class? Ms. Donnelly answered No, it will be chosen for you and students will still go on co-op and have a little bit of related time
 - Mr. Curley asked if it has ever been discussed to shorten the class time and add one on the end? Ms. Donnelly & Dr. O'Toole answered yes, that is something that is currently being looked at
 - Mr. Chouinard added that maybe we should reinstate the waterfall schedule? Ms. Donnelly replied that it is something to think about, but there would potentially be scheduling issues with part-time staff, and issues with the wellness classes and space being available



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- Mr. Curley asked that we share which shops are going into which related areas?
Dr. O'Toole said that he would share that information.

- Spanish I elective offered
- Street Law becomes Law in the Workplace
 - Mr. Coleman offered that maybe the PennState issue would be a good topic for them to cover
- Business & Entrepreneurship
- Intro to Computer Science
- Teacher recommendations were due yesterday and Guidance counselors will go into 10th-grade classes to help with course selections this academic week and juniors next academic week

- **Admissions - Ms. Donnelly**
 - Interviews have been well underway
 - 1347 applications - 100+ are in as "started"
 - 400 accepted into the Freshmen class
 - Acceptance letters will go out around April vacation

- **Budget - Ms. Donnelly**
 - Presented to School Committee just a month ago
 - School Committee did not have any issues with the presentation
 - Another subcommittee meeting took place last night
 - Dr. Riccio will visit some particular towns to discuss budget if necessary
 - Mr. Coleman asked if it was a 4% decrease? Ms. Donnelly answered that it was 4.6% increase

- **Yearbook Quotes - Ms. Donnelly**
 - Ms. Plante said the layout looked off and about 100 students did not submit, so they may be located elsewhere in the book this year
 - Mr. Coleman said thank you for getting back about the quotes and he would like to see the quote under the students' pictures
 - Ms. Marcus, Mr. Lampert & Ms. Vienneau also said that students would prefer that as well

- **Co-Op transportation - Ms. Donnelly**
 - Bussing is not an option.
 - Co-Op placement is made based on logistics as one criteria.

- Next meeting will have the quality school plan available for vote by this committee

- Ms. Stone made motion to adjourn - Ms. Santana seconded motion
- **Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am**



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