



School Council Meeting Minutes

11/21/2019

Attendees: Heidi Riccio, Shannon Donnelly, Erin Nestor, Rich Chouinard, Maura Stone, Lisa Laporte Pais, Louis Schirripa, Sunny Marcus, Gabryel Diniz, Tara Caldwell.

- **Call to Order 7:51**
- **Approval of meeting minutes from May 9, 2019**
 - Ms. Stone motioned to approve the meeting minutes from May 9, 2019. Ms. LaPorte Pais seconded the approval. Minutes were approved.
- **Introductions**
 - The group went through introductions and welcomed new members. Principal Donnelly thanked the returning group for volunteering again and the new members for accepting.
- **Administration Changes -** These changes were initiated at the end of SY 18-19 and were implemented July 1st
 - Mr. Gibson Retired
 - Mr. Spruance became the “West Academy” Assistant Principal
 - Jen Skane was appointed as the Director of Freshmen, Admissions & Student Success, including the SOAR Program
 - Janet Norris was appointed as “East Academy” Assistant Principal
 - Sue Stevens became Special Ed Director
 - Lisa Berube’s position as Co-Op Coordinator became an administrative position allowing her more flexibility over the summer months to assist with Co-Op
- **MCAS Results - Dr. O’Toole**
 - The tests given, starting last spring, were Next Generation computerized tests for ELA & Math. Next Generation testing shifted to college & career readiness instead of just focusing on students meeting graduation requirements.
 - There were many technology issues
 - Dr. O’Toole went through the MCAS Results presentation, his 5th to School Council.

[Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School MCAS 2018 Results](#)

 - Ms. Pais asked if the redesign is more applicable to the real world? In a sense that as a parent will hear that teachers are teaching to the test? Dr. O’Toole answered that there is always a problem with testing being one time a year, one time chance for students. Also, what they expect you to do is deeper and more challenging. He added that they also kept the old failing rate for math & english for the next couple years. Hoping that in that 3-4 year time, the instruction will improve and then they will adjust the bottom rate accordingly. Mr. Chouinard added that teaching students how to show their work properly using computer software will be important. Ms. Pais added that Common Core shifted a few years ago to

include more non-fiction text. Dr. Riccio added that if we approach “teaching to the test” as integrated learning, there will be better results. Ms. Pais also said that we often speak of trying to find the practicality of our teaching. Everything that we are doing we are getting these students ready for “what is next”. So delivering whatever your message is as it relates to real life. Mr. Schirrrpa asked if the state is collaborating by defining those test attributes? Dr. O’Toole - there are different levels of reviewers for each subject. There is an attempt to get to that point.

- Dr. O’Toole also pointed out that taking MCAS on an iPad is not ideal. Ms. Caldwell commented that she typically doesn’t use a keyboard with her iPad, but that she did for MCAS. Dr. O’Toole added that there were multiple technological glitch issues that were challenged.
- Mr. Chouinard mentioned that pushing those students that are right at the line (either above or below) is important, because essentially one question right or wrong could push them either in one direction.
- Ms. Pais asked if there is a prep software to help students with MCAS Prep for Math? Mr. Chouinard answered that there is that type of software available. Some elementary/middle school students are already using it and some of our freshmen. It really focuses on the fundamentals of using technology for math test taking. (ie: placing a point on a graph using their finger etc.)
- Ms. Stone asked if student growth #s across the state went down? Dr. O’Toole answered yes, there was a drop in growth #'s across the state.
- Principal Donnelly mentioned that the accountability also includes attendance and a few other components. Now that we have corrected the way that data is entered and that we have adjusted the attendance policy, our number has been accurately reflected in our reporting.

- **MassIDEAS Update**

- Dr. O’Toole explained that we won a grant last year. Only 5 schools received this grant. It is a planning grant. We created CTAAC (Career Technical Agricultural Academic Content Integration) which is our plan to integrate learning around projects that students will be doing. This integration plan will allow us to rethink learning and connect CTE with Academics. Students are involved throughout 100% of the project. There is an exhibition scheduled for this Spring.
- Principal Donnelly mentioned that both Cohorts worked with PBL Works. She added that she got to attend the second, designing the projects. She said it was great to work with students and be back in the middle of the planning again as an administrator. Another cool thing was that there were some teachers had never met. It allowed them to collaborate together where they would typically not cross paths.

- **Adjournment**

- Ms. Stone offered motion to adjourn, Mr. Chouinard 2nd motion. Adjourned 9:04 a.m.