

North Reading High School
School Council Meeting
January 16, 2014
2:15 p.m.

M I N U T E S

1. Welcome - in attendance: Marci Bailey, Deanna Castro, Sue Shedd, Matt Leighton, Brett Kunze, Emily Calos, Brian McAuliffe, AJ Loprete (nvm); also in attendance Laura Hargrove (English); Derek Dorval (Mathematics)
2. Approval of the Minutes of the December 12, 2013 School Council Meeting – motion to approve as written by Brett Kunze, second Marci Bailey; unanimous approval
3. School Improvement Plan Presentations: Derek Dorval (Mathematics); Laura Hargrove (English)

Mr. Dorval presented on Mathematics

- Continue to research new textbooks and digital resources and evaluate their readiness for the Common Core State Standards and the future PARCC testing. Look to purchase new texts only when they are ready to address these needs.
- Create a new curriculum for Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 written to address the Common Core State Standards. This includes seeking out resources to address the many additional topics covered and the depth of understanding required. Algebra 1 will be implemented in September, 2014, Geometry in September, 2015, and Algebra 2 in September, 2016.

There was much discussion around the Algebra 1 curriculum and how the curriculum impacts course programming. Related topics included staffing needs and vertical articulation with the North Reading Middle School.

- Look to increase staffing to support additional classes in Mathematics. Algebra 1 will be the responsibility of the high school starting September, 2014. No students are currently taking Algebra 1 in grade 8 and fewer students will be taking Algebra 1 in Grade 8 and many may be looking to take 2 math classes during the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Dorval added items for Professional Development

- Many members of the Mathematics Department participated in grading practice exams in Calculus and Statistics in 2013.
- Participated in the College Board reading for Advanced Placement exams in 2103 and plan to participate again in 2014.

Ms. Hargrove presented on English

- The department would like to discuss the realignment of ELA courses and requirements as well as the adoption of a new vocabulary curriculum and additional modern titles to update the literature at all curriculum levels.

Ms. Hargrove noted that she hopes to align the English curriculum more closely with the Social Studies curriculum.

- The department hopes to increase its technological resources over the next two years. Currently, we have two SMART Boards and three laptops; many of us find ourselves needing technology on a daily basis.

This item was offered, although new building is expected to be open for students in the fall of 2014; the expectation is that most to all technology needs will be addressed.

- Department members continue to express a wish for additional department members. This wish creates a situation in which teachers would be able to offer a wider variety of classes, including the electives that might run with smaller numbers.
- The curriculum specialist for the department would like to begin taking inventory of books and materials stored in the English Department office. We would like to explore a more organized and efficient system of loaning, maintaining, and replacing textbooks.
- The department hopes to continue to have additional opportunities for common planning time and professional development.
- The department plans to continue to offer effective preparation for standardized tests. Included in this is the hope for continued improvement in the Advanced Placement English Literature and Advanced Placement English Language and Composition scores.

It was noted that there are currently five sections of Advanced Placement courses in the English department.

- The department would like to sustain or increase students' performance on the MCAS examination. We would like time to analyze MCAS performance data from past years and use this not only to help students do well on the exam, but become better critical readers and writers. This will align with district and state interests toward data collection and assessment.

There was some discussion around the PARCC test and how that will be a program that schools must be prepared to accommodate.

4. Update:

a. High School Accreditation

- i. AJ Loprete provided an update on the NEASC accreditation scheduled for March 2 – 5, 2014; activities from the January 9th and February 6th professional development days were reviewed and discussed

b. The Secondary School Building Project

- i. AJ Loprete provided an update on the new building; comments were focused on a recent meeting between high school administrators and administrative construction personnel reviewing plans for packing and moving items from the high school to the new building in June, 2014

5. Adjournment