

North Reading High School
School Council Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2012

Meeting Place: NRHS Library
Time: 2:15pm

Attendees:

Jon Bernard, Principal
Anthony Loprete, Assistant Principal
Michele Reardon, Parent Representative
Emily Calos, Student Representative
Brett Kunze, Brian McAuliffe, Chuck Campobasso, Teacher Representatives
Michelle Giordano, Science Curriculum Specialist
Jason McIntosh, Social Studies Curriculum Specialist
Carla Lister, Performing Arts Curriculum Specialist

Minutes for the November 8, 2012, meeting were reviewed. Mr. McAuliffe offered a motion to accept the Minutes; seconded by Emily Calos. The motion passed unanimously.

Needs for the 2013-14 academic year were presented by each of the Curriculum Specialists for the Science, Social Studies, and Performing Arts departments:

- 1) Michelle Giordano presented for the Science Department.
The department would like to look at acquiring a staff member (stipended position) as a Lab Safety Coordinator who would oversee lab and chemical safety and chemical inventory.
- 2) Increasing Science staff to help bring down/ maintain student to teacher ratios at a maximum of 24:1 as recommended by NEASC.
- 3) Financial support for professional development in lab safety, AP institutes, and technology.
- 4) Maintaining lab equipment and technology and repairing current lab sinks in C wing which are leaking and will not be addressed when the middle school moves into the current high school space during the construction of the new school building
- 5) Improving MCAS scores and student achievement remains a priority.
- 6) Replacing current text books which are outdated. Consideration of using an online format instead of hard copy texts was raised as a more reasonable and cost effective option.

- 7) Jason McIntosh presented for the Social Studies department
- 8) The department would like to look at investing in more personal (BYOD) technology within the classroom including the use of iPads, laptops and map software.
- 9) Professional development would include guest speakers for teachers, co-teaching methods, alternative assessments, student portfolio program, and attending both AP Institutes and NE Consortium professional development activities.
- 10) Updating current textbooks for AP US Government, Politics, Psychology are under consideration
- 11) New electives including AP Economics.
- 12) Increase current staffing to help maintain and support current Social Studies curriculum.

- 13) Carla Lister presented for the Performing Arts department.
- 14) Dedicated space is currently needed for music and art until secondary school project is done. Additionally, a schedule for the shared space should be strongly considered to prevent any issues or problems going forward once the new school buildings are finished.
- 15) There is a need for at least 3 upright pianos for the music department. The possibility of purchasing computerized pianos was raised as it would not only be more cost effective but allow teachers to program music into the piano for students. Costs would likely be \$1500.00 per piano.
- 16) Continue to ensure the use of Smartboards of similar technology in Performing Arts rooms as they are a core part of instruction and teaching for the department.

- 17) Hiring a percussion instructor for the Marching Band as well as a Drill Writer position to help the Color Guard advisor and March Band Director.
- 18) New electives to include AP Chorus and Show Choir are being considered.
- 19) Moving Chorus to Power Block and scheduling Band as a class is a consideration.
- 20) Create easy transition for 8th grade for Performing Arts and General Arts. Question was raised about possible addition of a summer camp as a transitional course at the high school.
- 21) Professional development to include becoming more familiar with software for music composition and piano lab.

Other Business:

- 23) 2014 Budget was presented. No cuts are proposed for the coming year as of this date.
- 24) New courses proposed for 2013-2014 include AP Computer Science, AP Economics, Mandarin, Introduction to Engineering Design, and Bioethics and Fauna.
- 25) The Accreditation process continues to progress for the High School with individual committees meeting to gather information for NEASC self-study report.
- 26) The Secondary School Building Project is progressing but costs are greater than initially anticipated. Modifications are being made/considered to the plan.

Next Meeting: January 10, 2013 at 2:15pm

Meeting adjourned 3:12pm

Signed: Michele Reardon