

School Council Meeting #3 Minutes: November 16, 2020

In attendance: John Smith, Nicole Kepnes, Michael Jaffe, John Lin, Donna Strouse, Tim O'Mara, Anita Lotti, Brendan O'Hagan, Amal Sharfi, Sterling Williams, Liza Birmingham, and Emily Waugh

Start of Meeting Procedure

1. Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. All members were introduced.
3. The new members were introduced.

Hybrid Updates

- Students, teachers, administrators, and parents are generally happy with the current hybrid learning model.
- The current 2-days-in-school learning model will be re-evaluated (regarding Covid-19) on January 1st, keeping in mind the capacity of each school.
- 6 students will change from fully remote learning to hybrid learning and 4 students will change from hybrid learning to fully remote learning.

Feedback on the 2 Day System

Going Well	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Teachers have been innovative with creative solutions to the longer 80-minute learning blocks.- Students (generally) have respected the mask and social distancing guidelines.- Wednesdays are more structured now, following a re-evaluation of Wednesday's purpose and requirements for extra help.- Students and teachers feel like they are settling into more of a routine.- 11th and 12th grade students have been able to adjust well to a structure that resembles a college class schedule.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The 80-minute blocks have been difficult for some to adjust to.- Indoor dining options have been limited.- It has been harder to reinforce the main ideas and major concepts given the reduced meeting times under the new schedule.- There has been a stratification of students based on prior skill sets.- It has been difficult for guidance to forge connections with students, particularly the freshmen, without much face-to-face contact.- Wednesday extra help grade cutoffs pose challenges with a stigma around attending office hours.

SEL Survey Discussion

- The SSIS SEL Program Package enables grades K-12 to review social-emotional learning with an emphasis on mental health.
- The SEL Survey will collect data from students, teachers, and parents to identify the major issues and areas of focus for Dover-Sherborn.
- The program will advise what programs DS needs and emphasize how emotional learning in an academic setting can be accomplished best.

- This program will work alongside the Portrait of a Graduate program to help determine what students want from their future advisory groups and will start reinforcing foundational beliefs and values from an elementary level consistently to high school.

Guidance Update: College Applications

feedback from Tim O'Mara

- This year, around 78% of seniors at Dover-Sherborn are applying either Early Decision or Early Action to a college/university, compared to the national average of around 37%.
 - This higher rate of early applications may have to do with the community influence to apply early, discussion surrounding early applications, and emphasis on the college application starting during the Summer before senior year.
- Students are applying to more local schools this year.
 - This may be caused by reduced in-person visits to schools far away.
- Gap years are becoming more common. Conversations surrounding gap years are typically held in conjunction with the college application process, with many students opting to defer a year after being accepted into a school.

Student Feedback

Going Well	Needs Improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student support for fully remote students has been helpful. - Teachers are using the same format with weekly learning plans and google classroom technology, making it easier to organize schoolwork and adapt to changes. - The hybrid system has added emphasis and value to the in-person school days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote students have found it difficult to engage during the in-person days and found the situation to be a somewhat lonely process. - The locker room situation could be improved upon as many students will crowd into the bathrooms over the 2 person capacity.

Next Meeting:

Monday, December 14th

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.