

Dover Sherborn High School
9 Junction Street
Dover, MA 02030
Phone: 508-785-1730 Fax: 508-785-8141

John Smith
Principal



Ellen Chagnon
Director of Guidance

Ann Dever-Keegan
Assistant Principal

Emily Sullivan
Athletic Director

Minutes for School Council

October 18, 2021

Present: John Smith(Principal), Maggie Charron(RSC rep), Nicole Kepnes(DS Parent), Grant Mayer(student), Amal Sharfi(student), Chelsea Ohene-Addo(student), Sterling Williams(student), Lily Caplan(student) ,Anita Lotti(teacher), Tim O'Mara (teacher)

Absent:

Donna Strouse (parent), John Lin (parent), Emily Waugh (student), Elizabeth Birmingham (student), John Soraghan (community rep)

1. Principal asked all members to introduce themselves and to indicate what they hoped to do while on the committee
2. Principal outlines the three responsibilities for a school council
 - budget input
 - Student handbook
 - School improvement plan
3. Principal reviewed how the start of school has gone. The flex block was discussed at length and all parties weighed in on the change in schedule as well as the impact of flex block. The various reasons for creating the flex block included: offering concert band and chorus at that time to provide flexibility in student schedules, releasing athletes for after school contests thus avoiding students missing time, extra help opportunities for students with teachers, advisory opportunities for students to connect with an adult in addition to their guidance counselor, as well as conducting shorter assemblies thus avoiding taking time away from instruction.
4. The recent NEASC report was reviewed. DS has been awarded accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. DS received a great deal of praise for the work that has been done in regard to student/teacher relationships, Challenge Success, technology integration, senior project as well as authentic learning that puts students at the center of their own learning. There are three standards that NEASC would like for us to address by next May 2022 and they are the following:

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1. The school provides a safe environment- NEASC would like the District to address the securing of the Lindquist Commons building in a similar manner to how the middle school, gymnasiums and high school are locked during classes and teachers must use a FOB system to enter. In addition, NEASC is requesting that the high school continue to coordinate additional training for both student and staff on proper lockdown procedures in the case of an intruder or an incident near or on the grounds of our campus.
2. The School has a written document describing its core values, beliefs about learning, and vision of the graduate- Prior to the Pandemic a draft guide of the DS Portrait of the Graduate was formulated. Once this Portrait becomes official the specific skills will be identified and the Portrait will be enacted. This will satisfy NEASC for this standard.
3. There is a written curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments across the school- Most of this work is already complete. A couple elective departments need to complete their curriculum maps and place them in a "living" document in Google docs. Once this is complete, this will satisfy the NEASC requirement for this standard.
The one year report will be written and submitted by May 1st for the Commission on Public Schools to review and update our status in each of the six standards.
4. The School Improvement plan was discussed and reviewed by members of the council. This year the areas of improvement include conducting an equity audit through NYU as well as examining each of our academic disciplines in regard to equity and access. A second goal is to implement a new schedule with a flex block that will serve many purposes. One of the purposes is to create stronger student/teacher connections and to build relationships for students with other adults in the building. A final focus will be to examine the recommendations from NEAC and formulate a plan to implement such changes in the coming years.
5. For our next meeting, topics will include budget input for next year, the equity audit as well as the search for a new Superintendent for the 2022-2023 school year.

The meeting concluded at approximately 5:30

The next meeting will take place on Monday November 8th at 4:00 on Zoom.