

School Council Meeting
Dec 12, 2023

Attendees:

Anna B (s), J. Butler (t), J. Desaulniers (p), Katie D. (s), H. Galante (a), D. Hudder (a), H. Munsie (p), N. Myles (t), Shreyes S. (s), J. Stark (t), J. Stewart (p), J. Wysokowski (t), Druthi Y. (s)

AGENDA:

- I. Introductions
- II. Review of purpose of School Council
- III. [Minutes 11/14/23](#)
 - Some discussion of a missing element from the conversation about assessment practices
 - Tabling approval until folks have a chance to review, by 12/15/23 at noon.
- IV. Assessment Practices
 - Review of some of the discussion on 11/14 regarding holding back assessments
 - Change in practice has been implemented: assessments will now be handed back for students to keep.
 - Does not include midyear and final exams
 - AP courses - still a question because materials may be from embargoed tests
 - Some discussion about whether it should be a policy in the Student Handbook. Perhaps we pilot it for a year without an official policy.
 - A teacher expressed surprise that it is still an issue - if it's understood that it's best for students to access their assessments for learning.
 - Another teacher talked about the impact on test integrity
 - Another teacher talked about having to make changes in English classes
 - Some discussion around changing the numbers for skill-based assessments and ascertaining how much students genuinely understand versus what they might have just memorized to include in a question.
 - A parent raised the suggestion of making assessments universally accessible, for purposes of equity.
 - Suggestions around other ways to help students, e.g., student internships as teaching assistants, a BHS tutoring center

- A student suggested teachers previewing questions - so that it is clear exactly what will be on the test
- A parent suggested that the change should be formalized in some way to make sure it doesn't happen again.
- Principal Galante noted that we will return to this conversation in February or March to consider

V. Cell Phone Grant

- Draft of message going out to community
- There will be a teacher-led committee
 - Teachers will receive a stipend
 - Research articles to share
 - Draft a plan to pilot cell phone expectations
 - Draft a letter to parents/caregivers
 - Share plan with faculty
 - Reconvene the committee after pilot
- Presentations from Challenge Success' Jon Kleinman: *The Well-Balanced Student*
 - Faculty 2/7/24 1:15 PM
 - Parents/caregivers/students 2/7/24 7:00 PM
- Parent/caregiver presentation by Catherine Steiner-Adair *The Big Disconnect*
- Discussion
 - A student supported this work
 - A parent raised the question of a strict policy without taking the phones
 - A student shared that some teachers take them from grade 9 students and not from grade 12 students, suggesting that perhaps the seniors would benefit from that same restriction
 - Another student shared their experience in different classes, raising the question of developmentally appropriate expectations based on age.
 - A teacher talked about the need to shift school culture around phones and digital citizenship in general.
 - Another student revisited differences in expectations based on age
 - The principal acknowledged the developmental element, while noting that phones are unequivocally a distraction. We teach digital citizenship in grade 10, wonder what learning happens earlier.

- A teacher raised the question of parents/caregivers' role in these expectations, as they provide the devices and may not support these expectations - for example, in the event of an active shooter

VI. Cameras

- 12-15 are being installed during December break in strategic areas around BHS

VII. NEASC

- We are accredited! Some commendations,

VIII. Other topics?

- Suggestion that Bedford students who attend Shawsheen be allowed to participate in BHS activities
- School starting time - came up at School Committee

IX. Next meeting: Jan 9, 2024

BHS School Council

Meeting Agreements

- End on time
- Share the space and the air - no voice dominates
- Engage in open and honest discussion, where disagreement is welcome and all opinions are considered
- Assume positive intention
- Be mindful that we are all here as representatives, not individuals
- Respect confidentiality - not single out individuals
- Be task oriented; stick to the agenda

Attendance key:

s: student

p: parent

t: teacher

a: administrator

v: visitor