

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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HRHS Principal's Report January 2020

SCHOOL/PROGRAM UPDATES

Hampshire Regional is on the AP Honor Roll...again!

Hampshire Regional High School was one of 250 schools in the United States and Canada and one of twelve in Massachusetts to be named on the College Board's AP Honor Roll. HRHS has received this honor three times before in the ten years of the program's existence. From the College Board's website: *The AP Honor Roll recognizes districts committed to increasing access to AP for underrepresented students while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. AP Honor Roll recipients are committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.* The school committee may want to consider including a covering the fee for AP tests, as it is a required part of the curriculum. Each test costs \$94 and over 50 students take more than 1 AP course.

NEASC Update

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges recently wrote to me commending our college and career readiness. They requested additional information about the implementation of our technology integration by January 2, 2020, and my report is attached. It was impressive to see our work since the 2016 evaluation, and it reinforces the importance of maintaining our resources for students to obtain the skills they need.

New Course Proposals

Program Leaders will meet tomorrow to discuss new courses for next school year. Even though staff will not change, new state curriculum standards, the competitive college process, and student interests drive the course offerings each year.

Advisory Celebrations

To increase buy in for advisory, administration is hosting advisory celebrations to student groups who have earned points by following along with the daily lessons. The next celebration is scheduled for Monday, January 13 for the last two periods of the day. Students had a great time at the last one and are looking forward to what's next. This quarter's themes were Social Justice and Human Rights, Building Your Personal Tool Box, and How the Brain Works.

BUDGET

Next Quarterly Budget Report and Letter of Support Request: The next quarterly budget report was sent to towns on January 3. Additionally, a letter of support was requested for a grant through the District Local Technical Assistance Program to review the regional structure and funding model for the SRO. If you are able, please reach out to the select board to see if they would be interested and willing to write a letter of support for this work.

Grant Update

The safety grant is complete. The construction company, the architect, and the administrative team will participate in an exit meeting on January 13 to close out all final details. (OVER)

Capital Plan v. Separate Warrant Article

The capital plan has been updated with all relevant information for FY21 moving forward. The School Council and Finance Committee recommended that some building maintenance projects are proposed for separate warrant articles in the budget process due to the need and cost.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PowerSchool Professional Development with Team

Assistant Principal Hotz, MS Counselor Katie Watkins, HS Counselor Patti Richmond, and I attended a PowerSchool Training earlier this month. We gathered valuable information to schedule students effectively and efficiently. Additionally, I received the contact information to a knowledgeable “insider” that can support questions regarding the ParentPortal. We are working together to see if customizable reports can be created to support our needs more thoroughly.

Invitation to Present at the College Board National Conference

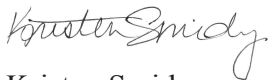
An administrator who participated in our Reunification Seminar over the summer recently reached out and encouraged the HRHS administrative team to submit the same presentation for the College Board National Conference next October. I am working with Southampton Police Officer Scott Gove and the State Police to determine if this makes sense for us and if there is grant funding available for this opportunity.

SAFETY

Breath Alcohol Testing Task Force

The Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) Task Force met for the first time on December 18. Task force members included parents, staff, police, medical professionals, and students. There was productive conversation around revisions to the policy to ensure that the BAT, if used, would be the last recourse and that meaningful conversations took place before the BAT was considered. The task force also discussed including an education component rather than a disciplinary one if students came forward voluntarily. Next steps including reviewing a revised protocol and policy outlining these suggestions and deciding on implementing a trial run.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristen Smidy

Hampshire Regional High School Principal