



Founded in 1885

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.
COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Director

PAMELA GRAY-BENNETT, Ed.D.
direct line (781) 541-5425
pgraybennett@neasc.org

Deputy Director

JANET D. ALLISON
direct line (781) 541-5418
jallison@neasc.org

Associate Director

CHARLES J. MC CARTHY, JR.
direct line (781) 541-5417
cmccarthy@neasc.org

Associate Director

ANN L. ASHWORTH
direct line (781) 541-5441
ashworth@neasc.org

Assistant to the Director

DONNA M. SPENCER-WILSON
direct line (781) 541-5419
dswilson@neasc.org

March 29, 2007

John Lent
Principal
Maynard High School
1 Tiger Drive
Maynard, MA 01754

Dear Mr. Lent:

The Commission on Public Secondary Schools, at its March 25-26, 2007 meeting, reviewed the Five-Year Progress Report of Maynard High School and voted to continue the school's accreditation. Consistent with its policies, the Commission determined that the school should remain on probation for the Standards on Curriculum, School Resources for Learning, and Community Resources for Learning until all concerns have been satisfactorily resolved.

The Commission was pleased to note the following:

- the efforts of the superintendent, principal, and school committee to communicate the long-term facilities concerns of the Commission to the community
- the steps taken to address facilities concerns, including the careful review of the School Facilities Advisory Committee's work
- the inclusion in the Town budget through a warrant article of funds to replace the boiler and address other identified needs
- the development of four scenarios to address the school's long-standing facilities deficiencies

School officials are requested to submit a Special Progress Report, due June 1, 2007, describing action taken to complete the highlighted recommendations listed below:

- report the results of the May 2007 Town meeting to fund replacement of the high school boiler, tank removal, some roof repair and improvements of media center resources

School officials are also requested to submit an additional Special Progress Report, due April 1, 2008, describing action taken to complete the highlighted recommendations listed below:

- confirm the expansion of the library
- submit the long term plan, including that for funding, to fully resolve deficiencies related to the inadequate library/media center, science classrooms, locker rooms, ventilation, music room, and storage areas
- submit a schedule of additional short-term improvements to the facility until the school's long term plan related to the facilities is completed
- report how the school communicates individual progress on the achievement of the academic expectations in the mission to students and their families
- report how the school communicates the school's progress in achieving the academic expectations to the school community at large
- submit aggregate results of achievement of the academic expectations in the mission

To assist schools in writing their statement of mission and expectations and in increasing their understanding of the concepts contained within each of the seven Standards, the professional staff is encouraged to avail themselves of the following documents which can be found at www.neasc.org by clicking on CPSS: Guide to Developing and Implementing the Mission, Standards for Accreditation effective in August 2005, the Standards rating guides visiting teams will use, and a website which discusses the Standards for Accreditation, www.alliance.brown.edu/pubs/neasc.

Although the Commission remains concerned about some aspects of the school, it does wish to commend the following:

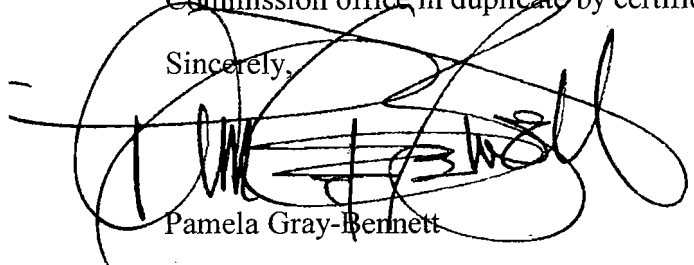
- the process developed to revise department rubrics as new curriculum is written to ensure alignment with the school-wide rubrics
- the use of the professional learning community to review student work and to evaluate student achievement
- the collaborative efforts between the library/media teacher and the faculty to support the curriculum
- the school's efforts to provide professional development and time to improve assessment strategies
- the authentic experiences provided by the Senior Project
- the education provided to newly hired staff to help them understand how the mission and expectations for learning are used in the decision-making process, particularly as they relate to teaching and learning
- the focus on respect, understanding and trust, core values in the mission, in the professional learning communities
- the assumption of responsibility by academic departments for each of the expectations for student learning
- the on-line availability of curriculum maps, the revisions made to the maps, and the development of consistent formatting for these documents
- the assignment of lead teachers to verify all teachers are employing the curriculum maps
- the increased efforts to provide inter-departmental collaboration
- the school's efforts to address the needs of all students through the extensive collaboration between special education and general education

John Lent
March 29, 2007
Page Three

- the unique opportunities for students to have a voice in decision-making including presentations made at faculty meetings
- the efforts made to more fully integrate technology into the core curriculum
- the variety of assistance provided to students including the homework club, math tutoring, community adult volunteer tutoring, email assistance by adult volunteers, the Best Buddies program, and the building-based support team
- the use of data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to impact the health curriculum

The school's probation status will be reviewed when the Commission considers the Special Progress Report. Consistent with the Commission's follow-up procedures, the Special Progress Report should be signed by the principal and chair of the Follow-Up Committee and sent to the Commission office, in duplicate by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Sincerely,



Pamela Gray-Bennett

PGB/mms

cc: Mark Masterson, Superintendent, Maynard Public Schools
Anne Pratt, Chair, Maynard School Committee
Thomas R. Moore, Chair, Commission on Public Secondary Schools