

West Hartford Public School District

Agenda Item: NEASC: Presentation of the Mission Statements

Meeting date: October 18, 2011

From: Eileen S. Howley, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Curriculum

Through: Karen L. List, Superintendent

Background:

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), Commission on Public Secondary Schools is preparing for an on-site accreditation visit at the commencement of the high schools' self-study processes. William H. Hall will be evaluated on September 22, 2012 through September 25, 2013. Frederick U. Conard High School will be evaluated on September 29, 2013 through October 2, 2013.

To prepare for this accreditation process and the on-site decennial evaluation visit, the schools have committed CSI time, faculty meeting time and additional team time to fully involve the school administration, faculty and support staff in the self-study. This accreditation process provides a unique opportunity for members of the school community to discuss every aspect of the school's program and services to improve its offerings for our young people. Well in advance of the self-study, the school is expected to revise its core values, beliefs about learning and 21st century expectations for student learning to ensure that the document meets the requirement of the Commission's Standard on Core Values, Beliefs and Learning Expectations. This particular standard is listed below.

Standard 1: Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations

Effective schools identify core values and beliefs about learning that function as explicit foundational commitments to students and the community. Decision-making remains focused on and aligned with these critical commitments. Core values and beliefs manifest themselves in research-based, school-wide 21st century learning expectations. Every component of the school is driven by the core values and beliefs and supports all students' achievement of the school's learning expectations.

1. The school community engages in a dynamic, collaborative and inclusive process informed by the current research-based best practices to identify and commit to its core values and beliefs about learning.
2. The school has challenging and measureable 21st century learning expectations for all students which address academic, social and civic competencies, and are defined by school-wide analytic rubrics that identify targeted high levels of achievement.
3. The school's core values, beliefs and 21st century learning expectations are actively reflected in the culture of the school, drive curriculum, instruction, and assessment in every classroom, and guide the school's policies, procedures, decisions, and resource allocations.
4. The school regularly reviews and revises its core values, beliefs, and 21st century learning expectations based on research, multiple data sources, as well as district and school community priorities.

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Academic, civic and social expectations are expected to be measurable and accompanied by scoring guides or what are referred to as “analytic rubrics.” In addition, the schools are expected to align the curriculum to the schools’ 21st century learning expectations and have in place a process to assess the progress of all students, both as a whole and individually, in achieving these expectations using these school-wide rubrics. The schools are also expected to be able to demonstrate that they use the schools’ core values, beliefs about learning, and 21st century learning expectations to guide decision making related to such things as curriculum, instruction, professional development, assessment and the provision of services.

Presentation of the Mission Statements

This standard becomes readily visible in each school’s mission framework and rubrics. Tonight both Hall and Conard will present their revised mission statements to the Board of Education. These statements have been voted on and approved by both faculties and have been shared with the school community. Many staff have been involved in the design and development of these statements. Moreover, the statements have used the Board of Education framework to shape and inform their work and to ensure alignment across both schools. Those statements are attached. Dr. Slater, Hall High School Principal, and Dr. Cummings, Conard High School Principal, will review their processes for developing these statements and will be available to answer questions.

Core Values & Beliefs

*We challenge and guide our students
to be active learners and
productive citizens.*



21st Century Learning Expectations:

COMMUNICATION

READING: Students read various media for comprehension, interpretation, analysis, evaluation and pleasure.

WRITING: Students write in a variety of modes to communicate their ideas to an identified audience.

DEMONSTRATING: Students communicate effectively using a variety of methods and media to engage an identified audience through speaking, listening and presenting.

PROBLEM-SOLVING

Students work independently and collaboratively to analyze, evaluate and synthesize information to create solutions and products.

Students demonstrate effort, innovation, flexibility, and adaptability in work habits and strategies.

TECHNOLOGY

Students demonstrate technological literacy using relevant digital tools to access, collect, evaluate, and share information.

CIVIC & SOCIAL

Students contribute positively to a diverse culture that respects others, fosters responsibility, reflects ethical standards, promotes personal wellness and embraces community and global awareness.

William H. Hall High School

Mission

Hall High School prepares all students to be educated, responsible citizens who contribute collaboratively, independently, and innovatively to a dynamic global community.



21ST Century Learning Expectations: Academic, Civic & Social

Problem Solving	Communication	Technology	Habits of Mind	Civic and Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Thinking• Innovation• Adaptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing• Reading• Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publishing• Data Analysis• Multimedia Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-assessment• Time Management• Improvement• Effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informed Citizens• Engaged• Responsible• Respectful