

3:23 Start time

Approval of past minutes

Activity 1: Summary of mission statement activity for both Steering Committee and Top Ten Subcommittee was projected on overhead. Think, Pair, Share

*Is Top Ten Equitable?*

*Is it Inclusive?*

*Does it support personalized learning?*

**What conclusions can you draw from what you see on this particular activity?**

**What is the consensus of both committees regarding top ten within each category.**

Debrief: Share out of comments:

- Concerning that there are no comments of support from the steering committee. "They have an agenda"
- There are definitely effects on inclusiveness and equity and the support to personalized learning. This is clearly seen in both groups' responses.
- Top ten is not inclusive.
- Top ten is a motivator to some and a demotivator to others.
- Concerning to see words as elite, toxic elite.
- Acknowledgement that competition is a part of the academic culture.
- AP is the road to the golden ticket of top ten
- The academic culture of the school is the real root of the problem and top ten is not the root cause of the academic culture
- Colleges are asking students to take the most ambitious and challenging classes.
- The schools determine what those are by assigning weight and value. At Hollis it tends to be A
- Cheating is chronic and pervasive and viewed almost as acceptable among the academic culture for students. (It is necessary to maintain the required GPA) Part of this is about making top ten, but most of it is about making it into college. There is a hyperfocus that you will only be competitive for applying to colleges if you maintain a somewhat over inflated GPA and course load.
- This is the academic culture and we must be thoughtful about how the procedures and policies we follow create and maintain this culture whether supportive or not to the student learning.
- Conclude there is a moral issue of cheating. Example: you send me this one and I'll send you this one.

Given what we have said, Is there a better way? Time was given to reflect and then responses were given in a round and all participants were asked to contribute.

- It is not the best way: The best way is flexible in the number of students that can achieve recognition and the way in which success is defined. Students might decide on a framework they want to achieve in.
- I don't think it is the best method even if it is a past practice method. Should involve other things aside from academics.
- It's not the worst way, the benefits are OK. There is a better way to celebrate success. We should look at other things.
- This is not an inclusive policy. There should be a way to recognize in a more inclusive way but we don't want to get rid of all of that. Possibly NH Scholars. This gives even more distinction.
- NH scholars are a good thing and rewarding them for their hard work.
- I like the top ten and hearing what our top ten students are doing when they leave high school . I like that those students can put it on their application. They deserve it.
- Traditionally I'm not a huge fan of the top ten and think it's too narrow. Do it by percentiles. Looking for merit scholarships. These are some of the metrics for if this is a
- The recognition of the top ten is limited. Should put a standard out there.
- Should have a standard and that is where kids should be judged
- I have students that are fully prepared for top colleges
- Kids work really hard and it's nice to get that recognition
- I don't think you need top ten rank to get into college
- You can access it if you need it for merit scholarships
- It's not that we have top ten, it's how we use top ten and how guidance is allowed to use it. Just let it be a feather in their cap for graduation. Let those kids have their recognition.
- You have to prepare them. It is a tough world out there and they need to get used to it because once they get to college it will be like that. GPA Weight itself balances it out. The rest of the kids can work hard and if they are really interested, they can jump into it.
- In my opinion it represents who we are: competition, recognition. I do not believe the top ten is the best way to recognize academic achievement. I do believe that there is a part of it that leads to cheating and negative academic culture.

Rick: I don't think we will have the answer to what the replacement is within the scope of this committee work. It seems like there is agreement that there is a better way.

At this point the meeting diverged into whether the group had consensus or not. There was discussion that there was a majority.

Process (Reported out by student Maura Shanley):

Started on time and ended on time. We looked at the past activities and it was helpful to see what the other committee had to say. At this point, the group began to diverge and fall away from the intended goal and task. Though it is good to probe deeper into everyone's opinions, it needs to be balanced with accomplishing goals.

4:50 End time