

NEASC Summary

Report of the Academy Principal: 2004

Note: For the complete report, please contact the Academy office

At this time last year there were two pending issues of significant long-term importance to the staff and students of Moultonborough Academy awaiting resolution. One issue was whether the voters would approve the proposed building additions and renovations to MA and MCS and the other was the pending ten-year re-accreditation visit of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). In this annual report I will update the voters of the Moultonborough School District on both efforts.

Building Additions and Renovations

As you are certainly well aware, last March the voters approved much needed renovations and additions to the two schools by a resounding 85% favorable vote. Final completion of all phases of construction at the Academy is scheduled for August 2004. Already, though, there are significant improvements. With the completion of the six-room middle school addition, in what we now refer to as the E wing, we are able to have a greater degree of autonomy and separation for our middle school program thus allowing for a smoother, gradual transition from the Central School into the high school. The media center environment has been vastly improved and quieted by the construction of walls, the reallocation of offices for various programs to media center storage and office space, and the recent addition of a hand-crafted circulation desk.

The high school has benefited from the remodeling of two science classrooms with a third due to be done in late April, and the renovation of all other general purpose classrooms. Each room in C and D wings of the school have seen the addition of storage cabinets, new ceiling tiles and lighting, new floors, and vastly improved air and heat circulation. Half of the new student lockers are now in use and are double in size from the old ones. One of the most important goals that we had in this project was to see each teacher assigned their own classroom so that they could maximize their planning time, cultivate the learning environment, and better respond to student needs. This goal will soon be realized.

We have also seen the high school and middle school guidance programs move into the new SAU addition where they can work more closely together and counsel students in a more private, quiet setting. The health office has moved into much larger quarters that allow them to better address student health needs. And the main office area is undergoing renovations as of this writing that will allow the administration and the office staff to better serve the needs of the student body. The art room, family and consumer science room, tech ed room, music room, gymnasium, and locker rooms are still undergoing renovation.

The crown jewel of the entire project, the new 510-seat auditorium, is slated for completion in mid-April. If all goes well the first event to hit the stage will be "The Music Man" on April 22, 23, and 24. We hope you will celebrate with us and attend one of the performances.

NEASC Re-accreditation Report

I am happy to report that in November of 2003 we received word from the Commission on Public Secondary Schools that after reviewing the work of the visiting committee they have continued Moultonborough Academy's accreditation as a member of the NEASC. The report from the Commission commended the school on the following:

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- the school's mission statement
- the clear and well-articulated social and civic expectations
- the numerous curricular choices available to students
- the expansion of learning into the community
- the high level of quality instruction
- the local options for professional development provided to teachers
- the use of assessment results to drive curriculum and its dissemination to the community
- the initial work being done with electronic portfolios to monitor student achievement
- shared decision-making espoused and practiced by the administration
- the availability of support staff to assist students
- the availability of a half-time assessment coordinator
- a caring and supportive educational environment
- the excellent staff to student ratio in the guidance department, special education, nurse, media center, and technology staff.
- the availability and use of technology to support teaching and learning
- the variety of flexible and creative avenues for students to achieve credit
- the exemplary community and business partnerships that provide models for authentic motivation, real career opportunities, and opportunities to contribute in a meaningful way to the local community through service projects
- passage of the \$11+ million dollar renovation and construction bond

The Commission also noted eleven specific facilities deficiencies that have a negative impact on teaching and learning. I am happy to report that all eleven noted deficiencies have been or will be addressed by the work currently underway at the Academy. In addition to the Two-Year Progress Report due in 2005, the Commission also requested a Special Progress Report be submitted by February 2004 that detailed the work being done on the Academy and also clarified our efforts to define our expectations for student learning and the school-wide rubrics to accompany them. With the results of our self-study and our re-accreditation recommendations now in hand we will continue to work to meet the high standards of the NEASC in the best interests of the educational experience of all of our students.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Coppinger, Principal
Moultonborough Academy