

To: Dr. Matthew Malone
From: Larry Murphy
Subject: NEASC Report
Date: July 10, 2007

It is with great pride that I share with you the recent news I received from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. I received a call from Ann Ashworth, our liaison to NEASC, who shared the results of the commission's review of our special progress report submitted in April of 2007. Before the report we were designated as on "warning status" because of concerns they had in the areas of Mission/Expectations and School Resources. Specifically, I was asked to report our progress on: a mission statement; rubrics for academic, social, and civic progress; the impact of user fees on student participation in sports and clubs; and progress in curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

As you know, this is the outside agency responsible for our accreditation and recognizing our commitment to excellence in education. It is one of six regional accrediting organizations in the United States and is comprised of professional educators from member institutions and representatives of the public interest. Through institutional self-evaluation and self-improvement, affiliated institutions are encouraged and assisted in enhancing their effectiveness.

After reviewing our report, they have removed us from "warning status" and awarded us full accreditation status. They were impressed with the commitment the community has made to education with the construction of the new high school. The plans for improvement, expansion of programs, 21st century technology, and the creation of new opportunities for staff and students was instrumental in their decision. Also, our commitment to establishing a Mission and Expectations Statement for the district and our efforts to make this a priority for the next school contributed to our favorable review.

A letter will be sent to you and a copy for me officially announcing the commission's decision. As high school principal, I will be asked to provide an additional special progress report next year specific to the Mission/Expectations standard. In the year 2008, the staff and I will begin organizing a self-study process necessary for the next NEASC accreditation review in the year 2010.

This is a tribute to all the efforts of the students, staff, administration, parents, and the community in committing Swampscott High school to academic excellence. I am proud to be the educational leader of such a progressive high school and look forward to fulfilling the mission of the Swampscott Public Schools: Promoting academic excellence; preparing all students for success; building respectful and caring relationships; and developing and nurturing a culture of reflection; creativity, and commitment to continuous improvement.