

**NRHS Space Needs Task Force**  
Meeting of September 16, 2015

**NEASC Report & NRHS Space Needs**

From March 8-11, 2015, a Visiting Committee from NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) met with NRHS administrators, teachers and students as part of the accreditation process. The Visiting Committee issued its report in September, 2015.

Portions of their report relating to NRHS Space Needs are excerpted below.

**School Resources for Learning**

P. 49 - Recommendation

“ 2. Ensure privacy for students using health services”

**Community Resources for Learning**

P.51:

“The school does have necessary science equipment and the food services area, gymnasiums and locker rooms also have the necessary equipment.”

P. 52-53

“The NRHS facility is adequate and is sufficiently maintained in order to support the delivery of school programs and services; however, the facility requires updating in order to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum. The areas beyond the core facilities, including the food preparation area, gymnasiums, auditorium, locker rooms, and restrooms are clean and well maintained. The teachers continue to have department workspace with the exception of special education. However, the school does not have enough science labs to safely provide the effective delivery of science curriculum and instruction nor are the science labs updated to reflect the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom. In 2013, the Massachusetts School Building Authority designated the NRHS science labs as deficient and eligible for inclusion in the Science Lab Initiative. The deficiencies include inadequate ventilation and configuring space safely for labs and the number of students in a classroom. The lack of needed science labs has reduced the number of science courses offered with an accompanying additional lab period. Due to a shortage of lockers, students share lockers which are located on both sides of the narrow hallways causing them to be too crowded for timely passing especially for staff/students with mobility issues and teachers traveling with carts. In addition, the cafeteria does not provide adequate seating for its current and growing population. Teachers identify this issue in interviews although the students do not identify this as a major issue.”

P.55 - Recommendations:

“4. Develop and implement short- and long-term plans to ensure that the Nashoba physical plant will be supportive of effective instructional practice

5. Develop and implement long-term plans that address programs and services, as well as enrollment changes and staffing needs

6. Develop a more comprehensive and transparent method for keeping track of scheduled maintenance

7. Identify and address facility needs to provide adequate space for effective teaching and learning
8. Ensure completion of projects on the scheduled maintenance plan such as parking lot improvements, science lab updates, boiler replacement and roof replacement”