HOW CAN YOU INCREASE STUDENT VOICE ACROSS THE SCHOOL?

all materials at: greatschoolspartnership.org/mpa-2016

#MPA16
From Yarmouth High School
Meredith Hawkins, YHS 2016 Graduate
Nate Gallagher, YHS 2016 Graduate
Anna Parker, YHS Class of 2018
Sage Watterson, YHS Class of 2018

From the Great Schools Partnership
Ted Hall, Senior Associate & Retired YHS Principal
Introductions

Microlab

Overview of Yarmouth High School Student Government

Examples of Student Voice in Student Government

Other Ways that YHS Students Have Student Voice

Teacher Voice and Student Voice—Zero Sum Game?

Questions
Outcomes

Understand how current student governance structures may not be doing enough to give all students a voice in their school.
Outcomes

Learn from students about structures at Yarmouth High School that are specifically designed to increase the student voice across the school.
Outcomes

Examine the importance of paying attention simultaneously to student voice as well as faculty voice.
Find two others who are either from a different district or who you don’t know well and set yourselves up so that you can listen to one another and not be distracted by another group’s conversation.
Microlab Activity

• Identify group members as A, B, or C
• Three rounds with a different focus question
• During each person’s time, the other two listen carefully, but do not respond
Microlab Guidelines

- Each person has equal time to talk.
- The listener(s) should not interrupt, interpret, paraphrase, analyze, give advice or break in with a personal story while the speaker is talking.
- Confidentiality should be maintained, unless the group decides to debrief the content of the questions.
- The speaker should not criticize or complain about the listener(s) or mutual colleagues during his or her turn.
Microlab Activity

Question 1

Think back to your own high school experience—what did you personally have in terms of a voice in your school?
Microlab Activity

Question 2

Why is it important to have authentic student voice in your school?
Microlab Activity

Question 3

What are some potential downsides to increasing student voice in your school?
Microlab Activity

Debrief this activity as an opening activity for this session and how it can be used in the work in your schools.
An Overview of Yarmouth High School Student Governance
Meredith Hawkins, YHS Graduate and President of the Student Senate, 2015-16
Class Council

Nate Gallagher, YHS Graduate and Member of Class of 2016 Class Council
Student Senate Committees

Anna Parker and Sage Watterson, YHS Class of 2018, Members of the Student Senate
Examples of Student Voice in the Student Government
Student Government Examples

Addition of AP Language and Composition Class
Sports Conduct
Making it Right with Maranacook (next slide)
One Color Gown at Graduation
Elimination of Valedictorian and Salutatorian
YHS Dance Guidelines and Breathalyzer Policy
To the Maranacook Community,

We write this letter in sincere apology for the damage done to your bleacher complex. Our apology is further extended upon hearing that the bleachers were the final wish of your beloved community member Ricky Gibson. The loss of a student in a community is devastating, and we know how this stadium, Ricky’s “Field of Dreams,” is a way for his memory to live on in the hearts and minds of Maranacook.
We in no way intended to deliberately damage the bleachers. It seems as though, due to the large number of people, the bleachers were bent simply under the bearing of such an extensive amount of weight. It was an unexpected and unfortunate accident. We want to extend our gratitude to both the Maranacook school system and community for your continued sportsmanship throughout all seasons. Unfortunately, this event was misinterpreted, and for that we are deeply sorry. We hope that this letter is able to clear away some of the misconceptions and will allow for the continuation of the above-mentioned relations of sportsmanship both on and off the field. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and again, our sincerest apologies.
Other Ways that Yarmouth HS Students Have Voice in the School
Other Examples Across School

Student Run Assemblies
Spirit Week
“Unconference”
Advisor Discussions
Ambassador Club
Teacher Voice and Student Voice—Zero Sum Game?
Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.

James A. Baldwin
Questions
YOUR LIFE HAS PURPOSE.
YOUR STORY IS IMPORTANT.
YOUR DREAMS COUNT.
YOUR VOICE MATTERS.
THANK YOU

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