Newton South High School

School Council

January 9th, 2018

**Principal’s Update from Joel:**

* Pipes! No pipes burst today.
* Heating impacts the environment here – many cold rooms, many hot rooms
* Thinking more pipes will burst as temp gets warmer
* Last week was interesting – icicles on main power supply; much bigger crisis averted
* Is there asbestos in the school? (We don’t think so!)
* Happier news – The Lip Dub is ready for everyone to see! Joel will send it out to everyone tomorrow
* Cool thing #2 – We have a planter box full of plants in the area formerly known as the “L Bench”! Non-pollen, low-light plants. Students will paint it a different color coming up soon.
* Parking discussion …

**Last meeting’s minutes were approved!**

**Discussion of Grades Articles from The Lion’s Roar/Grades in General:**

* Would removing weighted grades really remove pressure?
* Are grades the proper mechanism for recognizing students?
* Lion’s Roar article asserts that students feel it’s more about the points/the grade than it is about the learning
* How do we recognize our seniors for their academic performance?
* Are we recognizing “schoolmanship” or real learning?
* Is it possible to experiment with narrative assessment for a term?
* What do we do about the groups of kids who don’t stand out “in that way” (academically)?
* We should recognize students for “what they do with what they know.”
* Is there an opportunity for some kind of capstone project for students to apply for to get recognized?
* “Abolish grades!” – Deborah Bernhard

**Break off into working groups!**