NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
Commission on Public Schools

Director for Accreditation and School Improvement
ALYSON M. GEARY
781-425-7736 | ageary@neasc.org

Associate Directors for Accreditation and School Improvement:

CARL R. JOHNSON
781-425-7718
cjohnson@neasc.org

FRANCIS T. KENNEDY
781-425-7749
fkennedy@neasc.org

KATHLEEN A. MONTAGANO
781-425-7760
kmontagano@neasc.org

BRUCE R. SIEVERS
781-425-7716
bsievers@neasc.org

September 17, 2024

Robert Parga
Principal
Medfield High School
88 R South Street
Medfield, MA 02052

Dear Mr. Parga:

The Commission on Public Schools, at its June 24, 2024 meeting, reviewed the Three-Year Report of Progress and Planning of Medfield High School and voted to award the school continued Accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission would like to commend the following:

- the committee formed to establish curriculum and programming to support student transition to the high school
- the addition of student focus groups that regularly provide administrators with valuable insights on students' transition experience
- the addition of meetings between high school counselors and 8th graders to answer questions and ease anxieties
- the new advisory activities that have been designed to foster a sense of belonging and connection among 9th graders
- the revamped freshman orientation program to provide a more comprehensive and supportive experience for 9th graders
- the regular meetings held between administrators and 9th grade teachers to address specific needs and challenges
- the introduction of grade 9 students to the Academic Success Center, a valuable resource for academic support
- the report card comments added to reflect student progress toward meeting the elements in the Vision of the Graduate
- the universal template developed that teachers use to document the work they are doing throughout their curriculum
- the development of a written curriculum across all core courses that includes essential questions, unit assessments, instructional activities, and priority standards
- the formal common planning time for teachers that was added to the schedule twice per week

- the work completed to ensure that all students, teachers, support staff, parents, and community members have a shared understanding of the Medfield High School Vision of the Graduate
- the work completed to ensure that students, families, and members of the community are given meaningful feedback on individual and school-wide progress toward each student's attainment of the MHS Vision of the Graduate
- the development and implementation of a process to provide regular formal opportunities to support the coordination and implementation of curriculum
- the increased opportunities for all students across all levels to lead their own learning, including the Senior Project, Math Project, and opportunities to engage with the community in social studies and use public speaking skills in English
- the school's efforts to ensure that all students across all levels have opportunities to engage in inquiry, problem-solving, and higher-order thinking skills
- the increase in opportunities for a diverse group of students to participate in the policy/decision-making process
- the school's adoption of a standardized curriculum template across departments to ensure that all teachers, support staff, and students have a shared understanding of what optimal or effective teaching and learning looks like in Medfield High School
- the participation of sixty percent of seniors in the Medfield High School Senior Project which gives students a chance to create an individualized experience away from the classroom setting, with a focus on independent inquiry and personal growth
- the development and implementation of a new master schedule, including a FLEX block, which allows students to receive a deeper level of support, advice, and instruction from teachers and administrators
- the work completed to address the HVAC concerns, including:
    - the new boiler at the high school
    - the regular inspections and replacement of air filters in all learning spaces
    - the regular inspections and replacements of air handler components
    - the electric hand dryers in bathrooms
    - the new software and hardware that more accurately regulate the temperatures in the learning spaces
    - the gymnasium roof was replaced in 2023
    - the many faucets in the bathrooms have been installed
    - the touchless water bubblers have been installed throughout the building

The Commission acknowledges that all the Foundational Elements have been met by the school since the First Report of Progress and Planning and would like to congratulate the school on the tremendous amount of growth in the Priority Areas since the Collaborative Conference visit.

The school has identified the following as Future Priority Areas for Growth:

- Expand culturally responsive strategies to support a safe, equitable, and inclusive school environment.
- Improve family engagement through student work.
- Implement 9th grade orientation.

The school will submit a Six-Year Report of Progress and Planning, which is due on May 1, 2027. The preparation of the Six-Year Report of Progress and Planning can be found on the website at https://www.neasc.org/resources-schools-public in the section marked *Six-Year Report of Progress and Planning*. In that report, the school will report any changes to the ratings of the Foundational Elements, progress on the current Priority Areas for Growth, future Priority Areas for Growth, changes in the 4Cs, progress toward the additional recommendations listed in the Decennial Accreditation Report. Also, the school will submit a revised school growth/improvement plan.

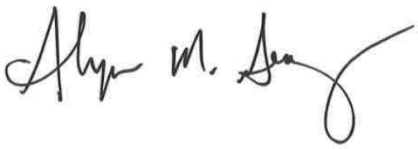
Priority Areas for Growth should be in the mid to final stages of implementation when the school submits its Six-Year Report of Progress and Planning.

The Commission requests that it be kept apprised of any substantive changes in the school before that date. For your convenience, a copy of the Substantive Change Policy is attached. Please notify the Commission office of any changes in the names of the principal and/or superintendent along with their corresponding e-mail addresses by submitting this information electronically to cpss-air@neasc.org.

The school's accreditation status will be reviewed when the Commission considers the Six-Year Report of Progress and Planning, which should be submitted by the principal through the Accreditation Portal. Be sure to complete the report by clicking on the green "Mark Progress Report Complete" button.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Alyson Geary

AMG/li

cc: Jeffrey J. Marsden, Superintendent, Medfield Public Schools
Michelle Kirkby, Chairperson, Medfield School Committee
Kevin McCaskill, Chair, Commission on Public Schools