

Freshman Meeting May 18, 2010

The discussion was centered on interventions and suggestions for improvement

Student comments included:

“ I think it’s fine the way it is, people get called and they go.”

“ If I’m not called I use it to study.”

“I like that students can also request to go see a teacher even if they are not called by them.”

“When you are requested to go you go right now, but other times you ask to go and are told no by the homeroom teacher because you do not have a pass from the teacher you want to see.”

“ I would like to have teachers contact other teachers about if it’s ok for me to go see them.”

“Passes take too long to get during the intervention period”

“I would like to see the period longer so I can see more people and get more done.”

“ It’s a joke I never have anything to do.”

Mr. Ferrara talked about a visit to Searsport to observe their intervention practices. Among these was the delivery of a Writing Lab, Math Lab, and Literacy Course introduced in a structured class every other day embedded in the schedule. This curriculum is designed to keep both struggling and high achieving students engaged and moving forward to higher skill sets. Teachers work in a four-block schedule where they teach content course for five blocks, and deliver the other pieces in the sixth. The remaining two blocks are prep. blocks. Every other day there is a period attached to the lunch block where students can be called by a teacher for reinforcement, request to see a teacher, or if in good academic standing make use of free time activities such as open gym, the art room, or library. The 2010 graduating class from Searsport High School is the first to graduate in both this intervention system, as well as a Standard Based Reporting system. Under these two systems test scores have improved 20 percent. It was discussed that this is not something Hall-Dale is initiating for the next school year, but that parts of it could be put in place and others looked at for upcoming years.

Mr. Lavoie then asked the freshman body what they thought should be the benchmark for when a student was required to see a teacher during the intervention period. Comments included:

“ When you miss something you should be called to make it up.”

“If you did not do your work during class a wasted time you should have to make it up in intervention.”

“If you got a poor score on something like a test.”

“It should be the teacher’s choice or the student’s if you are called.”

“ If you are falling behind.”

“If you are missing one or two things.”

“It should be the teacher’s choice, no set grade for if you are called.”