

**Nantucket School Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 7, 2020**

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2 Present Members: Vice Chair Timothy Lepore, Zona Butler, and Pauline Proch  
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4 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Vice Chair Tim Lepore, in the Nantucket High School LGI. Zona Butler  
5 made a motion to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Pauline Proch and was approved unanimously.  
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7 **Comments from the Public**

8 None  
9

10 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

11 **Innovation Pathways – Michael Horton, CPS Asst Principal & STEM C&A, Seanda Bartlett, NHS Guidance**

12 Mike Horton and Seanda Bartlett, along with Pauline Proch, attended the December 4, 2019 Innovation Pathways meeting  
13 held in Leominster, MA. This opportunity, made up of approximately one hundred districts, was held to brainstorm ideas  
14 on college and career readiness, Vocational programming and the “career path” of students as they move through their  
15 secondary education years. Last year, Nantucket was one of only five districts awarded a large grant from the state of  
16 \$140,000 start up money to create college and career programming that does not necessarily follow the traditional track -  
17 Mrs. Jean Witt (Curriculum Director-Humanities) & Ms. Kelly Cooney (Director of EL) applied for this grant to expand  
18 programming for underrepresented students.  
19

20 Mr. Horton gave the School Committee some statistics of emerging workforce numbers and the shortage we currently face.  
21 We are missing the demographic age range between 25-50 years of age that fill the trade and field work positions. There is  
22 speculation this is due to increasingly disengaged students, especially 11<sup>th</sup> & 12 graders and he showed over time, very low  
23 percentage numbers of students enthused by what they are learning. The numbers illustrate stagnant high school  
24 performance and where younger students show steady gains and high numbers of engagement, those numbers are dropping  
25 significantly as they age. The thought to fixing this issue is a strategy of “connecting the dots for an Education with  
26 Purpose” offering many different avenues (more choices) of multiple pathways to career success in high demand  
27 industries. Innovation Pathways is approved by the Department of Education as a way to create partnerships between high  
28 schools and local workforce boards and employers and offering opportunities in Vocational Programs, Technical Institutes,  
29 Apprenticeships, Co-ops, Internships. Mr. Horton talked briefly about Nantucket’s Auto, Culinary and Landscaping  
30 programs, the newly developed Nursing program and he introduced the idea about starting a Marine Technology program.  
31 These are all work-related areas that are highly sought on Nantucket. Seanda Bartlett talked about visiting the Worcester  
32 district and how they offer career information/inquiries at the Middle School level giving them a head start on their interest  
33 areas. She also talked about MindCap, a program guideline for any student to help with their own strategic planning and  
34 creative paths. Mrs. Proch added there are many things a district can continue to do, but most important is to offer many  
35 prospects for certificates and licenses, because this is a stepping stone to employment. Zona Butler responded to the  
36 presentation to say she felt college is not high on the list in today’s day and age of teenagers and many students want to  
37 make money. She feels the district needs to understand the mindset of our students and perhaps this topic should be put  
38 onto the District Improvement Plan. Dr. Lepore added he likes the education pathways that happen at the hospital and he  
39 also referred to students who attend Mass Maritime and how that circles back to the Maritime options.  
40

41 **School Improvement Plans**

42 Superintendent Michael Cozort introduced the School Improvement Plan (SIP) for each school and described how the four  
43 Plans would be similar in style, following the DIP. He noted that each school has identified their own age appropriate  
44 priorities, and each would address their focus for specific age/stage development levels. Each plan offers the same  
45 Strategic Objectives: Improve Student Learning & Achievement, Increase Support, Equity and Access for all Students,  
46 Secure and Maximize Resources, & Nurture a Culture of Inclusion, Collaboration and Communication. Each plan has a  
47 message/letter written from the Principal & Assistant Principal. Each Plan consists of a rubric of how the plan will work:  
48 Monitoring Progress, the ‘what will be done, when, why and by whom’, Measuring Impact or Evidence, the ‘changes in  
49 practice, attitude or behavior you will see’, the Person Responsible, and the Timeline.  
50

51 **Nantucket Elementary School – Principal Kimberly Kubisch & Assistant Principal Kimberly Albertson**

52 Mrs. Kubisch highlighted some of the initiatives and priorities that the school staff and school council selected. She  
53 specifically reviewed the RTI (Response to Intervention) ELA and Math lessons and how pre and post assessments will be

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55 implemented to review work and drive progress. She talked about academic and behavior improvements and vertically  
56 aligned supports for students through a Tier system. The MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) Team reviews student  
57 data and recommends a plan that provides helpful information for teachers in looking globally at a student. There is also  
58 focus of professional development and sharing best practices from each individual staff person’s PD and experiences.  
59 Additionally, retention of highly-qualified teachers in maintaining a strong academic and social-emotional environment is  
60 important to student achievement. Her final piece talked about creating and providing a survey to determine the most  
61 preferred method of communication to streamline the current email, quarterly newsletters, teacher newsletters website info,  
62 NES Facebook, Instagram and the Remind App. Mrs. Proch was curious as to when parents are notified if a child has  
63 been flagged with RTI needs. Mrs. Kubisch said the classroom teacher is the primary contact. Mrs. Proch also  
64 commented how she is pleased about the Professional Learning Community (PLC).  
65

66 **Nantucket Intermediate School – Principal Evemarie McNeil & Assistant Principal Donna Johnson**

67 Mrs. McNeil unveiled her plan as similar in format, but articulated new core values. She thanked her staff and school  
68 council for the help in drafting the document. She talked about the new curriculum for English Language Arts (ELA) and  
69 the implementation of teacher leaders to support that work and specifically how the Teachers College and Words Their  
70 Way are designed to align lessons with assessments. Parallel to the ELA work is the continuation of Eureka math and the  
71 teachers now embracing the program. Both areas showing strong evidence of growth by the MCAS performance helps  
72 confirm the measured progress. NIS Plan outlines how every decision we make for a student is aligned with values. The  
73 work is based on collaboration, committees, Responsive Classroom and teams, all meeting weekly to create and monitor  
74 Tier plans for individual students. NIS has a focus to develop, refine and implement the social emotional curriculum to  
75 effectively and consistently address and promote self-awareness, self-regulation and ready to learn behaviors. This is an  
76 area of importance, especially in trying to reduce behavioral referrals to guidance and administration and will work in  
77 tandem with promoting appropriate student behavior across all student settings. The final part of the plan is to strengthen  
78 partnerships with parents and family, and increasing family engagement and collaboration. Mrs. Butler asked about  
79 vertical work among the schools and Mrs. McNeil stressed focus on this will certainly help students transitions from NES  
80 to NIS and NIS to CPS.  
81

82 **Cyrus Peirce Middle School – Principal Julie Lamoly & Assistant Principals, Michael Horton and Jamie Bailey**

83 Mrs. Lamoly thanked her staff and council for their assistance to help focus on priorities, keying in on the middle school  
84 age being such a new and different phase. These years are filled with vast changes physically, emotionally, socially, and it  
85 is important to be sensitive to this stage of the students’ lives. She addressed the age appropriate needs and stressed CPS  
86 providing a welcoming and safe environment, where students have access to high quality standards-based instruction and  
87 the opportunity to graduate meeting grade level expectations. The relationships between home and school are important,  
88 as well as identifying strengths and weakness to ensure student growth. Recent MCAS scores will help to shape how to  
89 improve the growth and achievement by raising expectations and instruction, providing ‘productive struggle’ meaning  
90 suitable levels of rigor. Mrs. Lamoly addressed the current schedule which has been a struggle to establish and implement,  
91 and how development of a new schedule to better meet the needs of adequate instructional time in core contents and  
92 enrichment areas (Encore classes). She talked about the importance to include more choices of classes for students,  
93 especially at this age, in order to keep them engaged. An idea of “Lunch Talks” is one that is being developed to expand  
94 student learning experiences by engaging family and community partners, piggybacking on the Innovation Pathways  
95 information by exposing middle school students to potential career paths and diverse career experiences. Additionally,  
96 strengthening partnerships with families by offering student led conferences, Parent University, Parent Information Night  
97 programs as well as weekly updates is part of the CPS Plan. Mrs. Butler thanked Mrs. Lamoly for recognizing the needs  
98 of students requiring support and she also appreciated Mrs. Lamoly acknowledging the difficulties with the academic  
99 schedule necessitating multiple changes. Mrs. Proch reiterated how much she appreciates the Administration being so  
100 sensitive to middle age students who needs consistent and nurturing support.  
101

102 **Nantucket High School – Principal John Buckey & Assistant Principal Jennifer Psaradelis**

103 Dr. Buckey and Ms. Psaradelis reviewed how previous years of the SIP trended as a three-year plan and included data  
104 heavy components and how he wanted to incorporate the same in this new plan. He offered his letter and provided the data  
105 statistics to support what the high school calls their “Vision of a Graduate” (VOG). This VOG dovetails with the goals  
106 outlined by NEASC, gauging progress as we work toward accreditation. This frames the work included in the plan and

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108 most specifically, what the VOG includes: Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication, Innovation, Social  
109 Responsibility and Reflection & Adaption. The first initiative creates a common template and drives curriculum mapping  
110 and ultimately helps vertically with the transition years from CPS in trying to align curriculum. Ms. Psaradelis went into  
111 depth about the MTSS and described how the high school often must identify students because they are new to the district  
112 for a variety of reasons. Therefore, the high school provides such a strong Student Support Services (SSS) and options of  
113 programming to provide the best plans and combinations of plans for students. Dr. Buckey referred to the budget noting  
114 the high school will add staff to the IDSC to provide better services for this population and how they will explore program  
115 options for EL students. Mrs. Proch asked if Dr. Buckey had heard from NEASC and how we are doing with the  
116 accreditation process, to which he answered ‘no news is good news’ and he is waiting to hear from them.

117  
118 **Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

119 Vote to Approve Grant from American Home Foundation & Donald Shackelford to NPS English Language learners for  
120 Financial Literacy Curriculum, \$5,714.00 Zona Butler made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the  
121 motion was approved.

122  
123 Vote to Approve Donation from Robyn Giles to the Adopt a Lunch Tray Program, \$400.00 Zona Butler made a motion,  
124 seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

125  
126 Vote to Approve Donation from Nathan & Tracy Roberts to Nantucket Community Pool, \$160.00 Zona Butler made a  
127 motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

128  
129 Vote to Approve December 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Zona Butler  
130 seconded, and the motion was approved.

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132 Vote to Approve December 10, 2019 Workshop Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes,  
133 Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.

134  
135 Vote to Approve December 10, 2019 Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the  
136 minutes, Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.

137  
138 Vote to Approve December 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Zona Butler  
139 seconded, and the motion was approved.

140  
141 Vote to Approve December 17, 2019 Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the  
142 minutes, Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.

143  
144 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

145 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Zona Butler seconded, the motion was approved.

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147 **Superintendent’s Report – W. Michael Cozort**

148 **Enrollment**

149 The Superintendent commented the district was down five students and it is the first time in almost a decade we see some  
150 leveling with little growth in numbers. He shared it would be nice to have level growth for a few years so administrators  
151 could concentrate less on space needs. Mrs. Butler commented on the number of withdrawals, one principal said it was  
152 longer vacation break activity and housing/economics, another said it was families returning late from their home  
153 countries, and another commented it was an out-service student.

154  
155 **Student Council**

156 Joel MacVicar announced the Student Council was putting together a Corn Hole Tournament, much like the Badminton  
157 tournament held every February. There will be a Sadie Hawkins dance on Valentine’s Day. He was enthusiastic about the  
158 recent Winter Ball dance held at the Nantucket Historical Association a few weeks ago. It was very successful, and many  
159 upper classmen attended which is unusual.

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**On the Horizon**

January 14 will be the Budget Presentation at 6pm in the NHS LGI. The schedule FinCom presentation is being moved forward at their request to January 21. On the second meeting for School Committee, that will include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Update, an Approval of the FY21 Budget Appropriation, the School Calendar for 20/21 and possibly Veritas will visit.

At 7:46pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Zona Butler and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk