

**Nantucket School Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes – Remote Participation via ZOOM and Youtube**  
**June 22, 2020 (Rescheduled from June 2)**

Present Members: Chair Pauline Proch, Chair Jennifer Iller, Timothy Lepore, Zona Tanner-Butler, and Steve Sortevik. Also present from the Studio, NCTV Representative Andrew Cromartie, IT facilitator and presenters as guests: Christopher Maury, Director of Athletics; Jennifer Erichsen, Director of Technology; Michele Brady-Boebert, Director of Special Services (all three presenting in this meeting) - Meeting is a Remote Participation Meeting via “ZOOM” in compliance with Governor Charles Baker’s mandate during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Chair Pauline Proch. Prior to approval of Agenda, the Chair focused attention on Vice Chair Jennifer Iller’s pre-recorded Graduation Speech, thanking Superintendent W. Michael Cozort & NHS Principal John Buckey for their dedication and leadership, and following with reading into the Minutes, scripted instructions for procedure of this meeting under COVID requirements:

**Read into the March 24 Meeting Minutes at the Start of the Meeting - Confirming Member Access:**

*This is Pauline Proch, Chair of the Nantucket School Committee. Permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me. Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative: Jennifer Iller, Vice Chair, Zona Butler, Tim Lepore, Steve Sortevik, Secretary.*

*Staff, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative: Superintendent Michael Cozort; Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett; School Committee Clerk, Logan O’Connor; Director of Technology, Jennifer Erichsen*

*Good evening. This Open Meeting of Nantucket School Committee is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the “COVID-19 Virus.” In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor’s Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.*

*The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will feature public comment.*

*For this meeting, Nantucket School Committee is convening by video conference via Zoom App as posted on the Town’s Website identifying how the public may join.*

**Each vote taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote.**

A request was made to approve the agenda. Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Zona Butler and was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

**Comments from the Public**

The Chair waited for a few minutes with no person offering comment. She wished to open Public Comment to later in the meeting, after the Presentations and asked for a motion and consent from the Committee. Mrs. Butler, Dr. Lepore and Mrs. Iller opposed, Mr. Sortevik approved. The motion did not pass, Public Comment opportunity was closed.

**Presentations and Discussion of interest to the Committee**

**Athletics Update, Christopher Maury, Director of Athletics**

Mr. Maury offered his annual presentation with very impressive student athlete numbers, 393 high school students participating in at least one sport and 154 middle school students. The numbers have consistently increased over the years and he is pleased by the increase, citing he wishes to get as many students as possible involved in the athletic programs. Only two seasons of play for the school year contributed to the numbers, as the Spring season was cancelled due to COVID-19, - the Varsity teams had a combined overall record of 101 wins, 101 losses and 8 ties for the year and which equates to a .500 winning percentage. While this percentage is down slightly from the year before, he reminded the Committee how Nantucket has entered a different league with the now expanded Cape & Islands League and are facing much larger schools and tougher competition. This is not a negative rather a positive challenge for

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higher level of competition among all the sports. Proving how well the student athletes fared, Fall and Winter seasons had 12 of 14 teams qualify for state tournament post season play. Academically, our students performed outstandingly, with 39 Principal List recipients and 144 Honor Roll awards. The average GPA for the collective teams was a very impressive 3.69, with the highest GPA overall at 4.02, Girls Soccer in Fall, and 4.14, Girls Swimming in Winter, showing great effort from our students.

Mr. Maury reviewed some highlights of the year, sharing outstanding seasons from Football, Golf, Boys Basketball, Boys Ice Hockey and the Swim Team and included some specific achievements from each of these teams. There were many successes: Swimming having a record history season with not only multiple wins at Sectionals and States, but numerous State medal winners, along with four boys named to Boston Globe and Herald as All-Scholastic and one individual, Tyler Roethke named All-American, a first for any athlete in any sport at Nantucket High School. Also notable for individual success, was Senior Malika Phillip for Girls Basketball, becoming the 10<sup>th</sup> Whaler in school history to reach the 1,000 career point plateau.

Due to COVID-19 some changes to the regular programming were implemented. The Winter Sports Awards were no longer live and were adapted into a Google slide presentation, but well received by student-athletes, coaches, parents and staff. Spring season was cancelled, also due to COVID-19, but not without a full effort from Athletic Directors, MIAA rulings and school districts, all waiting on Governor Baker's rulings about how programming could be rolled out. At first there was hope to shorten the Spring season due to the postponement, but, ultimately, the season was cancelled. The Athletic department looked for ways to "soften the disappointment for all student athletes, but especially, the Seniors." Doffing a cap to the student athletes for their responsible and accepting manner in which they carried themselves, the AD hoped to find ways to recognize each one and did so with a daily photo and blurb of each Senior, which was posted on the school website. The district also joined the "Be a Light" program, a National effort, lighting stadiums every Friday night at 8:20 pm to honor senior athletes.

Future athletics are up in the air. No one knows what will happen in the Fall and the AD's across the state are striving to set up possibilities to try to facilitate some kind of play. There will be specific changes in the planning and structure of programming in order to provide a safe environment, including protocols for hygiene, basic health, and cleaning equipment. While the summer unveils new mandates, Mr. Maury asks students to register, condition the mind and body, and hope to return for Fall in full force. The School Committee thanked Mr. Maury for in-depth information. Dr. Lepore asked about students losing Scholarships if there were no Spring sports, but Mr. Maury assured him, no one was impacted. Jennifer Iller asked about Fall registration numbers, were they off due to COVID-19, but Mr. Maury felt they numbers were solid, approximately 200 students. The Committee asked about user fees, if Spring had been returned, and would Fall be collected? Mr. Maury shared, Spring money was indeed returned or rolled forward and Fall has not yet been collected.

**Annual Technology Update – Director of Technology, Jennifer Erichsen**

Mrs. Erichsen began with an overview of her team of five, all relative newcomers to the department with exception of Joanne Johnsen who has been the Database Administrator since 2006. Mrs. Erichsen gave a shout out to the now retired Linda Ferrantella, who had years of knowledge and experience. Mrs. Erichsen proceeded with descriptions of the accomplishments throughout the year: GSuite, Gmail Calendar migration, Voicemail to Email, GoGuardian Teacher, REMIND for all schools, Comcast phone service (replacing Verizon which had huge outages), Papercut, eRate upgrades, Recycling, Yard Sale of old Samsungs and Cybersecurity Awareness Training with Town of Nantucket IT. She broke down more specifically, accomplishments per school which collectively included: computer upgrades, smartboard upgrades, Flat panel SMART boards/TVs, document cameras, whiteboard and interactive projectors, MAP testing, Windows updates to version 10, Chromebook distribution for all families in need (due to COVID-19), and adding to the established "Nantechies" now with five students onboard. Technology also facilitated upgrades at 56 Centre Street for Nantucket Community School and helped establish a remote learning and testing center at that location. Mrs. Erichsen reviewed upgrades to infrastructure and gave an overview FY16-FY20 of the hardware in the district, outlined by desktop, laptop, iPad, Chromebooks with a total number of devices in FY20 of 2551. Professional

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Development for her staff included Aspen SIF, Google G Suite, Remind, Tech Tips and miscellaneous use of systems, citing it is all very worthwhile for her staff and helps them to stay ahead of the curve. Looking ahead to the next academic year, COVID-19 is at the forefront and Equity issues are important. Mrs. Erichsen searches to continue to enable learning with devices that have cell built into them and she also hopes to continue the 1:1 Chromebook program so that every student has a Chromebook. The department will continue to work to establish a ticket system to facilitate smoother operations for staff to assist with any issues pertaining to Technology.

Dr. Lepore wanted to know about Fall and use of Chromebooks. Mrs. Erichsen responded families are keeping the devices that have been distributed and if every student has a Chromebook the department can continue to monitor usage, because it is consistent across the board. Mr. Sortevik asked if she felt the staff was sufficient to handle the workload, especially due to COVID-19. Mrs. Erichsen thanked her “amazing team” and shared she does cross-training so that every staff member can handle any school or device. Mrs. Proch was very enthusiastic about Nantechies. She also was curious about households with multiple students and how this functions with computers and bandwidth/cell/WIFI. Mrs Erichsen described Myfi devices which have cell phones with routers for computers and that can attach to create a “hotspot”. Mrs. Iller thanked the Director on behalf of the School Committee.

**Special Education Update- Director of Special Services, Michele Brady Boebert**

Mrs. Brady offered a PowerPoint presentation and began with the Remote Learning outline “Learning from a Distance” due to COVID-19. She stressed the challenges faced with how to provide specialized instruction without face to face interventions. She talked about requirement to still conduct evaluations, IEP meetings are handled virtually and following the newly developed guidelines issued by the Commissioner and the Department of Education within our new normal. Mrs. Brady shared some photos to show social emotional learning online, life skills learning online through a Padlet and traditional academics being taught online through Instagram. She spoke about a continuum plan for students with suspected disabilities and the newly created DCAP (District Curriculum Accommodation Plan) designed to recognize early intervention for diverse and/or struggling learners. She reviewed the differences of 504 and IEP plans illustrated the special education percentages for each school in a graph format. She described the focus of such plans as the way to level the playing field for all students. She reviewed the 504 plan that can range from a small accommodation specializing instruction in a related service area to a life-long plan that requires parental consent. These plans cover a range of disabilities and fall under Federal regulations. IEP plans are designed specifically to promote effective progress for students and terminate at graduation or age twenty-two. The IEP plans recognize thirteen disabilities and are supported by both State and Federal regulations. Currently, we have 266 students on an IEP which represents 16.8% of the student population, includes six out of district placements and ten students that attend one of the private schools and receive services from the public school. 109 students are on 504 plans which represents 6.5% of the students. Mrs. Brady shared a graph comparing years 2015 - 2020 for both plans and commented that the Nantucket district is below the state numbers. Mrs. Brady offered the breakdown of disability categories in each school and how PreK numbers are included in NES. She reviewed the number of initial evaluations and that the district averages 95-104 per year, with some evaluations being done on a rotation of every three years. The School Committee was very concerned about remote learning providing enough comprehensive support for families of Special Needs students and acknowledged the difficulties compounded by the COVID-19 situation.

**Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

Vote to Approve Miriam Congdon-Altschul & Evelyn Maglathlin Scholarships 2020

Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Zona Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve MOU with Town of Nantucket & NCS

Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Community Foundation for Nantucket to NCS for Enrichment Kits for Island Youth Program, \$5,0000. Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

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Vote to Approve Donation from Nantucket Dophins Booster Club, Inc to NCS Swimming Travel Program, \$2,982.00

Jennifer Iller made a motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation Grant from The Nantucket Fund for Emergency Relief to NCS for the purchase of health related materials & supplies in preparation of Summer Camp \$5,500.00

Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from ReMain Nantucket to NCS for tenant support program 56 Centre Street, \$12,500.00

Zona Butler made a motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation Cape & Island Workforce Board to NHS Innovation Pathways, \$500.00

Jennifer Iller made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Kristen Rupp Friedman to Adopt a Lunch Tray Fund, \$100.00

Jennifer Iller made a motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Nantucket Let's Get Sewing, 250 Face Masks to NPS

Zona Butler made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Iller, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Contract between Nantucket School Committee & Nantucket Teachers Association July 1, 2020- June 30, 2023 Jennifer Iller made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote Appointment of School Committee Clerk

Chair Pauline Proch asked Mrs. O'Connor is she would consider reappointment, Mrs O'Connor agreed, Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve May 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the minutes, Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

Zona Butler made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Steve Sortevik seconded, the motion was approved.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Cozort praised the Virtual Graduation activities and thanked NHS Principal John Buckey, NHS Assistant Principal Jennifer Psaradelis, NHS Senior Advisor Chris Cothran and NCTV, for an outstanding job. The COVID-19 inspired events created a few new traditions, one specific one being the Senior Parade. The entire town and community, including families, shop owners, and NPS staff all came out to contribute to a special day, and Superintendent Cozort was appreciative of everyone's efforts. Dr. Buckey agreed it was "an exceptional day!" The Superintendent also shared with the School Committee about the staff brunch/lunch to honor retirees. This gathering typically happens on the last day of school in the high school, but was changed to an Ice Cream "Social" choose what you like, at Island Kitchen, and thanked Mrs. O'Connor for coordinating this event.

Dr. Elizabeth Hallett gave an update to the Remote Learning Plan as we reach the end of the school year. She acknowledged student engagement is waning which lent to designing some theme weeks: Art, Nature and Music & Dance. Some schools are continuing with their annual activities such as Lip Sync for NES, NIS Field Day, CPS On With the Show Online, citing how all are virtual activities working within the confines of COVID-19 learning with out-of-the-box thinking. Dr. Hallett reviewed the various Committees and Task forces reorienting their focus to determine next steps and shifting from remote learning discussions to what September will look like for education. There are many areas to consider such as preparing learning plans based on what the Commissioner and Governor, decree, raining staff, protocols for moving literally with the schools and how the district will function whether online, brick and mortar in school, or a hybrid of both. Technology is also a component. Dr. Hallett said up to now we have done the following: Sent surveys to staff and surveys to families in

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each school, assessed Curriculum and current standards, discussed social emotional learning, diversity, equity, and are waiting for modifications and prescriptions from the Department of Education - their guidance will drive the conversations and rollouts. All districts have been told they will need to be 'nimble'. The School Committee was curious about the parent survey and how many respondents there were and how long will it be available. Dr. Hallett replied 350 responses and gave some percentage breakdowns of how families were handling remote learning, how many hours were devoted, was access working, what about multiple students in one household, was the amount too much or too little, etc... There were also some sections offering narratives and NHS families felt there needed to be more rigor, parents were worried about college preparations. Dr. Hallett said all the information is both valuable and helpful. She thanked everyone and stated she is proud of everyone involved! (At 8:07pm, Jennifer Iller left the meeting).

Steve Sortevik asked who volunteers for the committees and if teachers are on these committees during summer will there be compensation for them. Dr. Hallett has offered PDP points and appreciated those who can and want to volunteer can continue to help. She felt with COVID-19 impacting all budget areas, she is being conservative in spending.

Superintendent W. Michael Cozort wanted a chance to say a few things at his last School Committee meeting. He wished to acknowledge the Administrative Staff who are leaving: John Buckley, Julie Lamoly, Jamie Bailey, and Michele Brady-Boebert and he thanked everyone. He also wanted to personally thank the School Committee for his hire in 2010, specifically recognizing Dr. Tim Lepore, thank the community in general and added a personal thanks to his wife, Martha Cozort who has supported him throughout his career.

**Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

Zona Butler reported the Policy Committee is still working and have reviewed through the E policies.

Pauline Proch received two Resolutions from MASC and asked Steve Sortevik, as Legislative Committee representative to read them into the minutes, as they will be voted on during the next meeting. Mr. Sortevik is adjusting the language of the resolutions to make them more reader friendly and read the two resolutions – the first regarding government mandates related to COVID-19 and the second, regarding anti-racism. These will be available to the public prior to the next meeting.

**Horizon**

For July there will be one meeting, which is typical and for August, while there are usually two, it will depend on the TON and scheduling. Superintendent Cozort will send the Horizon to the Chair as one of his last duties for her review. They will also schedule a retreat for the School Committee.

**Other Comments**

Mrs. Proch mentioned she attended both protests for Black Lives Matter, one in Tom Nevers and one on Main Street. She stated she was proud of the students and their ability to make their points in such a well-intended manner. She added one of the Sub/Committees & Task Forces will be a committee for Diversity. Mrs. Proch also wanted to shout out to NCTV for their impressive montage of 142 students getting diplomas and speaking with families and students to create an impressive movie. Steve Sortevik commented how great he thought graduation was. He also wanted to share he always felt NPS staff has as a district, handled diversity so well, but added, "we can always do it better." Zona Butler agreed the staff has done a great service in this area.

At 8:39pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Zona Butler and seconded by Steve Sortevik and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk