

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2019

1
2 Present Members: Chair Jennifer Iller, Vice Chair Timothy Lepore, Zona Butler, Pauline Proch, Steve Sortevisk and
3 Student Council Representative, Joel MacVicar
4

5 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Chair Jennifer Iller, in the Nantucket High School LGI. Steve
6 Sortevisk made a motion to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Zona Butler and was approved unanimously.
7

8 **Comments from the Public**

9 None
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11 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

12 **NHS National merit Scholars – Dr. John Buckley, Principal NHS**

13 Dr. Buckley was delighted to present three National Merit Scholars and noted that it is unusual for three students from
14 our district to qualify. Based on October 2018 scores, 1.5 million students were administered the National Merit
15 Scholarship Qualifying Test standardized tests (PSAT) with 50,000 students recognized as “commended” on the
16 basis of their scores. The NHS students are Anjali Dhar, Victoria Dixon, Anita Dougan. Dr. Buckley and the School
17 Committee congratulated the three and Zona Butler asked them to share their near-future plans. Ms. Dahr responded
18 college, studying Chemistry, Ms. Dixon said she changes her mind constantly, but currently, Global Systems
19 Development, and Ms. Dougan responded something science-related.
20

21 **M.A.S.S. Award to a Senior**

22 Superintendent Cozort gives out this award every year. The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
23 holds certain criteria and offers certificates to each district based on the number of students in the school. Based on
24 our enrollment numbers, Nantucket can award one student in our district as considered worthy by having a top
25 cumulative grade point average and high rank in the class. The Superintendent then has a 5% leeway to make his
26 personal selection and this year, Superintendent Cozort remarked it was difficult to choose. This is a very special
27 Senior Class with high achieving students in all areas. He awarded the 2019 MASS Award to Senior Anjali Dhar.
28

29 **Nantucket Community School Update – Beyond the Numbers – Mrs. Tracy Roberts, Director NCS**

30 Mrs. Roberts noted her annual NCS update would be about the content and program delivery. She reviewed her core
31 team of 16 full-time employees and mentioned NCS hires over 100 part-time employees throughout the year. Her
32 programs are divided into: Early Childhood; Adult Education; After School programs; Children’s Enrichment;
33 Teen’s Enrichment; Driver’s Education; the Community Pool, Danceworks; and GED and ESOL Enrollment. She
34 briefly described the how, what, and who each program area caters to, the ebb and flow of programs, and the
35 solvency of programs moving forward. She cited the NCS mission statement, *“To engage, strengthen, and connect*
36 *our community. We provide a diverse level of high-quality, affordable programs, encourage lifelong personal*
37 *growth and reach out to all members of the community; spanning every age and stage.”* She illustrated teaching
38 developmental milestones and successful outcomes for programs and families. She also noted some challenges in
39 certain areas such as the Community Pool. She shared due to the success of so many pool related programs and the
40 number of people utilizing the pool, comes the challenge of accommodating the numbers and sustaining the
41 programs. Superintendent Cozort reminded the School Committee how the Pool was built to accommodate 1,000
42 students and the increase in students (not including year-round community use) reduces the time for other groups.
43 Drivers Ed was another area of substantial growth, following the district enrollment trends, but also an uptick in the
44 Spanish speaking population; Hiring a full-time person for this program has helped tremendously, and having a
45 bilingual person is also another benefit. Finally, the numbers for the GED and ESOL have shown a large increase,
46 not just for students looking to close the gaps in their education, but also for people not currently enrolled in high
47 school who seek their diploma. Simultaneously, English as a Second Language course has been well attended,
48 mostly attracting Spanish speakers, but open for everyone. Mrs. Roberts thanked the Community Partners for
49 helping the Community School year after year, with a special thanks for ReMain Nantucket for their significant
50 contributions. Pauline Proch asked specifically about keeping programing affordable while simultaneously providing
51 quality. Mrs. Roberts said NCS will not ‘mission creep’ meaning if other community groups are offering a specific

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53 targeted class, we will not duplicate and take away from both. Mrs. Proch also asked about conversations with the
54 Guidance department, specifically HS, with respect to the GED opportunities. Mrs. Roberts answered that the
55 Community School is not directly involved with specific students, but the option is available if the interest arises.
56 The Committee stated their huge appreciation for all that NCS does for the community.
57

58 **English Learner Update – Kelly Ann Cooney, Director of ESL**

59 Ms. Cooney offered a PowerPoint presentation and thanked her full staff of English Learner educators. With fifteen
60 designated ELL staff, plus all the Core Content SEI Endorsed teachers, she is pleased at our ability to deliver
61 appropriate support throughout our district. She highlighted a few examples with a video and an illustration and
62 noted one young student’s statement, “Being bilingual is my super power.” The ELL population in each school
63 continues to grow and Ms. Cooney provided a breakdown of ELL numbers and percentages of students by school
64 over the last five years, affirming we are hovering at near 300 students in our district for 2019, showing a 589%
65 increase since 2005. Nantucket Elementary School has the largest number of EL students currently, with numbers
66 inclusive of PreK. We currently have 34% of students that are multilingual and she gave percentages of students that
67 have special needs, are in their first year of school with NPS, and/or might additionally be considered SLIFE students
68 (students with limited or interrupted education), and students who have FLEPed, meaning they have advanced out of
69 the program and mainstreamed into classes. She gave a breakdown of the many different countries that now
70 represent our EL students (over fifteen) with Spanish speaking countries having the highest representation. She also
71 pointed out to the Committee how well the ELL students are faring on our ACCESS and MCAS tests and that overall
72 they are demonstrating solid scores, often better than state comparisons. These scores are important because they
73 contribute points earned for our district overall in our state accountability with the Department of Education. Ms.
74 Cooney talked about the ELL-PAC (Parents Advisory Council) and working with that group to help them understand
75 how absenteeism plays a role in the student’s learning. Finally, with the CPR Review finalized, the findings for NPS
76 were only two, specifically in the area of Tiered Focus Monitoring: improvement needed to promote and support
77 rapid English Language Acquisition and improvements to monitoring via screening new arrivals. Mrs. Butler
78 focused on the absenteeism and asked if this is moving or pulling students out for a day here and there or extended
79 periods of time. Ms. Cooney talked about the attitudes toward being in school differs for some families or
80 necessitating going to off island meetings for ESL families and needing interpreters (the students). Mrs. Proch
81 offered she was in school and witnessed how one of the teachers effortlessly broke into Spanish and she liked the
82 ease of this within the school walls. Mrs. Iller commented on her personal excitement about the possibility of a Dual
83 Language program in the district and asked to be kept abreast of the PAC’s focus.
84

85 **Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

86 Vote to Approve Policy EEBA – School Owned Vehicles Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch,
87 with none opposed, the motion was approved.
88

89 Vote to Approve Donation from Matt & Kaitlyn Erisman, a Tricycle Bike to NHS Phys Ed Department, \$500.00
90 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Tim Lepore, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
91

92 Vote to Approve Donation from FONPS to NIS Activities Fund for Music/Meet the Orchestra, \$500.00 Pauline
93 Proch made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
94

95 Vote to Approve Donation from EduKIT, Inc. for CPS, as an account reconciliation \$720.29 Tim Lepore made a
96 motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
97

98 Vote to Approve Donation from St. Paul’s Church to NES for School Supplies, \$1,164.51 Tim Lepore made a
99 motion to approve by, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
100

101 Vote to Approve October 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Tim
102 Lepore seconded, and the motion was approved.

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104 Vote to Approve October 8, 2019 Workshop Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the
105 minutes, Tim Lepore seconded, and the motion was approved.

106
107 Vote to Approve October 15, 2019 Workshop Meeting Minutes. Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the minutes,
108 Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.

109
110 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

111 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Zona Butler seconded, the motion was approved.
112

113 **Superintendent Report**

114 **Enrollment**

115 Superintendent Cozort stated we have gone down three students. The high school is now “jam packed” with the
116 largest enrollment in their history. He and the Director of Facilities, Diane O’Neil, are already pre-planning about
117 space issues, and there is conversation entertaining portable classrooms and perhaps doing a study for future school
118 plans. He cautioned the Committee not to get caught up in the numbers as much as the needs, for it is the needs that
119 are the concern. The needs have grown in the areas of social-emotional and mental health, with more challenges now
120 and we are seeing more children in crisis. SC Chair Jennifer Iller said the middle school is very crowded as students
121 move throughout the hallways. Zona Butler stated emphatically, we are out of space. The Superintendent responded
122 a campus-wide study to plan for these needs is underway and he is hoping enrollment will stabilize to give us the
123 time to prepare.
124

125 **District Improvement Plan**

126 Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett handed the School Committee the new District Improvement Plan. She
127 discussed the hefty amount of work from the Administrative and Leadership Teams in putting together this document
128 and the plan. She referenced the previous SWOT Plans, put together previously that allowed for the group to collect
129 and disaggregate the information to come up with four specific areas of concentration. The Administrative Team is
130 rolling the document out to the staff and School Council to provide feedback.
131

132 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

133 None
134

135 **On the Horizon**

136 The draft budget calendar from Town outlines some of the key dates for the budgeting process. The Superintendent
137 reviewed it briefly and suggested three meetings in December might be a good idea for the School Committee and he
138 suggested December 3, 10, and 17. The next meeting in November will have the Preliminary Budget Forecast, 1st
139 Quarter Budget Updates, Federal Grants, the NCTM Conference Presentation, a visit and presentation from Lauren
140 Sinatra and the Town Energy Update.
141

142 **Student Council**

143 Joel MacVicar thanked the school, the Athletic Department and Boosters for making the Island Cup happen again.
144 He very much liked the representation of our school competing in games for two youth ages, CPS football, the JV
145 game and the Varsity game. He shared Nantucket went 4-1 for the day. He moved quickly to recap the latest
146 Mashpee Nantucket football playoff and noted both the girl’s and boys’ soccer teams and their seasons.
147

148 At 7:48 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Tim Lepore and
149 unanimously approved.
150

151 Respectfully submitted,

152 Logan O’Connor, School Committee Clerk