

**Nantucket School Committee
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2021**

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2 Present Members: Chair Pauline Proch, Zona Tanner Butler (arrived 6:19pm), Timothy Lepore (arrived 6:11pm) &
3 Steve Sortevik. Also present from the Studio, NCTV Representative Matt Pommerfret and presenters as guests,
4 Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett & NPS Finance Director Martin Anguelov. This meeting is a Remote Participation Meeting
5 via “ZOOM” in compliance with Governor Charles Baker’s mandate during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
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7 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Chair Pauline Proch who followed with reading into the Minutes, scripted
8 instructions for procedure of this meeting under COVID requirements:
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10 **Read into the Meeting Minutes at the Start of the Meeting - Confirming Member Access:**

11 *This is Pauline Proch, Chair of the Nantucket School Committee. Permit me to confirm that all members and persons*
12 *anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me. Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative:*
13 *Jennifer Iller (not present), Zona Butler (not present), Tim Lepore (not present), Steve Sortevik, Secretary.*

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15 *Staff, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative: Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett; School Committee Clerk,*
16 *Logan O’Connor; Director of Technology, Jennifer Erichsen*
17

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

24 *The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so*
25 *long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. Ensuring*
26 *public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will feature public*
27 *comment. For this meeting, Nantucket School Committee is convening by video conference via Zoom Webinar App as posted*
28 *on the Town’s Website identifying how the public may join.*
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30 **Each vote taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote.**

31 The Chair called the Public Hearing meeting to order at 6:00pm. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Steve Sortevik,
32 with no second the meeting was unable to commence as a quorum was not present. Mrs. Proch asked for patience from the
33 people in attendance and the viewers with the expectation the meeting could proceed. At 6:11, Time Lepore entered the Zoom
34 Webinar, seconded the motion which was then approved unanimously by roll call vote. Mrs. Proch welcomed everyone to
35 the Nantucket School Committee Public Hearing on the FY22 Budget.
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37 **Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett & Finance Director Martin Anguelov – Nantucket Public Schools FY’22 Budget**
38 **Development Presentation**

39 Superintendent Hallett offered a Power Point and introduced her first Budget Development presentation, beginning with
40 the enrollment summary and emphasized this is what always drives our budget numbers. Dr. Hallett stated this is the
41 ‘budget story’, one which offers an accurate and clear account of student and staff needs. She reinforced how students
42 are always at the core of every decision. From 2010-2019 there was mostly steady enrollment growth, with a slight dip
43 this year possibly due to the pandemic and/or cost of living. The enrollment projection for next year 2021-2022 is fairly
44 steady with a small increase of ten students and therefore, allows us to assume a sense of stability. She reviewed the next
45 slide depicting the growth of population over a 20-year period and how the school population is profoundly different
46 than 20 years ago. The 20-year chart portrays the demographics within the community and clearly defines the changes,
47 once upon a time being 93.3% white to now 50.2% identifying as white/Caucasian and the balance, people of color and
48 not identifying as white/Caucasian. This shift supports the important work in addressing diversity, equity and access.
49 The continual explosion of our ELL and Special Needs population (specifically, the drastic increase in numbers for the
50 ELL population from 2005-2021) determines we must structure our learning opportunities to support these increases
51 taking into consideration the FLEP students, the political landscape, and the economy that impacts families coming or
52 going to and from Nantucket. Also important is the consistent rise in Special Education students and where it is a

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53 challenge to maintain the appropriate supports and especially in consideration for out of district needs in matching with
54 the increase of students' needs. In this particular area, the focus for this coming year is to 'keep our kids here' by
55 lowering our out of district numbers which are not only expensive, but disruptive for those children and their families
56 who are impacted.

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58 Mr. Anguelov reviewed the budget numbers and confirmed for Fiscal Year 2022 our total budget is \$32,876,987, on-
59 going expenses are \$1,430,345 and with a one-time expense of \$150,000. The 2022 Budget total shows a projected
60 increase of \$1,580,345 which represents the projected budget that moves forward, and a total projected increase of
61 \$31,296,642. Within this number, \$5,600,903 (17%) of this increase is expenses while \$27,276,082 (83%) is contractual
62 agreements for payroll. Over the last nine years, there has been a 30% growth period which illustrates a fortunate trend.
63 Mr. Anguelov evaluated slides to support the projections, depicting per pupil expenditure over the last ten years (\$22,458
64 to \$23,044) and the state average increasing in comparable fashion (\$13,047 to \$17,149) over that time. These numbers
65 are determined by a state formula and our dollars represent running a school district on an island and which includes
66 Vocational, Special Education, Athletic programs and Salaries, all being significantly at higher costs. The Chapter 70
67 funds comparison also shows what we have received in the past ten years and while it remains fairly steady (with a
68 moderate increase each year) it now displays no change from last year to this year, remaining static at \$3,600,249. These
69 funds are based on a complex formula designed by the State and calculated to ensure that every district has sufficient
70 resources to meet its foundation budget spending level, through an equitable combination of local property taxes and
71 state aid. In January of 2020 it looked as though this funding was going to be considerably more money, but with the
72 pandemic and changes at the state level, the State determined who and where funding is necessitated; Nantucket was
73 considered level funded and not falling into the same need categories as other districts. Mr. Anguelov added this funding
74 number helps the Town factor the Appropriation numbers for the School, therefore these coffers are an important piece
75 of the puzzle.

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77 Beyond enrollment, there are many factors that contribute to the budget numbers. Dr. Hallett discussed expenses versus
78 payroll and showed a graph portraying spending at the various schools (high school having the highest percentage in
79 expenditures) and within all the departments. She reminded the School Committee that we have previously presented
80 each separate department budget in the preceding meetings. She also outlined the level of Federal Grants that the district
81 receives and quickly reviewed the funding of each, specifically noting the new ESSER Grant (encapsulated by the
82 CARES Act) and was an enormous help with PPE, facilities expenditures and technology, all impacted by the COVID-
83 19 pandemic. There is anticipation of the ESSER II coming soon, estimated to be four times the current grant and will
84 be enormously helpful as we continue with these expenditures in the foreseeable future.

85
86 Mr. Anguelov reviewed a graph showing the Community School appropriation. Annually, the appropriation has
87 fluctuated slightly over the years as the economy goes up and down, and he reflected how we are fortunate with this
88 year's repeated proposed appropriation of \$550,000. This is critical funding, especially this year, as without it, the
89 burden falls solely on participant fees. Due to the pandemic, participant fees were desperately short because many
90 programs were not able to run at all, and in some cases, even those that did, it was difficult for many families to
91 participate. He cited the need to find the balance in affordable programming and financial viability of the programs and
92 the Community School has been, of late, successful in finding this balance. Now with such a challenging year and being
93 unsure about the targets for growth, the funding is even more critical. Mr. Anguelov thanked the community at large for
94 their continual gifts and donations for this has also helped sustain NCS.

95
96 Dr. Hallett summarized the development of this budget and that it is tied to school and district goals. She described her
97 focus with this budget is to provide the much needed supports due to the educational learning loss and social emotional
98 needs of students. The parameters for the Administrative Team in creating this budget, as directed by the Superintendent
99 and the School Committee directives, were as follows:

- 100
101 1) Recommend 2021-2022 budget needs are linked to the district and school goals with particular attention to
102 access and equity for all students;

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- 2) Expect that building budgets for 2021-2022 are based on projected enrollments and curricular needs as well as extenuating circumstances due to COVID-19 and how it has affected us;
- 3) Ask building principals to identify essential services for their students;
- 4) Continue to support programs that sustain the physical, social and emotional development of our children, especially considering additional challenges presented by the current pandemic;
- 5) Develop all budgets to more closely reflect actual expenditures in the last three years;
- 6) Tap revenue streams other than the operating budget (federal and state grant opportunities);
- 7) Budget utility expenses to more closely reflect actual expenditures in the last three years

A summary of increases to the FY 2022 budget was provided and Superintendent Hallett showed how they address the needs outlined in the parameters. The Budget increase requests are as follows:

- At NES, add (2)1.0 Kindergarten Teaching Assistants
- At NES, add .5 Interventionist (shared with NIS)
- At NIS, add 1.0 SPED Teacher
- At NIS, add .5 Interventionist (shared with NES)
- At CPS, add 1.0 Encore Teacher
- At NHS, add 1.0 SPED Teaching Assistant
- At NHS, increase funding in Science Books line
- ELL – increase funding in Technology Line
- ELL – add 1.0 SEI Coach
- SPED – add .8 SPED Interpreter
- TECHNOLOGY – increase funding in Software
- CENTRAL OFFICE – increase funding in Curriculum Books line
- CENTRAL OFFICE – add 1.0 Educational Technology Specialist
- FACILITIES – increase funding in NHS Supplies
- FACILITIES – increase funding in Central System Plant Maintenance – R&M
- FACILITIES – increase funding in Central System Plant Maintenance - Contractors

Finally, the Finance Director broke down the Capital requests for Fiscal Year 2022. It is hopeful these monies for NPS meets the approval of the Capital Committee and the Financial Committee (meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021).

1. Campus Wide Master Plan: a request of \$1,276,063 to continue moving forward with the already approved construction work for the Varsity Baseball complex and the five Tennis Courts for the high school sports teams planned for the Backus Lane property.
2. NPS Pool Parking Lot Reconfiguration: \$157,901 for the reconfiguration of the Pool parking lot as part of the road and rotary changes to alleviate traffic. This project is at the request of the Town of Nantucket.
3. NPS Building Improvements: \$300,000 for an annual request to do multiple building improvements that are necessary to keep the facilities well maintained. There are a multitude of repairs that are needed in all buildings. Some examples offered: shingling and trim, cracks and erosion in sidewalks, leaks and corrosion in sinks in classrooms.
4. NPS Grounds Bobcat Replacement: \$65,000 to replace the Bobcat for the Grounds Department. Current equipment is from 2004 and which now has several mechanical issues that are no longer fixable. Equipment is used everyday for many functions for our district.

In conclusion, Superintendent Hallett re-emphasized the steps that were taken to create the budget, sharing the information with faculty, gleaning feedback from constituencies, presentations by principals and department heads, and now holding this public meeting. After the presentation to Fin Com, there will be a vote from the School Committee and then the voting at the Town of Nantucket Annual Meeting.

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Comments from the Public - None

Pauline Proch took this opportunity to ask Mrs. Butler for her roll call vote to approve the original motion to convene this meeting, not wanting to interrupt during the presentation. Mrs. Butler affirmed her approval.

Steve Sortevik asked for a few clarifications: He queried the source of the restricted appropriation in reference to Chapter 70 monies. Mr. Anguelov confirmed it is part of our overall budget of \$32 million dollars. Mr. Sortevik also inquired about the \$80,000 salary number for the Educational Technology Specialist and wanted to know if this is projected salary? Dr. Hallett confirmed and re-emphasized it does not include other costs, such as insurance, as those are absorbed by TON. The ESSER II Grant was his last question, wondering the dollars associated to this grant. Dr. Hallett responded she does not yet have the figure and it is not included in the budget. She is hopeful it is indeed what DESE has slated for our district, equating 3.7 times more than the first grant - and even more enticing, it comes without conditions and can be used up until September 2023.

The School Committee thanked everyone for their hard work. Chair Pauline Proch appreciates the continued focus to meet the diversified needs and is confident the budget will remain reflective of these needs.

Steve Sortevik made a motion to adjourn from Public Hearing, Tim Lepore seconded, the meeting was adjourned.
Public hearing adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Logan M. O'Connor, School Committee Clerk