

**Nantucket School Committee  
Workshop Meeting Minutes  
November 24, 2020**

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2 Present Members: Jennifer Iller, Zona Butler (arrived at 12:28), Pauline Proch, Steve Sortevik, Superintendent  
3 Elizabeth Hallett, School Committee Clerk Logan O'Connor  
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5 The meeting was called to order when a quorum was present, by Vice Chair, Jennifer Iller (on behalf of Chair  
6 Pauline Proch who is present but has laryngitis) at 12:05pm, meeting held remotely, via Zoom. Pauline Proch made  
7 a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Steve Sortevik, and the Committee approved unanimously  
8 by roll call vote . The Vice Chair adjourned and moved to a Workshop with the same persons approving.  
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10 **School Committee Goals**

11 The current School Committee Goals were established in academic year 2019-2020; this is the second year for this  
12 'living' document. Four goals remain the major focus: Leadership & Governance, Student Support, Human  
13 Resources / Professional Development, and Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment. These goals are supported by  
14 Objectives, Indicators of Success and Evidence to show attainment. Secretary Steve Sortevik took it upon himself to  
15 revamp the pagination slightly for the School Committee Goals and encompass an additional column to the left  
16 which will indicate the 'STATUS' of an objective within a goal. Mr. Sortevik explained his reasons for adding the  
17 left sided STATUS column, as he felt a column on the right is cumbersome to read and left is more efficient for  
18 scrolling to match the evidence of attainment. Mr. Sortevik described how he reviewed the past agendas from  
19 September 2020 forward and added comments in the status column where applicable presentations or conversations  
20 matched the Goals. There was discussion about adding Schoology and Hybrid Learning in some capacity.  
21 Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett thought aloud these are very specifically school based goals and detailed how each  
22 are reflected in the School Improvement Plans and therefore might not be a specific goal for School Committee.  
23 However, she added that these could be reflected possibly in Goal #4 with reference to Technology and Curriculum  
24 & Assessment. Chair Proch invited the School Committee to suggest additions, deletions or modifications. There  
25 was discussion about adding references to Face Mask Policy, Social Emotional support, and Diversity. Mr. Sortevik  
26 said he would add bullets where he felt applicable. Another meeting was suggested to review the Goals again.  
27

28 **Preliminary Budget Discussion FY22**

29 Superintendent Hallett, Financial Director Martin Anguelov, and Sub-Committee members Pauline Proch and  
30 Jennifer Iller attended the Ad Hoc Budget meeting held last week to review and discuss with Town of Nantucket  
31 (TON) officials, the school preliminary budget numbers. Currently the school district is putting together their budget  
32 proposals. Ad Hoc is waiting for a bottom-line number; as shared with NPS, the TON 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter showed better than  
33 expected results with an increase in revenues. NPS is optimistic the roll forward will move ahead and hopeful to hear  
34 about any possible additional funding. Chair Proch agreed it was a good meeting. The Superintendent shared some  
35 relief in consideration of enrollment numbers at this time and how without the traditional rise in student numbers we  
36 therefore do not seemingly need to hire for numbers but rather with more focus for programming. She furthered the  
37 Principals and Directors have been very conservative in their requests and we are very mindful of our dollars.  
38 Especially with COVID unanticipated expenses, we will no longer have the ESSER or CARES Act grants, which  
39 helped us tremendously this year with pandemic costs.  
40

41 Jennifer Iller, concerned about budget requests, asked hypothetically if we return to full in-person learning, keeping  
42 socially distanced but reducing the six feet requirement, if we still need more staff to accommodate our addition of  
43 students in our classrooms. She added that she is wishing for a vaccine, CDC guidelines and easier times to support  
44 our students' learning opportunities. Steve Sortevik stated emphatically he believes more money is needed for the  
45 hardware/Tech budget, offering he has heard from students and staff about poor performance of older Chromebooks.  
46 In general, he feels more money is essential to help support the major loss of academics. The district will need to add  
47 more Teachers/TAs/Specialists, especially to help Tier II, Tier III, and English Learners who have significantly fallen  
48 behind due to the school closures and even hybrid learning. Mr. Sortevik emphasized how important it is that TON  
49 understand the roll forward will not cover our needs. Dr. Hallett understands the School Committee's concern about  
50 funding and feels confident we delivered to TON our wishes/requirements/needs and that no one has held back in  
51 describing the importance of our budget number asks.

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**COVID Update**

Dr. Hallett cited her continual updates to the School Committee and gave the general total of the recent month numbers: Exposures confirm 22 positive cases in the school district, 8 in Cohort D, 14 out of isolation and 8 currently quarantined. The district has done extremely well showing no signs of transmission within schools. She talked about the messages to staff asking for continued vigilance in following social distancing, health and safety protocols; she has urged everyone, as we head into the Thanksgiving break, to continue to be mindful of making safe decisions. She asked staff to plan ahead to test as required if traveling and shared she and COVID Liaison Sara Brooks sent a survey to collect data on staff travel. Dr. Hallett was happy to report that very few seem to be journeying off island during the Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. Sortevik asked about the Nantucket Cottage Hospital numbers of 113 positive cases and whether Dr. Hallett was concerned about coming back into school on Monday, November 30. She agreed that the challenge is that we do not know what will happen, and the health of the island will be a determinant. Dr. Hallett talked about our COVID permanent substitutes, our small cache of daily subs, and in-staff coverage to do the best we can if classes need the coverage. Each school has put together a list of who they can rely on (including administrative members), along with a contingency plan if the state pulls the closure trigger. Mrs Iller asked if there had been discussion about proactively closing the school the week after break. Dr. Hallett said this has been a consideration but the pushback from the State has been strong to keep students in school. Most districts are not preemptively closing, and Dr. Hallett hopes that NPS does not have to follow this route. She reaffirmed how well the safety protocols in school are working and there has been no transmission in district. Mrs. Iller further questioned about rapid testing, but Superintendent Hallett responded too many false negatives and false positives do not offer comfortable data, sharing that the nurses are also not in support of rapid testing. It is helpful for surveillance but not for accuracy. Dr. Lepore concurred that the test is not a helpful line of defense and makes no sense because it lacks reliability.

Jennifer Iller asked about interscholastic sports. Superintendent Hallett did offer MIAA has approved interscholastic competition for the next season and more information will be available at the December 1 meeting. The School Committee is concerned about student athlete travel.

The Committee adjourned with a motion made by Jennifer Iller, seconded by Pauline Proch at 12:56pm on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk