

**Nantucket School Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 7, 2021**

Present Members: Chair Tim Lepore, Vice Chair Pauline Proch, Laura Gallagher Byrne and Anthony Fox. Also present from the Studio, a NCTV Representative. This meeting is an in-person participation meeting in compliance with Governor Charles Baker's statement allowing public bodies the ability to hold a meeting at a physical location that is open to the public, without requiring to provide alternative means of remote access. A motion was made by Pauline Proch, seconded by Anthony Fox, and approved unanimously, to open the Meeting, and which was called to order at 6:00 PM in the Nantucket High School LGI, by Chair Timothy Lepore. Dr. Lepore asked for a moment of silence in honor of CPS Nurse, Sara Brooks, who recently passed away after battling four years of cancer.

**Comments from the Public**

Retired Nantucket Fire Department Captain, Robert Bates, shared his concerns about PFAS and the synthetic fields slated for NPS as part of the Master Campus Plan. He read a prepared statement to the School Committee. Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett, in response Mr. Bates and to a request from the School Committee, offered an opportunity for everyone involved and everyone concerned to have discussion at a future meeting.

**Superintendent's Report**

**Federal Grants**

Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett reviewed the Federal Grant chart showing a comparison for two years, FY22 and FY21. In FY 21 the total in grant money was \$712,562 and in FY22 (current year) the total is a much greater \$2,260,149. This is largely due to the ESSER I, II, III grants that came to fruition due to the pandemic and are to be used with Social Emotional Learning and COVID related services. Dr. Hallett reviewed each grant and its purpose in funding, including small increases across the board with IDEA subgrants. She detailed the Title I, II, III, IV grants, specifically Title I for low income, summer school and reading intervention; Title II for professional development/teacher effectiveness, stipends for mentors; Title III for English Learners, summer school and parent education; and Title IV, Safe Schools and Responsive Classroom. Mr. Anthony Fox asked if any of these grants will continue. Dr. Hallett explained how these federal grants are renewable annually with exception to the ESSER grants that expire over three years' time. Dr. Lepore was curious about the Title III Grant in that it seems small in relation to our ELL student enrollment numbers. Superintendent Hallett reminded the grant dollar amount is dependent on the number of students, and it is formula based.

**Accidentals & Naturals Update**

Superintendent Hallett was excited to share that after more than a year hiatus due to the Pandemic, the Accidentals & Naturals came back to sing live at the downtown Christmas Tree lighting. They were greeted by Alumni, the community and President Biden. Live performance is so important for musicians. She also shared the Annual Dessert Cabaret is returning and will be held on Monday, December 13, with two seating's, starting at 6pm.

**Enrollment**

Superintendent Hallett reported a slightly higher number from the month before, with 1,685 for a total district Enrollment.

**COVID Vaccine Clinic Info/Update**

The Department of Health has agreed to provide clinics for vaccines and booster shots. The first one ran on December 3, specifically for school personnel, with the second on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, a full vaccine clinic for the public for anyone over the age of 5 will take place on December 18 from 9am-2pm. This will happen as a collaboration of Massachusetts Department of Public Health and NPS.

A supplementary update is a circle-back reply to the previous School Committee meeting and the Kindergarten teachers making public comment about behavior and teaching issues currently impacting the Elementary School, specifically the Kindergarten classes. Pauline Proch asked for information about the district plan in response to this commentary. Dr. Hallett gave a long list of remedial approaches to help the teachers, students, and parents: On November 17, NES held a parent meeting to review Responsive Classroom and ways to help teach good habits at home –

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- this was offered in three languages and was well attended; student concern meetings are happening; Lunch Bunch gatherings; daily access to the Student Support Center (SSC); using radios to help alert administrative staff to immediate needs; NES administration and counselors are walking around more frequently; behavior contracts are being created for individual students; weekly professional learning meetings to help with de-escalation situations; referrals are being made for Tier I or II needs, MTSS interventions are taking place; suspensions are happening when there is no other alternative; PreK staff is going into Kindergarten classrooms when they are done with their day; a new social worker has started as of Monday, December 3; Professional Development and Grants are being researched; and finally, “Consistent CARES”, a six-week class after school to help teach/review expectations, rules, and everyday behavioral routines. Unfortunately, at this point, no staff have offered or inquired about leading that class. Laura Gallagher Byrne asked about the posting for the Comfort CARES review of classroom routines, specifically whether that was published outside of the school system. Dr. Hallett said at this point it had not been, but the idea is for internal staff to teach this class since they are aware of the needs, there is consistency in following Responsive Classroom and they know the children. Mrs. Proch asked about teaching assistants in each class. The Superintendent reminded the School Committee the current budget does not support extra TAs; currently, there is an IEP need that dictates a one-to-one teacher student, the TA must fill that role by law. Mrs. Proch further asked who staffs the SSC. Dr. Hallett answered that currently we do not have permanent staffing, but all the staff know how to use the SSC and there is a protocol and routine in doing so. Principal Kimberly Kubisch, from the audience wanted to add that there is no longer an Options program currently in the Elementary School, and up until now, there has not been a need for a permanent staff member in the SSC. Finally, Mrs. Proch was curious if the social worker will make home visits akin to the NHS social worker. Mrs. Kubisch responded this is part of every social worker’s job. She also referenced the TA dilemma, reiterating how she asks for additional TAs every year as part of her budget, but the IEPs often take precedence moving a TA to a 1:1 situation no matter what her staffing looks like in numbers. Mr. Fox stated he sees the need for TAs and wanted to know how many we are looking for. Student Council Representative Kathryn Kyomitmaitee asked for explanation on the behavior contracts. Mrs. Kubisch answered they are typically incentive based and strive to be intrinsically motivating. Finally, Dr. Lepore asked if the TA staffing struggle is due to money or lack of personnel. The answer from the Superintendent: personnel.

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

**Budget Development FY23**

**Facilities – Director Diane O’Neil**

Director Diane O’Neil offered her FY’23 Budget, representing 13% of the overall budget with 52% representing payroll expense. She has no requests for staffing and is seeking only an increase to the utilities line of \$100,000. Fuel, electricity, and propane have gone up precipitously in cost. She showed the actual use versus the budget and feels the increase is a smart decision. Mrs. Proch asked about end of year funds used in the maintenance line? Director of Finance Martin Anguelov responded that this is a customary practice; at the end of the year, he and Mrs. O’Neil look at the facility demands and use those funds to help complete some of the most needed projects. Dr. Lepore jibed he hopes for a warm winter.

**Nantucket Community School – Director Tracy Nichols**

Tracy Nichols thanked her core staff and talked about her budget being complicated as it is made up of seven revolvers, a plethora of gifts and donations and the Town of Nantucket Appropriation. She specifically thanked Katie Manchester, Business Manager for NCS, for helping to review and scrutinize the budget details. With 14 full time employees, offering full benefits, the cost of staff is a large portion of the budget. Ms. Nichols outlined the breakdown of funding sources: 54% program income, 11% fundraising/grants/donations and 35% public appropriation. She emphasized NCS’s budget is separate from NPS budget numbers. FY’22 total budget for NCS was \$1,596,645 and the projected budget for FY’23 is \$1,576,798. Mr. Fox asked who writes grants for them, stating “money is out there”. Ms. Nichols responded that the team collectively do the grant writing. Mr. Fox was also curious about the Driver’s Ed program being difficult for islanders to access. He stated he recently wrote a letter to the state to explain how the program works on Nantucket. The state apparently did not understand the structure and limitations of the island Driver’s Ed learning and testing program.

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**Athletics – Director Travis Lombardi**

Director Travis Lombardi thanked everyone for the opportunity to take the helm of the Athletic Department. He stated how excited he is to be in the position so far for five months, and he is enjoying the learning curve. His budget will remain status quo as he is not asking for additional money. The Athletics Department is 2% of the budget with payroll at 66%. He mentioned Matt Hunt the Assistant AD, thanking him for doing double time as Athletic Trainer and Assistant AD, but on Monday, December 13, the new AT will start. There will no longer be an ESP in the department therefore payroll will represent the three positions as stated along with coaching stipends. Director of Finance Martin Anguelov talked about the revolver, which encompasses fees and donations, covers uniforms and supplies, and supplements what is needed. The School Committee asked how many sports are currently available to students. Mr. Lombardi responded 20 different sports are offered and participation rates are the highest ever, approximately 72% sharing that there is clearly a need to support the continuation of these numbers. Mr. Fox asked about fall sports and travel. Mr. Lombardi said the fall saw 8 teams traveling for NHS and 5 for CPS; winter will have 5 for NHS and 2 for CPS. Dr. Lepore congratulated everyone for the Martha's Vineyard wins(s) and wanted to understand why the soccer playoffs had NPS students traveling to Pittsfield (the other side of the state). Mr. Lombardi explained the MIAA playoff rulings have been restructured; the new system will be a two-year trial to see how this works. He agrees, a four-hour trip from Hyannis is an arduous one for the athletes and coaches.

**Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

Vote to Approve Donation from Ridge LLC/DBA Island Kitchen to CPS for WCPS News Network Club (CPS Newspaper), \$200.00 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Nantucket Island Drug Corporation to CPS for WCPS News Network Club (CPS Newspaper), \$200.00 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Hayward Photography to CPS Student Gift Account, \$1,457.57 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Hayward Photography to NIS Student Gift Account, \$1,436.28 Rocky Fox made a motion to approve, Pauline Proch seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve November 16, 2021, Meeting Minutes Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with no one opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices November 16, 2021, Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

**Sub-Committee/Work Group**

Diversity: Anthony “Rocky” Fox said he, Mrs. Martinez, Kimal McCarthy and the Superintendent will meet on Wednesday, December 8. He stated it seems we are ahead of other districts.

Nantucket Education Trust: Mrs. Pauline Proch shared an author from the Book Festival came to NHS with support from NET. NET has also contributed to the purchase of the new Driver's Ed vehicle, and Cow Pond housing is full with staff.

Negotiations: Dr. Lepore stated the ESP Unit negotiations continue.

Student Council Representative Miss Kyomitmaitee shared:

- December Delight is this Saturday, December 11
- Christmas Stroll - Clubs decorated trees downtown
- *Almost Maine* was presented by the Drama Club, it was the first live play since the COVID Pandemic
- NHS has their Winter Chorus concert coming up
- NHS has their Dessert Cabaret with Accidentals & Naturals coming up

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- Winter Sports started Monday December 6
- Spirit Week will be happening the last week of school before the holiday break
- Wednesday, NHS students will offer insight to staff on the NEASC “Vision of a Graduate”

**Horizon**

The next meeting will be December 21<sup>st</sup> with more COVID Updates, Annual Report, Budget Development for Special Services, English Language Learners, Technology, Veritas Update. Mrs. Proch asked to include meeting the new Social Emotional Coordinator and a presentation regarding those services, along with a PFAS conversation.

At 6:53pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch, seconded by Laura Gallagher Byrne and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Logan O’Connor, School Committee Clerk