

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2024

Present Members: Chair Pauline Proch, Laura Gallagher Byrne, Timothy Lepore, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy, and Student Representative Bruna Jenzura. Also present from the Studio, an NCTV Representative. This meeting is an in-person participation meeting in compliance with Governor Charlie 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.

The January 9, 2024, School Committee meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM in the Nantucket High School LGI by Chair Pauline Proch with a motion made to approve the agenda by Timothy Lepore, seconded by Shantaw Bloise-Murphy and approved unanimously.

There was no Public Comment

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hallett began her report by addressing the January 2024 student enrollment. She noted an increase of eight students from December, bringing the total to 1,705 students, with a well-distributed addition across all four schools. Moving on to a highlight of her report, Superintendent Hallett expressed her enthusiasm for presenting awards to 3 deserving senior students in the audience. One award is the MASS and the other 2 is the NSDC Award. Dr. Hallett proceeded to explain the significance of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent Certification of Academic Excellence, an award presented to a student ranking in the top 5% of the senior class. The recipient must demonstrate excellent academic standing, and outstanding achievement, and serve as a model student within the school community. Dr. Hallett proudly announced that the chosen student for this prestigious award is Henry Crosby. Not only recognized for his high academic achievements and commitment to excellence, Henry is actively involved in Veritas, the National Honor Society, and holds a significant role as the youngest summer employee at the Nantucket Mooring Company. Dr. Hallett commended Henry for embodying core values such as respect, hard work, and a strong commitment to helping others.

Dr. Hallett continued with the presentation of the National School Development Council Awards for academic growth and student leadership in learning. These awards, bestowed upon two seniors, recognize the consistent pursuit of high academic effort, positive role modeling in the student body, and the embodiment of admirable character and accomplishment. The first recipient of this award is a dedicated student with plans to pursue studies in environmental science after graduation. Not only is she the senior class president, but she also actively contributes to the varsity girls' basketball and tennis teams. Dr. Hallett highlighted her core values, which include a strong sense of community involvement and empathy for others. With great excitement, Dr. Hallett presented this award to Joan Harris, acknowledging her outstanding achievements and contributions.

Dr. Hallett introduced the second recipient of the NSDC Award, a student who arrived from Brazil seven years ago and has thrived since. This accomplished student has a passion for languages, particularly excelling in Spanish, English, and Chinese. Beyond academics, she dedicates her time to volunteering at Nisha and aspires to become a veterinarian due to her love for animals. Dr. Hallett highlighted her enthusiasm for making new friends, helping others, and her notable skill in sewing. The core values of this outstanding student include a strong belief in education and the importance of seizing opportunities,

as well as a deep appreciation for family. Dr. Hallett expressed great joy in presenting this award to Ana Julya Jonoario, recognizing her achievements and contributions.

Dr. Hallett then presented the FY23 Annual Town Report to the committee with no questions and moved on to one additional update. She noted that the district is grateful to have Joanne Johnsen step in as acting Tech director while the position is reposted. Joanne has many years of experience in the district and is familiar with the intricacies of technology with a strong understanding of the tech team's priorities.

Town of Nantucket Preliminary FY25 Budget Presentation - Libby Gibson, Town Manager & Brian Turbitt, Director of Municipal Finance

Town Manager Libby Gibson and Director of Finance Brian Turbitt presented the Annual General Fund FY25 Budget recommendations, explaining this presentation previously shared with the Select Board on December 13. Mrs. Gibson expressed gratitude for the collaboration between the town and the school, emphasizing the importance of understanding the overall budget. Mr. Turbitt provided an overview of the budget process, highlighting the key objectives and focus areas. The strategic plan included priorities like housing, infrastructure maintenance, sustainability, and employee retention. The budget addressed compensation, strategic initiatives, and ongoing priorities. Brian discussed revenue projections, expense breakdowns, and the impact of state aid cuts. The presentation covered one-time and ongoing expenses, including new positions, infrastructure projects, and funding allocations. The use of free cash, potential future costs, and challenges like supply chain issues and cybersecurity were also addressed. The town's cautious approach to short-term rental revenue and the need for vigilance in cybersecurity were highlighted. Future steps include a public hearing, finance committee review, and town meeting in May. The Committee was thankful for the presentation and did not have any further questions.

VOCAL Data Presentation - Sherri Lewis, Coordinator of Student Support & Social/Emotional Learning

Sherri Lewis presented on the VOCAL (Views Of Climate And Learning) survey, based on the CASEL Wheel's social-emotional learning systems. The survey measures students' views on school climate in areas of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. The nine subcategories under engagement, environmental, and safety dimensions include cultural competencies, participation, relationships, discipline, instruction, mental health, bullying, emotional safety, and physical safety. Nantucket Public Schools' VOCAL data are comparable to the state's overall data in all areas. However, the challenge lies in data suppression for specialized categories with fewer than 50 participants, especially in smaller subgroups like students on IEPs or from minority populations. The presentation included sample survey questions and a discussion about encouraging more student participation to gather meaningful data. A question was raised about the timing of the survey after the MCAS, and it was explained that it allows for gathering data from captive participants at a specific time, even though it may not be ideal. The hope is to encourage more students to participate despite potential burnout.

Dr. Lepore asked why the questions were given right after MCAS and suggested that there may be a better time. Dr. Hallett through the chair explained this is a new survey and as a district, we need to support students. It cannot be done at a different time because it is prompted at the end of the MCAS tests.

Mrs. Proch asked how long the survey takes to complete. . Ms. Lewis replied about 15 minutes.

Mrs. Proch asked if the VOCAL survey is mandatory or optional. Ms. Lewis explained it was optional, hence the reason for lack of data.

Budget Development - Facilities, Athletics, Nantucket Community School

Chip Clunie, the Facility Director, presented an overview of the facility budget. He distributed a breakdown of utility bills, noting slight increases. Payroll emerged as the most significant expenditure, and Chip commended his dedicated team, including Dimo Boychev at the High School/CPS Barry Mailloux at the Intermediate School, and Elida Tejada at the elementary school. A new position of assistant supervisor at the high school was introduced and filled by Jorge Vivas, aimed at supporting Demo in managing both CPS and the high school responsibilities. Chip expressed satisfaction with the fully staffed team and praised Michelle Kremer for keeping things running and organized. He concluded by stating that there were no current requests for additional resources and invited any questions.

Mrs. Bloise-Murphy asked if they were looking at any green energy alternatives. Mr. Clunie responded, agreeing with the importance of including information about the ongoing development and plans. He mentioned that they are actively working with SMRT Architects and consistently seeking opportunities to incorporate relevant information into their projects.

Travis Lombardi, Athletic Director went through the breakdowns of the Athletic Department. He shared that the Athletic Department is not asking for any increase and continuing to operate with the current budget, noting that it remains the same as last year at 2% of the district's budget, totaling \$792,257. The breakdown includes 67% for payroll (\$534,500), 2% for other expenses (\$13,135), 5% for supplies (\$41,000), and 3% for memberships, dues, and rental fees (\$22,000). Mr. Lombardi highlighted their reliance on the user fee system and the revolver account to offset additional expenses, and he emphasized that they are not seeking an increase. The current budget system has been effective for the past 14 years, and they plan to continue operating the athletic department within its existing budget.

Dr. Lepore asked if teams are subsidized to travel here. Mr. Lombardi explained the challenges they face in scheduling games and mentioned that, at times, they offer to cover opponents' boat and bus expenses to facilitate scheduling. This approach, including providing pizza has been employed to address the difficulties, particularly highlighted in the current situation with boys lacrosse scheduling.

Mrs. Proch asked for an estimate as to what the Booster Club supports in Athletics. Mr. Lombardi did not have a figure but stated they were very generous.

Alicia Graziadei, Director of the Community School, provided highlights, mentioning the PC+ grant for the home visitor program, which is not reflected in the document. She also emphasized the need for volunteers. Mrs. Graziadei highlighted a projected fee increase while keeping programs affordable, to support staff salary increases, compensating for the lack of funds from the town for this purpose. Despite no change in appropriation, the Community School is financially sound, managing staff gaps with active recruitment for part-time positions.

Dr. Lepore asked how they know if you raise the fees too much. Mrs. Gaziadei explained that the program enrollment numbers drop if the fees are too high. At this time, enrollment is very healthy in all areas. .

Mrs. Proch wanted to know about the program choices and if the competition of other community groups played a role in the decision. Mrs. Graziadei shared that NCS accesses and adapts to the needs of the community.

Committee discussions and votes to be taken

Vote to approve the FY25 Calendar. *Shantaw Bloise-Murphy made a motion to approve, Timothy Lepore seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved*

Vote to approve the Educational Mini-Grant from Cape Cod Five to George MacLellan at NIS in the amount of \$464.00. *Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved*

Vote to approve the Educational Mini-Grant from Cape Cod Five to Joseline Rameriz at NES in the amount of \$500.00. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the Educational Mini-Grant from Cape Cod Five to Garlen Maxson at CPS in the amount of \$500.00. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the Educational Mini-Grant from Cape Cod Five to Kaeyllane Dias at CPS in the amount of \$470.00. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the Educational Mini-Grant from Cape Cod Five to Johanna Townsend at NHS for \$500.00. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the Educational Mini-Grant from Cape Cod Five to Jenn Christiansen at NHS for \$500.00. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the Educational Mini-Grant from Cape Cod Five to Tom Peppard at NHS for \$500.00. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the donation from John & Joseph Young for \$100.00 to NHS Culinary. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the funds from points earned at US Foods for \$215.65 to NHS Culinary. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the fundraising check to NES for \$2475.40 from Hayward Photography. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the fundraising check to CPS for \$1380.52 from Hayward Photography. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the fundraising check to NHS for \$1584.19 from Hayward Photography. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the donation from the Community Foundation for Nantucket to Nantucket Community School programs for \$25,000.00. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the grant from CJP to NPS for \$3600.00 to support CPS in the applied learning leadership discovery program. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the donation from Island Lumber Company for \$1500.00 to the NHS Gift account for the Wood Shop Department. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the donation of a Skate Sharpening machine valued at \$1060.00 to the Girls Varsity Hockey Program from the Nantucket Police Charitable Association in remembrance of Sgt. Greg Furtado. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the November 14, 2023 meeting minutes, Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Timothy Lepore seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the November 28, 2023 meeting minutes, Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Timothy Lepore seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Transfers and Invoices, Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Timothy Lepore seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Sub-Committee/Work Group Report

Ms. Bloise-Murphy reported the Policy Committee met and reviewing of the policies continues.

Mrs. Proch provided an update on the food program, mentioning a slight delay in its progress. She assured there would be upcoming meetings, and updates would be communicated accordingly. Additionally, she reported TA negotiations are moving forward with positive progress.

Through the chair, Dr. Hallett informed the committee that the Cape Cod Collaborative will host its legislative breakfast earlier this year on January 26th and invited them to attend.

Student Council Representative - Bruna Jenzura

Student representative, Bruna Jenzura, shared a list of upcoming events at the high school. Highlighting the Winter Tide event scheduled for Thursday from 5:00 to 6:30, she mentioned the inclusion of food from The Culinary class, making it an enticing gathering presented by Arts, Music, and Vocational programs. She also provided updates on ongoing activities, including access testing for EL students, the resumption of winter sports after the break, and an upcoming varsity boys basketball game at TD Garden against the Vineyard on Sunday. Other announcements included the commencement of musical play rehearsals, student-led conferences set for Wednesday, January 24th, and plans for students traveling to the Galapagos Islands during April break. The second semester is scheduled to begin on January 29th. Bruna also mentioned some complaints about the repetitive school lunches and not enough variety in hopes that this information would be considered during the next Food Services Task Force meeting. .

Mrs. Proch appreciated the feedback about the lunches, then asked about the deadline for the Golf Scholarship. Ms. Jenzura responded January 17, 2024.

Agenda for the next meeting, January 23, 2023 - Bullying Update, Student Success Program - Alt Ed., Budget Development - All Schools, SPED, EL, Central Office, DEI Presentation with Kimal McCarthy moving to a February meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM by Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded by Timothy Lepore, with none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Bedell
School Committee Clerk