

**Nantucket School Committee  
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2024**

Present Members: Chair Pauline Proch, Timothy Lepore, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy, Esmeralda Martinez. 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 February 6, 2024, School Committee Public Hearing meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM in the Nantucket High School LGI by Chair Pauline Proch with a motion made to approve the agenda by Esmeralda Martinez, seconded by Timothy Lepore and approved unanimously.

**Budget Presentation, Public Hearing FY2025**

Superintendent Hallett commenced the meeting by presenting the budget for the 2024-2025 school year, noting that while the School Committee had already reviewed individual school and department budgets, the presentation aimed to inform the public. Planning for the budget started in the summer and fall, taking into account the newly agreed-upon contractual bargaining agreement with the Nantucket Teachers' Association. Despite challenges in predicting the future due to various unknown factors, Hallett assured that every decision would prioritize the students. The enrollment summary from 2011 to 2025 was discussed, with enrollment trends influenced by factors like the cost of living and available housing. Despite some growth, enrollment numbers remained around 1,700 students. Changes in demographics were highlighted, with the white student subgroup decreasing while Hispanic, Black, and other ethnicities populations grew. The presentation also addressed the English learner and special education populations, emphasizing the need for budget adjustments to accommodate their needs. Dr. Hallett handed over to Chief Financial Officer Martin Anguelov to continue the presentation.

Mr. Anguelov presented a slide detailing the projected budget for FY 2025, which is expected to be \$41,175,395, representing a \$2.85 million increase over FY 24. He explained that \$400,000 of this increase is for one-time expenses, which will be backed out of the calculation for the following year. Mr. Anguelov noted that the budget primarily covers contractual obligations, with no personnel increases budgeted for FY 25. He discussed the steady growth of the budget over the past 11 years, from \$24 million to a projected \$40 million, attributing part of this growth to the opening of a new school. Mr. Anguelov highlighted the Chapter 70 funding component, emphasizing its role in bridging the gap between what the district can afford and what is needed to meet educational needs. He explained the breakdown of Chapter 70 funding and noted the minimal projected increase in funding for the upcoming year. He concluded by stating that these are preliminary numbers subject to change as the budget process progresses.

Dr. Hallett discussed federal grants, noting that they are entitlement grants received annually, with the IDEA Grant being the largest, specifically for special education. She mentioned concerns about a potential reduction in Title One funding due to a drop in the poverty level below 6%, which could impact programs like summer school and reading interventions. Dr. Hallett emphasized the importance of staying informed about changes and keeping the public and school committee updated. She explained the focus of Title Two on the training and recruitment of educators, Title Three on English learners, and Title Four on professional services such as development and mentoring programs. Additionally, Dr. Hallett mentioned

the ESSER grants, highlighting that they are in their last year and need to be expended by September 30th, 2024. She discussed the budget allocation across schools, noting slightly larger budgets for special education and central office, which includes busing, transportation, special education tuition, salaries, and curriculum activities. The smallest budgets were allocated to athletics and technology.

Mr. Anguelov discussed the budget breakdown, highlighting that over \$33 million is allocated to payroll, emphasizing the necessity of maintaining operational expenses despite the increasing commitment to payroll. He expressed concern about the operating side of the budget, which has remained relatively stagnant over the past few years while the demand for maintenance and other non-payroll expenses persists. He also presented the revenue breakdown for the community school, noting a significant portion of revenue from gifts and donations, expressing gratitude to the community for their support. Mr. Anguelov mentioned the appropriation remaining at \$600,000 and emphasized the importance of monitoring health insurance and employee costs to ensure coverage for the community school's needs while maintaining affordable programs.

Dr. Hallett concluded the budget presentation by emphasizing the parameters used in creating the budget and detailing the priorities for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. She highlighted the importance of aligning budget needs with district and school goals, particularly focusing on access and equity for students. Dr. Hallett stressed the importance of building budgets based on projected enrollments, curricular needs, and student well-being, with a focus on essential services and sustaining the physical, social, and emotional development of students, especially in the aftermath of the recent pandemic. Additionally, she emphasized the alignment of budgets with actual expenditures over the past three years and the exploration of revenue streams beyond the operating budget. In terms of goals, Dr. Hallett expressed a commitment to closing gaps in academic learning, addressing social and emotional needs, providing strong support for special education services, offering high-quality professional development focused on math, science, and literacy, and promoting high-leverage instruction for English learners. These goals reflect the district's dedication to continuous improvement and student success.

There was no public comment.

Mrs. Proch found the possibility of losing some funding from Title One disturbing as the free and reduced lunch numbers increased and reminded everyone of the importance of the census and filling out the census paperwork. Dr. Hallett explained that we are at risk and will report to the Committee in the upcoming months.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 5:53 PM by Esmeralda Martinez seconded by Timothy Lepore, with none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Bedell  
School Committee Clerk