

**Nantucket School Committee  
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2025**

Present Members: Chair Timothy Lepore, Esmeralda Martinez, and Vincent Murphy

The February 4, 2025, School Committee Public Hearing was called to order at 5:35 PM in the Nantucket High School LGI by Chair Timothy Lepore. A motion was made by Esmeralda Martinez, seconded by Vincent Murphy. The amended agenda was approved unanimously.

**Budget Presentation, Public Hearing FY2026**

Superintendent Hallett presented the 2026 Budget PowerPoint, beginning with student enrollment trends since 2011, showing a variation of about 50 students. She then reviewed the English Language Learner population and Special Education programs.

Mr. Anguelov provided an overview of budget development, noting that the FY 2025 budget stands at \$40,178,395, while the proposed FY 2026 budget is \$43,146,176, reflecting a projected increase of \$2,967,781. Of this increase, \$300,000 is allocated for one-time expenditures, including the implementation of a new district-wide language arts curriculum.

He then went through budgets by department with the largest departmental budget being the High School and Athletics having the smallest allocation. Mr. Anguelov emphasized the need to improve capital funding and is collaborating with the facilities director on this effort.

Superintendent Hallett explained how the District Leadership Team established parameters for the 2025-2026 budget, ensuring alignment with district and school goals while prioritizing access and equity for all students. Budget recommendations will be based on projected enrollments, curricular and instructional needs, and staff professional growth. The team emphasized identifying essential services for all grade levels and maintaining programs that support academic achievement along with students' physical, social, and emotional development. Budgets will reflect actual expenditures from the past three years, and efforts will be made to secure additional funding through federal and state grants and partnerships with local and state non-profit organizations.

She then reviewed federal grants.

Dr. Hallett concluded by outlining key priorities for the budget, including maintaining efforts to close academic gaps, supporting students' social-emotional needs, strengthening special education services, and sustaining high-quality professional development in literacy, social studies, math, and science. Additional goals include enhancing Sheltered English Immersion practices for English Learners and expanding student-centered instructional coaching across the district.

Chair Lepore asked for comments from the public.

Meri Lepore as the school nurse team leader, spoke about the need for additional support in the nurse offices. She referenced state regulations and highlighted that the high school now has 597 students, exceeding the 500-student threshold that warrants additional nursing staff. She emphasized that certain medications can only be administered by an RN, making it crucial to have adequate coverage. Mrs. Lepore pointed out that the combined middle and high school student population totals 957, and while both schools generally have two nurses, staff shortages leave one nurse responsible for nearly 965 students at times, which she described as unsafe. She noted a significant

increase in medically fragile students over the past seven years and stressed the need for an RN in every school building. She urged consideration of adding either another part-time nurse or additional support staff.

Meri Lepore, speaking as a parent, advocated for smaller class sizes, noting that some high school classes have over 30 students. She emphasized that research supports smaller classes, especially for younger students, and highlighted the need for more one-on-one instruction, particularly for English learners. She urged efforts to reduce class sizes to better support students and teachers.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 6:04 PM by Esmeralda Martinez, seconded by Vince Murphy, and with none opposed, the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Bedell  
School Committee Clerk