

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

Present Members: Chair Timothy Lepore, Esmeralda Martinez, Shantaw Bloise-Murphy (by phone), Vincent Murphy, and Student Council Representative Nora Sullivan

The February 4, 2025, School Committee meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM in the Nantucket High School LGI by Chair Timothy Lepore. A motion was made by Esmeralda Martinez, seconded by Vincent Murphy. The agenda was approved unanimously.

There was no public comment.

**Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Hallett reported no changes in overall district enrollment for February, remaining at 1,728 students. While some schools saw minor shifts, with the elementary and middle schools each gaining one student and the intermediate and high schools each losing one, the total remained steady.

She also had the honor of presenting awards to outstanding seniors. The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence was awarded to Boyan Kalpazanov, recognized for his academic excellence, leadership as senior class treasurer, involvement in the National Honor Society, and participation in the tennis team. He also holds a key role as an assistant property manager on the island and plans to study engineering in college.

The National School Development Council (NSDC) Awards for Academic Growth and Student Leadership were presented to two seniors. The first recipient, Suzanne Peraner, was recognized for her passion for history, art, and AP Calculus, as well as her leadership as senior class vice president and captain of the varsity field hockey and lacrosse teams. She also enjoyed serving as a teaching assistant in a ceramics class.

The second NSDC award was given to Rihanna Cranston, who has a strong interest in oil painting and education. She is a valued staff member at the Boys and Girls Club and an active member of the varsity volleyball and softball teams. Through her involvement in the Asian Club, she has embraced cultural experiences and personal growth. She aspires to become a teacher, and Superintendent Hallett expressed hope of one day welcoming her back as an educator in the district. Although Rihanna was not present, arrangements will be made to share her award with her.

Dr. Hallett provided an additional update on recent presidential executive orders impacting immigrant and LGBTQ+ student rights in schools. She noted that various organizations, including the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and state school associations, have shared resources and guidance to help public schools navigate these changes. She reaffirmed that Nantucket Public Schools remain committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students and assured families that the district will continue to uphold this mission.

Ms. Martinez asked about an increase in student absences.

Superintendent Hallett acknowledged that yesterday was recognized as a national "Day Without Immigrants" and noted that some students chose to observe the day. She expressed understanding and support for their decision.

Mr. Murphy shared that on Thursday while having lunch at NHS, students in the cafeteria were worried about an unfamiliar face, asking if it was an ICE agent. As an immigrant, he found this situation upsetting and sad, emphasizing the fear students face. He urged everyone to be mindful of these concerns and show understanding toward students dealing with such anxieties.

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

**Bullying Update - Principals/Assistant Principals**

Nantucket Elementary School Principal Kimberly Kubisch reported that there have been no bullying cases at NES. She explained that bullying is determined by very specific criteria. Sometimes there is a claim of bullying, but after

a thorough investigation, it is found that the situation does not meet the criteria, as it is not targeted, repeated, or a pattern.

Becky Janda, Nantucket Intermediate School Principal, reported one complete bullying investigation. Safety plans were implemented, and school counselors are working with both the aggressor and the victim to support students.

Michael Horton, Cyrus Pierce Middle School Principal, reported that there have been zero formal bullying investigations this year. While there have been incidents of conflict, it was not repeated and did not qualify as bullying. However, a safety plan was developed for the individuals involved.

Mandy Hilmn, Principal at the High School, reported three documented and investigated incidents of bullying this year. Safety plans have been developed and implemented. While there have been other cases of peer conflict and harassment that were investigated, they did not meet the specific criteria for bullying.

## **2nd Quarter Budget Update - Martin Anguelov, Director of Finance**

Martin Anguelov, Director of Finance, presented the second-quarter budget update. Expenses have increased by \$1.85 million, mainly due to contractual obligations, professional development, travel, and purchases for the new curriculum. Tuition expenses also rose by over \$100,000, and these costs will be monitored for next year's budget. The total budget is 51% spent, similar to last year, while payroll is at 38%, up from 36%.

Community school revenues grew by \$23,000, but expenses increased by \$57,000, including \$26,000 for medical insurance, which the school covers for its employees. The community school will need to cover over \$35,000 in medical insurance costs this year. The school lunch program had a \$55,000 deficit, an improvement from last year's \$93,000. The deficit is expected to surpass \$150,000 by year-end. Federal reimbursements for meals are not enough to cover the full cost.

Dr. Lepore asked about oil and electricity costs.

Mr. Anguelov explained oil and electricity costs are stable this year, despite a cold winter. The oil budget was updated for FY26 due to last year's overage.

## **Committee discussions and votes to be taken**

Vote to approve the donation to the NHS Student Gift Account - Wood Shop for \$1,500.00 from Island Lumber. Esmeralda Martinez made a motion to approve, seconded by Vincent Murphy, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved unanimously

Vote to approve the donation to the NHS Student Gift Account - STEM for \$600.00 from Cape Cod Club of MIT, Inc. Esmeralda Martinez made a motion to approve, seconded by Vincent Murphy, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved unanimously

Vote to approve the donation from Nantucket Sustainable for \$15,1380.00 to offset the salary of the agricultural position at NHS. Esmeralda Martinez made a motion to approve, seconded by Vincent Murphy, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved unanimously

Vote to transfer \$12,663.70 from dormant CPS Student Accounts to the CPS Student Council Account. Esmeralda Martinez made a motion to approve, seconded by Vincent Murphy, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved unanimously

Vote to transfer \$2,500.00 from CPS Student Council to YOG 2029. Esmeralda Martinez made a motion to approve, seconded by Vincent Murphy, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved unanimously

Vote to transfer \$2,500.00 from CPS Student Council to YOG 2030. Esmeralda Martinez made a motion to approve, seconded by Vincent Murphy, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved unanimously

Vote to approve the January 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Esmeralda Martinez made a motion to approve, seconded by Vincent Murphy, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved unanimously

Vote to approve the January 21, Meeting Minutes. Esmeralda Martinez made a motion to approve, seconded by Vincent Murphy, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved unanimously

Transfers & Invoices. Vincent Murphy made a motion to approve, seconded by Esmeralda Martinez, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved unanimously

### **Student Council Representative - Nora Sullivan**

Student Representative Nora Sullivan provided updates on recent and upcoming events at the high school. She shared that on January 27th, the Tri-M Music Honor Society held its first induction ceremony, welcoming seven new members. This marks the establishment of the high school's first chapter of the organization, which recognizes students for their academic and musical achievements. Additionally, a new photography club has started holding meetings, offering students an opportunity to explore or enhance their skills in photography.

Ms. Sullivan also highlighted that registration is open for the Tall Ship Lynx trip, which allows four NHS students to spend a weekend as part of the crew. The trip is scheduled for May 22nd-26th, with registration closing on April 18th. She noted that past participants, including Cecilia, have had incredible experiences. She announced that author Kim Johnson will give a schoolwide presentation on Thursday morning, followed by small group discussions and a book signing opportunity. Additionally, a spaghetti dinner fundraiser will take place next Thursday in the high school cafeteria to support students traveling to Europe in April. The trip, focused on World War II history, will include visits to France, England, and Germany. Tickets for the dinner are \$15 and are available for purchase from students or at the high school front office.

Dr. Lepore asked about getting the upcoming athletic events reported too. Ms. Sullivan responded she would be happy to.

### **Sub-Committee/Work Group Report**

Dr. Hallett reported ESP negotiations are ongoing and a policy subcommittee is needed.

Mr. Murphy shared that he had lunch at the high school with Superintendent Hallett and found the food to be of good quality and enjoyable. The meal included hot dogs, pasta salad, regular salad, and a choice of milk or chocolate milk. He noted that while the portion size was adequate, it might not be enough for students participating in sports after school.

Through the Chair, High School Principal Ms. Hilmne reported that additional à la carte options have been added, offering students four different choices. Middle School Principal Mr. Horton stated that lunch lines at CPS have been longer. Dr. Lepore appreciated Mr. Murphy and Dr. Hallett having lunch at the High School. Superintendent Hallett shared she would be sampling other school lunches as well and invited the Committee to join her.

**Agenda for the next meeting**, February 21, 2025 - Workshop Session - SC Self Evaluation Discussion, DIP Midyear Update, Policies regarding Student information, Immigrant Student Rights

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 6:36 PM by *Esmeralda Martinez*, seconded by Vince Murphy, and with none opposed, the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Bedell  
School Committee Clerk