

**Nantucket School Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 21, 2022**

Present Members: Chair Timothy Lepore (6:08PM Arrival), Vice Chair Pauline Proch, Laura Gallagher Byrne (6:02PM Arrival), Esmeralda Martinez, 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 to open the meeting by Anthony Fox, seconded by Esmeralda Martinez, and approved unanimously, and which was called to order at 6:00 PM in the Nantucket High School LGI, by Vice Chair Pauline Proch.

**Comments from the Public**

Jennifer Erichsen, Director of Technology for NPS, updated the School Committee that at the last meeting Mr. Fox asked about having meetings with parents and she forgot to mention NIS/CPS orchestrated a meeting on April 11, 2022 called "Recovering from the Pandemic – Your Child, the Internet, and Developmental Norms". It included participants from Children's Cove, A Safe Place, Kevin Marshall from Police Department, and herself. Each spoke about internet safety. Unfortunately, only a couple of families were there, but it was a very positive experience. Families that were there were impressed.

John Riccio shared that he has had privilege and pleasure of attending School Committee meetings for well over a decade. He mentioned how a lot has changed over the years, but there has been one consistency that he would like to single out who has kept structure, order, appearance, and attention to detail to at all meetings, Mrs. Logan O'Connor. There are a host of descriptors including, intelligent, commitment, wit, demeanor, willingness, humor, the list is endless. You will be sorely missed professionally and personally.

**Superintendent's Report – Dr. Elizabeth Hallett**

Dr. Hallett started with her End of Year Report that on June 11<sup>th</sup> 131 students graduated from the Class of 2022 and how this wonderful class will go down in our memory as a class of special students. She mentioned in her graduation remarks resilience, advocacy, and unity is what she saw in this class and how lovely it was to hear Kate Barney, keynote speaker. Kate is in HR at TikTok, and she really spoke to students on personal level. Not only was there a Tik Tok created, but she spoke to students finding their passion and continue to take care of themselves on their journey. They lucked out with weather, lovely day overall. She went on to mention the Grade 5 Celebration was on June 21<sup>st</sup>, it included outdoor fun in the morning followed by a potluck lunch in the afternoon, it was successful. The Grade 8 celebration will be June 23. Looking forward to seeing them move onto High School. There were also jump up days for grade levels moving to a new school, which was and helpful to those students having facetime with their future teachers and to have a schedule in hand at the High School. Everyone is looking forward to other celebrations and our final day on June 23.

**Hiring Update**

Superintendent Hallett updated School Committee that 30 of 46 positions have been filled. We are still struggling on some of the more challenging positions to fill such as High School Math, CPS Science, Social work, School Psychology, and TA positions. We are currently advertising out in the Inquirer & Mirror, Indeed, School Spring and other National and MA Teacher Association Groups. She noticed and heard from other colleagues across the state that they are also struggling to hire, so it is not just on Nantucket. Dr. Hallett sincerely thanked the community for the outpouring support around housing from the article that came out from the Inquirer & Mirror and Nantucket Current. She reminded everyone that teachers need housing for the school year from Aug 26 - June 22.

**2022-2023 Calendar Draft #2, Reopen Discussion**

Dr. Hallett opened the discussion of proposed calendar change for Pre-K's last day on June 15 with an early release at 10:00AM and June 16 for Kindergarten with an early release at 10:00AM. School Committee member Mr. Fox asked if these dates are good with NES Principals. Superintendent Hallett confirmed she spoke with NES Principal Kimberly Kubisch at length, that it makes sense to end before Juneteenth Holiday weekend.

Chair Timothy Lepore (6:08PM Arrival)

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

**Family Connections Program – Sherri Lewis, Karen Gottlieb**

Sherry Lewis shared the Family Connections Program presentation along with Karen Gottlieb. The idea of Family Connections was an idea conceived in the fall of 2021 during NIS PLC to provide additional support to students and families. Students are identified and invited to participate based on DESSA data, academic performance, and counselor/administrative recommendations. It provides additional academic support, social emotional support, parenting, family support including siblings from NES, along with nutritional support (hot, healthy meal provided). Funding for this program is provided by a State Grant for SEL/Behavioral Health. Looking ahead, NES Students will be invited to participate based on DESSA data. NIS/NES siblings will still be invited, and the program will run March through May. Mrs. Gottlieb shared that about 20-25 students came per week and it was wonderful. Community members came in to work with the students from the NHA, The Dreamland, Maria Mitchell, Sustainable Nantucket, and the Community Garden to name a few, providing vibrant and interactive time for students.

Questions and Comments from the School Committee- Mr. Fox appreciated the time. Dr. Lepore asked what DESSA data was. Ms. Lewis explained it is the data that is gathered by a data collection system called Aperture measuring the different areas of awareness and ability to set goals. It was done three times a year at each school, except High School done twice. Mrs. Proch asked if the parenting education comes from a curriculum. Ms. Lewis responded it was done by the Family Resource Center, so it was a set curriculum. The outside organizations also worked with parents after the parenting class, along with parents being able to talk to each other during dinner. Mrs. Proch also asked if there was a survey. Mrs. Gottlieb confirmed that there was a survey and discussed the nice connections the students formed. She will send results to School Committee members.

**DEI Instructional Leadership Team – Marita Scarlett, Team Facilitator and ILT Team, Lauren Murray Soverino, Nicole Ridge, and Page Martineau**

Mrs. Scarlett presented the Mission, Vision, and Core Values.

- Mission: Nantucket Public Schools, in partnership with a caring community, will create a dynamic and equitable learning environment which engages each of us to be inspired learners and responsible citizens, prepared to meet local and global challenges.
- Vision: We commit to provide equitable, inclusive, and challenging learning experiences where every student and adult feels seen, heard, valued, and respected.

They explained the team mission and how it was developed last year. The team continues to work on what can be done to support student-centered equity. They also analyze school processes and procedures that need to be made more inclusive. The scope of work this year was looking specifically at how students are assigned to upper level classes. As a team, they analyzed MCAS data through a DEI lens. They proposed certain staffing recommendations, including a DEI Coordinator and Instructional Coach(es) supporting teachers to focus on differentiating instruction to support every student.

Questions and comments from School Committee members.

Mr. Fox was appreciative over the hours of work. He asked what was in the shared monthly newsletter to staff. Mrs. Soverino explained there was usually a monthly theme including articles and information. Esmerelda Martinez – No questions, just Wow! Great job, amazing! Laura Gallagher Byrne agrees with her colleagues, great job. She had one question, what does it mean to decolonize the curriculum? Mrs. Scarlett explained it is teaching the whole truth and not deleting the parts of history that are hard to teach/talk about. Dr. Lepore asked, what is a Never EL? Ms. Ridge shared it is a student who is multilingual student who did not need EL services. Mrs. Proch shared she thought it was a very thorough and interesting presentation. She questioned new curriculum and budget planning asking if it is in in for this year. Dr. Hallet explained the budget is formed in October of the previous year so it is not this year, but in FY24 is something to look at. Mrs. Proch feels it is important to come back and look at this position before 2024 budget. Dr. Hallett thanked the team and let them know how their work is so important in guiding her, and the team. Do not lose momentum, I feel we are moving forward.

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**School Committee Self-Evaluation Presentation – Vice Chair Pauline Proch**

The superintendent evaluation timeline was brought up. July 26 was moved from a retreat to a workshop for Dr. Hallett to present her evidence. A few dates scheduled in August but would like to know through the Chair. Dr. Lepore and Mrs. Proch volunteered for the superintendent's evaluation subcommittee. Discussion was then held about August 23 as a regular meeting and add a meeting July 19. Mrs. O'Connor through the Chair confirmed July 19 as a full meeting, July 26 as a workshop to allow evidence to be presented by Superintendent Hallett. Aug 9 will be a full committee meeting, and Aug 23 will be a workshop.

**Committee Discussion and Votes to be Taken**

Vote to Approve the Date & Timeline – Superintendent Evaluation 2022. Esmerelda Martinez made a motion to approve, Anthony Fox seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve ESP Collective Bargaining Agreement – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025. Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Anthony Fox seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve new School Committee Clerk, Katie Bedell. Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Anthony Fox seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Anonymous Donor, Meade Ext-60AT Astro Telescope to NHS Science Program, \$300.00 Anthony Fox made a motion to approve, Esmerelda Martinez seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation Grant from Community Foundation for Nantucket and ReMain Nantucket Fund to NCS for 56 Centre Street Programming, \$40,000.00 Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Esmerelda Lemus seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Nantucket Education Trust to NCS for Summer Boost Program, \$2,500.00 Dr. Lepore made a motion to approve, Esmerelda Martinez seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to RE - Approve 2022-2023 Calendar, Draft #2 Anthony Fox made a motion to approve, Esmerelda Martinez seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to approve June 7, 2022, Meeting Minutes Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Esmerelda Martinez seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Esmerelda Martinez seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

**Sub-Committee/Work Group**

Mrs. Gallagher Byrne shared she attended a Cape Cod Collaborative meeting to which they reiterated that they are having labor force issues as well.

**Student Council Representative**

Mr. Fox asked when the Student Council Rep would start. Mrs. Vasil announced it has been voted on and it is Natalie Mack. Ms. Mack will be at the first meeting when school starts.

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**Horizon**

Add additional meeting July 19, July 26 will be a Workshop to allow evidence to be presented by Superintendent Hallett, August 9 meeting, August 23 Workshop.

Dr. Hallett took a moment to recognize Mrs. Logan O'Connor who has been remarkable not only as school clerk, but as Executive Assistant, Records Access Officer, HR designee. She is indebted to Mrs. O'Connor for her early success as Superintendent on Nantucket. Mr. Fox shared how grateful he was for Mrs. O'Connor and doesn't know if he would have done another year if it wasn't for her. Mrs. Proch shared on behalf of the School Committee and thanked Mrs. O'Connor for everything she has done. She always has been kind and willing to help when people needed the extra help and keep School Committee afloat when we needed it. Mrs. Proch called Mrs. O'Connor down and presented her with a MASC conference bag as a gift from the School Committee.

Mrs. O'Connor thanked the School Committee.

At 7:31 pm, the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Rocky Fox, seconded by Esmerelda Martinez and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Bedell, School Committee Clerk