



Superintendent's Report
September 8, 2021

- 1) Opening of School** - On Wednesday, September 1, 2021 the Nashoba Regional School District opened its doors to all students for full time, in person learning. On my visits to each school I saw happy staff members, engaged students, and a joyfulness that was palpable. I am pleased to say that the adjustment of publishing transportation routes via email went well and helped us identify adjustments or corrections that needed to be made. Parents reached out to district leaders prior to the first day of school if they needed assistance and our team was able to help. Principals reported that drop off and pick up of bus riding students went well. In the future, we hope to use Powerschool as a secure platform that is password protected to host documents like the bus routes. Stay tuned for more.
- 2) New Superintendent's Induction Program** - On July 12, 2021 I began my journey in the New Superintendent Induction Program hosted by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. I was pleased to learn that I was assigned Jane Tremblay as my mentor and coach for this three year program. Ms. Tremblay is a former Superintendent of the Lynnfield School District and was my mentor as an Assistant Superintendent in Natick. Having an established relationship with my mentor benefits me in that we have already established a relationship based in trust, truth and making decisions by what is in the best interests of students.

The program has provided me with the structure and consultation for creating a comprehensive entry plan. I had the benefit of working with Ms. Tremblay to develop an entry strategy that will help me gain a comprehensive understanding of the school system through engagement with people, examination of important documents, and analysis of data sets to find important trends and themes.

One important point of emphasis in the program is to examine diversity, equity and inclusion as it relates to our students and staff members. The program will offer me many opportunities to participate in honest dialogue about instructional practice that gives all students a sense of belonging that motivates them to be lifelong learners.

- 3) Vaccination Rates** - The vaccination rates for our students and staff reflect data up to September 1, 2021. Currently we do not have staff member data disaggregated by school. That data will be gathered in the next two weeks to include in the overall school building vaccination rates. *Note: Staff members who started after July 1, 2021, were vaccinated in another state, or have a "do not share vaccination records" order on file with their physician are not reflected in the total percentage of vaccinated staff

members at this time. The total number will increase as staff members who are not in the database are added in the coming weeks.

- a) NRSB Staff = 88%*
- b) Florence Sawyer 7th/8th = 78%, total students = 52%
- c) Luther Burbank 7th/8th = 62%, total students = 42%
- d) Hale 7th/8th = 78%, total students = 52%
- e) Nashoba High School = 82%

- 4) **Covid-19 Testing** - NRSB is preparing for on site testing. We will be offering the following: **Symptomatic testing** is used when a student is showing symptoms of COVID-19 during school; students should not come to school if they are feeling sick while at home. Some symptoms of the virus look identical to other illnesses like the cold or flu, and this test tells us whether a symptomatic student has COVID-19 or not. This is a rapid test, and we receive the results of this test within 15 minutes. If a student has minimal symptoms and tests negative, they can remain in school.

Routine COVID safety checks minimize disruption to learning by helping us catch potential spread of the virus before it starts. Each student administers the safety check on a weekly basis. Samples are collected at school in groups of 5-10 individuals. The samples are grouped together at school. Once the samples get to the lab, all the samples in the group are tested for COVID-19 together. In almost all cases, it will take less than 24 hours to receive safety check results. Students can continue to come to school while awaiting safety check results; they do not need to quarantine while awaiting results. If a safety check test is positive, the lab will automatically process each individual sample to determine which student(s) in the group produced the positive test.

Test and stay allows students who have had close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 while at school to stay in school if the student is not showing symptoms. Instead of needing to quarantine and miss school, these students will take a daily rapid test while they remain in school as long as they are not symptomatic. Students participate in tests and stay for at least five days after they may have been exposed.

All test kits have been delivered to the central office. Consent forms have been sent to staff electronically and students will receive their consent forms 9/3. The goal is to be up and running the week of 9/13.

- 5) **Upcoming focus groups** - On September 15, 2021 I will be attending the SEPAC meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Nashoba High School library. This will be a meet and greet event as the SEPAC is hosting an opening meeting to set the agenda for the year. I will be hosting four more meetings for people in each town to participate in my focus group conversations. Those meetings will be held in the cafeteria or library of the respective schools. Here is the schedule:

- a) September 15th, 7:00-8:00 pm, Special Education Parent Advisory Council at Nashoba Regional High School Library
- b) September 29th, 7:00-8:00 pm, Center School Cafeteria
- c) October 13th, 7:00-8:00 pm, Luther Burbank Middle School library
- d) October 27th, 7:00-8:00 pm, Florence Sawyer School library
- e) November 10th, 7:00-8:00 pm, Nashoba Regional High School cafeteria/library
- f) December 8th, 7:00-8:00 pm, Online virtual event, details to follow

Ann Marie Stoica, Director of Human Resources • Rob Frieswick, Director of Facilities
Joan DeAngelis, Director of Pupil Personnel Services • Tania Rich, Director of Athletics
Patricia Marone, Director of Business and Operations

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In addition to the parent forums I will schedule student forums at each of our schools. I will work with school principals to schedule those meetings.

- 6) **Teaching and Learning Update** - The Teaching Learning Department continues to work on providing unique and engaging professional development opportunities for our faculty and staff to transfer to their work with students. Our [Faculty Summer Academy](#) was successful in providing teachers with multiple resources for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) through our work with the Collaborative for Academic and Social Emotional Learning ([CASEL](#)). We offered several, unique workshops on SEL as well as inclusive practices for Universal Design for Learning ([UDL](#)), Equity in the Classroom, First Aid, Mentor Training and a concentrated work group for our new Social Studies Curricula with a specific focus on civic engagement. Each of these workshops and resources provided an entry point into our work ahead for this year. As we build on the goals set forth in our [District Improvement Plan](#), the Department continues to place a strong emphasis on Social Emotional Learning and will provide four District based professional development days on this topic where we train staff on best practices in the classroom for transfer to our students.

Our district book read this year, [Equity by Design](#), by Katie Novak, is intended to serve as a roadmap where collaborating teachers are the architects to change the traditional outcomes for students and make the link between social justice and UDL. The author, Katie Novak, articulates that the goal is to equip ALL students and teachers to promote positive change in schools where every student has the opportunity to succeed. Katie will be visiting Nashoba in March and delivering a keynote address and workshops on these essential topics which are driving the district's focus this year.