



Together, we inspire and challenge all learners to realize their unique potential and become active contributors to their community

Office of the Superintendent

Kirk Downing, Superintendent

Laura Friend, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Superintendent's Report to the NRSD School Committee October 12, 2022

Announcements:

Collective Bargaining Negotiations

In the coming weeks we will begin negotiations with the Unit A employees of the Nashoba Regional Education Association for a three year contract covering the FY24-FY26 school years. In the spirit of collaboration, the NREA and the NRSC have agreed to use an Interest Based Bargaining approach to contract negotiations. While there is no deadline on contract negotiations, it is our hope that we have an agreement before the winter recess (12/23). Once the Unit A negotiations are complete, we will commence with Unit C negotiations.

NRHS Civil Rights Trip

Although some students were excited to sign up for Nashoba Regional High School's proposed April 2023 Civil Rights Trip, the enrollees had not approached the minimum number to travel and the decision was made to cancel the trip. The travel company is fully refunding all those people who enrolled and we hope the students get another opportunity to travel to these important sites some day.

Assabet Valley Collaborative Update

AVC is our regional collaborative that leverages the collective effort of member districts to provide educational programs for students with disabilities, transportation contracts, and negotiations for fixed purchasing of supplies. There are 12 member districts.

Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School, Auburn Public Schools, Public Schools of Berlin and Boylston, Grafton Public Schools, Hudson Public Schools, Marlborough Public Schools, Maynard Public Schools, Millbury Public Schools, Nashoba Regional School District, Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough, Shrewsbury Public Schools and Westborough Public Schools

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Specialized Transportation

The NRSD contracts with AVC for transportation. The provider is VanPool. We attended a meeting on 9/22/22 with VanPool to discuss in district and out of district transportation. VanPool continues to experience a shortage of drivers to fill the routes. As a result, districts are experiencing wait lists for transportation. We currently have 8 students on a waitlist for transportation. We have been collaborating with families while we wait for our requests to be filled.

VanPool indicated that they are in the process of onboarding 12 new drivers, the onboarding process takes approximately 8 weeks.

Disproportionality Report from DESE

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education have prioritized increasing educational access and equity for marginalized students, especially students with disabilities. Disproportionality is one measure of equity. Indicator data is collected across four domains, which include discipline of students from certain racial and ethnic groups and whether students from certain racial and ethnic groups are disproportionately receiving special education services. The district received our status across these initiatives and Nashoba was not identified or flagged in any areas. DESE noted that our significant disproportionality rating indicates we were not identified or at risk. These results are extremely important as it validates that we are continuing to monitor our policies, procedures and practices in relation to these areas.

FY24 Budget Timeline

Included in your materials is the projected timeline for crafting and ultimately passing a budget for the FY24 school year. This process follows the traditional budget process. However, I am asking the committee to consider one adjustment. I would like to schedule the in person budget workshop during our regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Last year we presented the initial construction of the budget in a three hour workshop on Saturday, January 22, 2022. I believe we can present the entirety of the budget and have a thorough dialog about the construction of the budget in that three hour time period if we begin the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

It is once again our intention to schedule a joint meeting of the three towns FinCom boards for a presentation of the budget. That meeting is yet to be scheduled and should occur in the month of February.

MCAS Parent/Guardian Reports Being Mailed Home

This Friday, Spring 2022 MCAS Parent/Guardian Report will be mailed home to families. The MCAS Parent/Guardian Report provides families with their child's results from the Spring 2022 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology/Engineering, where applicable. Last year's MCAS testing marked the first year of full test administration in grades 3-8 and at the high school since 2019. Due to the pandemic, MCAS tests were not administered in 2020, and in 2021 modified MCAS tests were administered with the scope of the tests shortened and the structure adjusted.

Updates on Strategic Work

Topic 1: Ed Leader 21 Annual Event

Strategic Objective #4: Maximize the potential of students, staff, caretakers and community through effective resource allocation

Strategic Initiative 1: Build and create a distributive leadership plan that fosters shared responsibility for leading and learning

Strategic Initiative 4: Make time and financial commitments to professional development in order to accomplish strategic plan objectives / initiatives

Last week, Nashoba leaders attended the EdLeader21 Annual Event in Houston. Superintendent Downing, Assistant Superintendent Friend, Principal Boynton, and Principal Grady represented this year's EdLeader21 Nashoba team. The EdLeader21 Annual Event brings together superintendents and leaders from across the country to network and engage in workshops focused on accelerating 21st century learning within their local community. The Event further provides a showcase for how districts across the country are actively integrating their Portrait of a Graduate competencies into practices that impact curriculum, instruction, and student learning overall. The team has returned with ideas to share, inspire, and integrate into our work as we actualize our Strategic Plan and vision for Nashoba.

Topic 2: IEP Exit Survey Pilot

Strategic Objective #1: Improve communication systems and protocols to strengthen culturally responsive home/school relationships that foster understanding and community engagement

Strategic Initiative #3 : Improve upon communication of student progress. Effective communication and dialogue that strengthens home-school partnerships and builds a shared understanding of the students learning profile.

The PPS Office piloted an exit survey in the spring of 2022. Many stakeholders were involved in creating the survey, including school psychologists, team chairs, related service providers, special education teachers and SEPAC. Results of the pilot survey are in your packet and will be presented in the meeting.

Topic 3: Pupil Personnel Services Professional Development Schedule

Strategic Objective #2: Support and inspire all learners through improving and implementing clearly aligned and articulated curricula, equitable innovative instructional and assessment practices, and shared leadership.

Strategic Initiative #6: Create, develop, and implement a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) approach

Strategic Objective #3: Ensure equitable opportunities and outcomes for all through increased awareness, representation, practices, and communication around diversity, equity, and inclusion

Strategic Initiative #3: Integrate social emotional learning best practices into daily instruction and student life.

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The Pupil Personnel Services Office in conjunction with Teaching and Learning have developed professional development activities that align with the Strategic Planning initiatives. I have enclosed the professional development plan for the 22/23 school year.

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