



*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 November 9, 2022

Announcements:

Assabet Valley Collaborative

The AVC has provided the first of four reports this year to update the committee on their work. This is a requirement for collaboratives to ensure school committees are aware of their efforts. Please review the attachment for more detail.

Out of District Increase for FY24

Included in the meeting materials is a memo from the Operational Services Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that outlines projected increases in out of district education costs for fiscal year 2024. This estimate was provided to superintendents in order to plan for the FY24 budget season. As you can see, a 14% increase is a significant increase and is not in line with increases from previous years.

Out of district costs have the potential to shift significantly from year to year due to the high costs of out of district services and changes to enrollment for students who move in to or out of the district. That being said, if our commitments were to remain static for next year, the estimated increase for out of district costs would be \$271,000 - \$291,000. This will have a significant impact on the construction of our FY24 budget. Here are the historical inflation figures.

FY '11	.75%
FY '12	1.69%
FY '13	2.13%
FY '14	1.80%
FY '15	1.53%
FY '16	1.40%
FY '17	1.83%
FY '18	1.15%
FY '19	2.33%
FY '20	1.63%
FY '21	2.72%
FY '22	2.26%
FY '23	2.54%
FY '24	14.00%

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The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents as well as the Massachusetts Association of School Committees are advocating on behalf of school districts across the commonwealth to find solutions to this problem.

Updates on Strategic Work

1. Topic: Lexikeet

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

Strategic Initiative: SI #2: Ensure universal access to information for all stakeholders

Nashoba has recently transitioned to a new online language translation and interpretation service, Lexikeet, to support the language needs of families requiring translation services. Lexikeet is HIPAA compliant and offers translation services for over 55 languages, including American Sign Language (ASL). Lexikeet provides different types of language services, three of which we will use: document translation, scheduled interpretation, and on demand translation. Services are provided through an online portal which provides our school users with ready access, connecting faculty and families with interpreters to help facilitate school conversations and meetings. Already, our faculty and families have found Lexikeet accurate, easy to use, and with a quick turn around. Because Lexikeet's services are provided virtually and on demand, the cost for services is less than our previous interpreter service which required a minimum time commitment per appointment including travel.

2. Topic: NRHS Professional Learning Time (PLT)

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 #1: Engage in an audit of district-wide curriculum and conduct a curriculum revision cycle

Strategic Initiative #7: Increase authentic experiential learning opportunities across all classrooms K-12

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

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

Work aligned to our district's strategic plan is advancing at the high school. In addition to the curriculum alignment, development and mapping work occurring during district early release days, professional learning in support of our strategic plan is underway during the six scheduled high school late starts through structured Professional Learning Time (PLT) sessions. Four overarching themes serve as the focus for the high school Professional Learning Time. These focus areas include: Innovative Instruction, Universal Design for Learning, Social Emotional Learning, and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. At the start of the school year, a request for PLT proposals was extended to NRHS faculty and staff with clear guidelines and

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parameters, including the targeted focus on strategic initiatives, articulated session topics, and intended product outcomes. All proposals were vetted and approved by the high school leadership team under the direction of Dr. Boynton. The process resulted in the development of 12 PLT sessions, all of which are running concurrently during late starts and facilitated by NRHS faculty, as follows: *English/Social Studies Interdisciplinary Project-Based Learning; The Skillful Teacher; Innovation Pathways; Equitable Grading; Supporting Students in PACE; Wellness/PLT4M; World Language Innovative Instruction and State Seal of Biliteracy; TLC Mission and Vision; Transition Programs: Innovative Instruction; Signature Programming Visioning; Project-Based Learning in Statistics; and Student Success Skills and Content and Curriculum Construction.* The Teaching and Learning Department in coordination with NRHS administration and faculty, looks forward to providing the Committee an update of the outcomes and impact of the high school PLT efforts after the conclusion of the last PLT session in May.

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