



*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 January 4, 2023

Announcements:

School Building Project Social Media Launch

I want to announce the launch of our social media communications for the Nashoba Regional High School Building Project. We will be using Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to educate the residents of our three towns on the progress of the project. Please subscribe to our social media platforms to receive updates. In addition, we need you to encourage your neighbors who are residents of Bolton, Lancaster, and Stow to subscribe to our social media communications. This will be a primary tool in getting our messages out to people who do not have children in school.

Please follow us on the following social media:

Twitter - @NRHSbc

Instagram - @NRHSbc

Facebook - Nashoba RSD Building Project

Extended Learning Update

The Extended Learning Program (ELP) offers a full roster of enrichment activities throughout the year. This fall, enrichment programming included: ImagArena, a building workshop that simulates a real life video game, and Drama Out of the Box, an improv drama class. These sessions, which were run at all four of our sites, came to a close at the beginning of December. Beginning in January, we will offer Chess Wizards, Marcus Lewis Tennis Lessons, Art-Ventures Penguins & Polar Bears, and Fun World Language French Lessons.

In an effort to increase the enrichment programming offered across all of our Extended Learning Program sites, we have administered an Enrichment Interest Survey to all extended learning families. Results from the survey will help to inform our Spring 2023 enrichment offerings. This spring, we are also looking to conduct a pilot program that would extend enrichment offering registration to students not currently enrolled in the Extended Learning Program. Extending registration parameters

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would help to support increased participation, thereby ensuring equity of offerings across all four sites.

In terms of rates and fee structure for Extended Learning, Mr. Mulkerin will provide a recommended proposal to the Committee for consideration for FY24.

Foundation Enrollment

As part of the budget preparation process, we have reviewed enrollment to provide assessment numbers per the Regional Agreement. Over the past few weeks, we have considered the slight discrepancy that always exists between the district's provided enrollment, as part of the proposed budget, and the state confirmed foundation enrollment, which is used as part of calculation for foundation budget, required local contribution, Chapter 70 aid, and required net school spending. In order to have an assessment that matches the state enrollment calculations, we will present an estimated enrollment and assessment for each town at the Budget Workshop and will then adjust those calculations when state numbers are released as part of the Cherry Sheets which are typically to districts at the end January. The updated assessment will be presented publicly to the School Committee and then shared with the Town Administrators and Finance/Advisory committee chairs for their budget planning purposes.

Updates on Strategic Work

Topic: MyCAP Implementation Grant

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

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

The Nashoba Regional School District has recently been awarded grant funding in the amount of \$4500.00 through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's MyCAP Implementation Grant. The purpose of the MyCAP targeted grant opportunity is to provide supplementary support to school districts currently engaged in or interested in beginning implementation of [My Career and Academic Plan \(MyCAP\)](#). MyCAP is a student-driven process designed to ensure all students graduate from high school college and career ready. The MyCAP process requires schools/districts to create a scope and sequence as part of the implementation process. For the Nashoba Regional School District, MyCAP will be referred to as "MyPortrait" and will seek to provide systematic and structured opportunities for students beginning in middle school to engage in career exploration and post-graduate planning in an effort to move beyond forward-visioning activities that may be seen as isolated tasks, separate from daily growth, recognizing the full spectrum of learning inherent throughout a student's education. The formal documentation of Nashoba's MyPortrait will become each student's individualized pathway as they craft their own Portrait of their Graduation. The MyCAP Grant will launch the planning and implementation process for Nashoba this spring and summer and

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will mark the beginning of a multi-year initiative with a cross-section of teachers and administrators districtwide.

Topic: Portrait of a Nashoba Graduate: Voices from Alumni

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

The Department of Teaching and Learning is currently seeking to connect with Nashoba alumni to hear from graduates about what they are up to and what skills and competencies they learned at Nashoba that have carried them forward into the postgraduate world. Alumni are encouraged to complete the [Portrait of a Nashoba Graduate: Voices from Alumni](#) form to share their perspectives about the top Portrait of a Nashoba Graduate competencies our current students need to flourish in future educational pursuits and as members of the workforce. The “Voices from Alumni” form has been shared widely by email and social media with responses requested by January 13th. Information gleaned from “Voices from Alumni” will help inform the curriculum audit and development process currently underway and will be showcased in a culminating video montage to be launched as part of the keynote message during the full day of professional development on March 17th.

Topic: Director of Innovation and Digital Learning Job Description

Strategic Objective: #4: Human Resources and Facilities and Finance

Maximize the potential of students, staff, caretakers and community through effective resource allocation through;

-cultivating short-term and long-range planning, maintenance, renovation, and building initiatives.

-recruiting, hiring, supporting and retaining a highly effective, diverse workforce.

-maintaining and upgrading technology systems to ensure access to robust digital resources.

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

–Create a Director of Innovation and Digital Learning

Rationale:

Included in your packet is a job description for a curriculum director position that will be included in the FY24 budget proposal. This position is a critical leadership position for our school system and is noted as a priority in the strategic plan. This position is critical for leading our faculty and staff in innovative instructional practices that help students strengthen their learning competencies and transferable skills. This position is needed across the school district today and will be absolutely essential in preparing our high school teachers for the educational environment of a new Nashoba Regional High School.

Topic: Communications Coordinator

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Strategic Objective: #4: Human Resources and Facilities and Finance

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- recruiting, hiring, supporting and retaining a highly effective, diverse workforce.*
- maintaining and upgrading technology systems to ensure access to robust digital resources.*

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

- Create a Director of Communications

Rationale:

I would like to announce that Ms. Bridget Hannigan has taken on the responsibility of being the NRSD communication coordinator. She is taking on these additional responsibilities to her extended learning coordinator role. Her expertise in editing and publishing make her an ideal person to lead our communications efforts. She will focus primarily on central office communications as well as communications for the high school building project. Join me in thanking Ms. Hannigan for taking on this important responsibility.

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