



*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 May 10, 2023

Announcements:

Resignation of Pupil Personnel Services Director, Joan DeAngelis

Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Joan DeAngelis, has accepted a position in another district and will not return to Nashoba Regional School District for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. DeAngelis will continue to serve the students and families of our district until the conclusion of this school year. Ms. DeAngelis has been the Director of Pupil Personnel Services for seven years at Nashoba Regional School District and we are grateful for her time with us. We wish her all the best in her new endeavor.

To find an outstanding leader, we need time to fully assess our needs, gather feedback from key stakeholders, and craft a process that will bring a highly qualified and talented leader to our school system. As a result, we will post an interim PPS Director position for the 2023-2024 school year. The process for selecting the permanent PPS Director will begin in the Fall of 2023. The anticipated activities include but are not limited to;

- focus group conversations;
- stakeholder surveys;
- developing search criteria based upon system needs and data collected from interviews and surveys;
- designing a thoughtful process that attracts high quality applicants;
- conducting interviews;
- vetting finalists and ultimately selecting the best candidate for Nashoba.

We expect to select the next PPS Director by February Break, 2024 with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2024.

Ann Marie Stoica, Director of Human Resources • Rob Frieswick, Director of Facilities
Joan DeAngelis, Director of Pupil Personnel Services • Tania Rich, Director of Athletics
Ross Mulkerin, Business and Operations Manager
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Assabet Valley Collaborative Update #3

In the materials for today's meeting you can see the proposed rates for services at the Assabet Valley Collaborative. These rates are voted on annually by the Board of Directors and shared with the committees of participating districts.

Worcester County Superintendents Association Scholar Award

Join me in celebrating Michelle Nguyen as Nashoba Regional High Schools WCSA Scholar award recipient. Michelle is a dedicated learner who has excelled in and out of the classroom. Having earned a five on the AP Chemistry exam, Michelle has balanced a full workload of AP courses and extracurriculars to become a well rounded student. She is committed to robotics, dance, and teaches piano in her spare time. Her guidance counselor describes her as, “A natural leader...driven and resilient...outgoing and friendly.” We are proud to have Michelle represent our school system as the WCSA Scholar award recipient. Congratulations, Michelle!

Nashoba Regional High School Structured Learning Time (Time on Learning) Report

In Massachusetts, all public elementary schools must provide a minimum of 900 hours of structured learning time per school year, while public high schools must provide 990 hours of such time. After conducting an internal scheduling audit and engaging in the Tiered Focused Monitoring process with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, we discovered that adjustments were necessary to meet the 990-hour requirement for structured learning time at our high school. Through our analysis, we identified several contributing factors to the scheduling shortfall and have created a short term and long term scheduling strategy to exceed the 990-hour structured learning time requirement. The short term scheduling strategy, proposed for the 2023-2024 school year, will ensure compliance with the time on learning requirement. The long term scheduling strategy involves changing the fundamental structure of our current master schedule. With the aim of advancing our Education Vision and creating a scheduling framework that fosters deeper learning, innovation, and student engagement, we will examine a new high school schedule and other programmatic adjustments over the next year in accordance with our Strategic Plan timeline.

Updates on Strategic Work

Topic: OpenSciEd Equitable Instruction (OEI) Initiative and Grant Funding

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

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The Luther Burbank Middle School and Nashoba Regional School District have been awarded a grant from the [One8 Foundation](#) through the [OpenSciEd Equitable Instruction \(OEI\) Initiative](#) at Boston College in the amount of \$23,700.00. This grant funding will support the implementation of [OpenSciEd](#), a middle school applied science curriculum using phenomenon-based instruction aligned to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The OpenSciEd curriculum engages students as scientists with hands-on, relevant, inquiry-based lessons, Grant funding will support professional development workshops for our teachers and durable equipment costs associated with implementing OpenSciEd. In addition, to grant funding, members of the Massachusetts OpenSciEd program receive implementation support, priority access to in-state workshops, and additional professional learning resources and student programming through the [OpenSciEd Equitable Instruction \(OEI\) Initiative](#) based at the Lynch School at Boston College as well as [Mass STEM Hub](#), a program of the One8 Foundation. The One8 Foundation fully funded the start up and operation of the OEI initiative in 2021 so that schools in Massachusetts will have robust professional development for this innovative science curriculum.

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