



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 June 7, 2023

Announcements:

Equity Audit Update:

As the School Committee is aware, the district engaged in the RFP process in an attempt to contract for the purposes of an equity audit. The district was not able to execute a contract for any of the proposals due to criteria not being met at an acceptable level and/or cost proposals well beyond our stated budget for this work. The district still values this necessary work and during the process a new possible avenue revealed itself. A new pathway that would involve the district leadership with a larger role through work facilitated by an outside consultant will be pursued. We will be contacting representatives from possible firms in order to initiate this new avenue and report back our next steps to the School Committee as we remain committed to this critical work for all students.

Updates on Strategic Work

Topic: NRSD Summer Academy

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 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

From June 22-June 29, the Department of Teaching and Learning will provide Nashoba educators with an opportunity to continue their professional learning and curriculum development efforts during NRSD Summer Academy 2023. Faculty and staff will have several virtual and in-person professional development opportunities from which to choose.

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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Offerings include the following:

- Supporting Students with Disabilities in the Classroom
- Strategic Instruction for English Learners, PreK-12
- Deepening Practice with the Renaissance Learning Assessment Suite
 - Lalilo for Early Literacy
 - Deeper Data Dive and Actionables with Freckle, Math, and Reading
 - Using Renaissance Star Custom for Formative Assessment
 - Using Data to Plan Targeted Instruction
 - Better Together: Using Star Data and Freckle
- Strengthening Knowledge of Universal Design for Learning, Micro-Courses
- Examining and Implementing Restorative Practices
- Deeper Learning for Expert Learning
- Mentor Training
- Book Study: Culturally-Responsive Training and the Brain, Zaretta Hammond
- Curriculum Working Groups

Topic: K-5 Literacy Curriculum Review Cycle, Phase 1, Launch

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

This Nashoba Regional School District's vision for learning is predicated on a commitment to providing rigorous, innovative, and clearly aligned curriculum that inspires, engages, and challenges every student. To this end, the Department of Teaching and Learning has developed an updated district [Curriculum Review Cycle](#) to provide a systematic approach to reviewing and updating Tier 1 core curricula in each content area, K-12. The process of reviewing curriculum and instructional resources regularly ensures that we are meeting the needs of all of our students and supports a framework for continuous improvement.

K-5 Literacy has been prioritized within our curriculum review cycle as a direct result of our district commitment to ensuring our classrooms are equipped with evidence-based, systematic, explicit instructional practices, reflective of the [Mass Literacy](#) guidelines and the [Components of the Core Literacy Block](#). Our goal is to ensure all students develop a strong foundation in literacy, a foundation that prepares them for academic success, cultivates joy in reading, and provides them with the literacy skills needed to fully realize their unique potential.

Nashoba currently uses Calkins Units of Study, K-5, and Foundations as core instructional materials for literacy. Phase 1 of the Curriculum Review Cycle is driven by the essential question: *How do our current instructional practices, curricula, and materials support student learning?*

The Department of Teaching and Learning is currently organizing a Curriculum Review Committee whose work will be guided by this essential question. Through a data-informed process, the Committee will identify priorities, needs, and next steps, aligning our District's instructional vision for literacy and the components of the core literacy block.

Moving forward, the Department of Teaching and Learning will provide the Committee with updates throughout the curriculum review process.

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