



*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 March 1, 2023**

### **Announcements:**

#### **Mary Rowlandson Elementary Principal Search Update**

Dear Mary Rowlandson Elementary Families,

It is my pleasure to announce the three finalists who have been selected for the open Mary Rowlandson Elementary principal position. From a collection of fourteen candidates, six candidates were advanced forward to the panel committee after screening interviews with the Superintendent's team. Of the six candidates invited for panel interviews, three finalists were selected for all day visits.

The three candidates advancing forward for all day visits and the parent forum will be:

- **Scott Blanchard**, Assistant Principal at Mary Rowlandson Elementary: Mr. Blanchard is the Assistant Principal at Mary Rowlandson, a position he has held for seven years. Before coming to MRE, Scott was an Assistant Principal and teacher, dean of students and instructional coach in schools in New Mexico. His Bachelor's degree in Anthropology is from Brandeis University, and his Master's in Education is from Simmons College.
- **Jeffery Dees**, Elementary Principal, Wellesley MA Public School: Mr. Dees has been an elementary Principal in the public schools of Wellesley and, earlier, in Sudbury and on Cape Cod, for fourteen years. His career in education began as a teacher in grades four and five in Bentonville, Arkansas. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Arkansas Tech University, and a Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Arkansas.
- **Kristin Moffat**, Assistant Principal, Sudbury MA Public Schools: Ms. Moffat has served as the Assistant Principal at an elementary school in the Sudbury and Westford Public Schools for twenty-one years. Prior to beginning her administrative career, she was a fifth grade teacher in schools in Framingham and Chesterfield, VA. She holds a Bachelor of Education degree in Elementary Education and Geography from Framingham State College (now University), and a Master of Education degree in Educational Administration from the University of Virginia.

On the evening of March 7, 2023 we will have an online candidate forum where community members can listen to the candidates respond to questions that the community submits prior to the meeting. (Originally the forum was scheduled on March 2nd which is a conflict with parent conferences.) An online link will be posted and sent via email to the community on Tuesday, March 7th at 4:00 p.m. You can participate by submitting a question for consideration. To submit a question [click on this link](#) and fill out the form. Together with MRE parent representatives, we will select questions from the community that give our candidates an opportunity to express their skills and expertise across a range of topics. There will be five questions selected for each candidate to answer.

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The schedule for the evening forum will be as follows:

- 6:00 - 6:10 Instructions for the evening
- 6:10 - 6:40 Mr. Scott Blanchard Interview
- 6:40 - 6:50 Provide feedback for Mr. Blanchard (Google Form)
- 6:50 - 7:20 Mr. Jeffery Dees Interview
- 7:20 - 7:30 Provide feedback for Mr. Dees
- 7:30 - 8:00 Ms. Kristin Moffat Interview
- 8:00 - 8:10 Provide feedback for Ms. Moffat

At the beginning of each interview, a link to each candidate's feedback form will be placed in the chat room. You can fill out the form and write comments for each of the candidates' answers throughout the interview. Please submit only one form for each candidate. Feedback forms will be closed ten minutes after the candidate completes the interview. This process will allow each candidate to be assessed according to the merits of their responses. The community feedback will be an important piece of data for final consideration of our next MRE principal.

On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, I will wrap up the feedback collection process by meeting with the Mary Rowlandson School faculty and staff. I will take their feedback and combine it with all the other feedback I've received throughout the process to ultimately make a decision. I anticipate making an announcement on or before March 10, 2023. Please understand that an announcement could be delayed depending on reference checks and contract negotiations.

### **MASS Legislative Breakfast**

On Friday, March 3, 2023 I will attend the M.A.S.S. Tri-County Superintendents Legislative Breakfast at War Memorial Auditorium at Newton City Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and context to your legislators for the upcoming FY24 budget development and discussions. A focus of the meeting will be the Operational Services Division proposed 14 percent increase in approved private special education program tuitions as well as increases in percentage of circuit breaker reimbursement and regional transportation reimbursement.

### **FY24 NRSD Budget Update**

This week, we are presenting an updated FY24 Proposed Budget (Strategic Initiative #4.2: Articulate district priorities through the budget) that includes our House 1 figures from the Governor's Budget. This clarifies the assessments to member towns as we also now know the Required Contributions for each town. We have also included updates based on increased state revenues and decreases to operating costs. Our proposed FY24 Budget is now at \$64,902,630 representing a 4.30% increase over the FY23 budget.

### **Updates on Strategic Work**

#### **Topic: Pave Your Path, Nashoba! March 17th, Full Day of Professional Learning**

**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

**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,

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equity, and inclusion

**Strategic Initiative #2:** Deepen understanding and strengthen practices in culturally responsive teaching

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

**Strategic Initiative #5:** Grow a PK-12 Nashoba identity

The Department of Teaching and Learning is thrilled to announce our upcoming full day of professional development for our Nashoba learning community, ***Pave Your Path, Nashoba!*** After three long years, we are excited to come together, under one roof, to celebrate, collaborate, connect... and learn. From inspiring speakers, including our very own Nashoba graduates and faculty, to interactive workshops, we'll explore new ideas, techniques, and innovative practices to deepen our understanding and hone our craft in a collective effort to bring our Strategic Plan to life and create an even stronger learning experience for our students.

The goal for this year's Full Day of Professional Learning is to provide Nashoba educators with...

- A snapshot of life after graduation from the perspective of our very own Nashoba graduates. Where are you now, Nashoba?
- Professional Development directly connected to our NRSD Strategic Plan and our Portrait of a Nashoba Graduate competencies
- A model of professional learning reflective of the UDL framework through choice in content and learning format

Our March 17th professional development offerings will provide 7 learning paths, as follows:

Portrait of a Nashoba Graduate	Curriculum Design and Alignment	Universal Design for Learning
Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Belonging	Social Emotional Learning	Digital Tools to Support Learning
Pave Your Own Path		

Please find the full list of offerings, with session descriptions and pathway connections, linked here, [Pave Your Path, NRSD Full Day of Professional Learning Print Schedule](#).

Additionally, please find the SMORE announcement shared with our faculty and staff, [Pave Your Path, NRSD Full Day of Professional Learning Smore](#).

As our work continues in support of our vision for learning and our Portrait of a Nashoba Graduate, we are further pleased to share that this year's Opening Session will focus on our very own Nashoba graduates. This year, we have welcomed the voices of our Nashoba Graduates to our opening session through story and video, "Voices of Nashoba.". Through story, we will hear from two of our Nashoba graduates, Abbie McCaffrey (Class of 2014) and Paul Theriault (Class of 2018), as they share their Nashoba story and how they have paved their path after Nashoba. Through video, we will hear from a wide range of Nashoba graduates who have not only volunteered to offer their reflections on the skills and competencies learned at Nashoba but who also provide us with insight into the skills and competencies necessary for happiness and success in life after Nashoba.

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