

**Nantucket School Committee
Workshop Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2025**

Present Members: Vice-Chair Shantaw Bloise-Murphy, Timothy Lepore, Esmeralda Martinez, Vincent Murphy, Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett, Mandy Bardsley, and Melissa Devitt

The October 22, 2025, School Committee meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM in the Nantucket Intermediate School Cafeteria by Vice Chair Shantaw Bloise-Murphy. A motion was made by Timothy Lepore, seconded by Vincent Murphy. The agenda was approved unanimously. Roll Call

2025 MCAS/Accountability Results - Amanda Bardsley, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning and Melisa Devitt, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Operations

Amanda Bardsley, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, and Melissa Devitt, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Operations, presented the 2025 MCAS and accountability results. Ms. Devitt reviewed the accountability data, noting that all three schools reported for MCAS, showing moderate progress with substantial gains in over 50% of measures. She then reviewed demographic data and explained the concept of Typical Growth (TG) while comparing growth and achievement data.

Mr. Murphy asked about the difference between growth and achievement. Dr. Bardsley explained that growth measures change over time, whereas achievement reflects performance at a single point in time.

Key takeaways included:

- NIS: Typical Growth was low, correlated with decreases in achievement.
- CPS: Typical Growth was high, correlated with increases in achievement.
- NHS: Exceeded SGP targets in most areas, but this correlated with decreases in achievement in most areas.

Ms. Devitt discussed the need for further research on students with disabilities (SWD) across the district, particularly within specialized programs, and on dually identified English Learners (EL/Former EL) at NIS. Additional research is also needed on a pilot co-teaching model for EL students. Ms. Devitt reviewed MAP and MCAS achievement data, including average scaled scores and percentages. She noted that Civics data showed 31% of students meeting or exceeding expectations in the first year the test was administered. Dr. Bardsley highlighted performance trends over time, noting students meeting growth targets and emphasizing those within 10 points of meeting proficiency as an important data point. Ms. Devitt noted that many students are reading slightly below grade level but are close to meeting expectations. Dr. Bardsley expressed concern about fractions and expressions at NIS and equations at CPS, and reviewed new initiatives aimed at addressing these areas, while noting data trends at the high school level are skewed.

Ms. Martinez expressed interest in seeing results next year with the removal of phones. Mr. Murphy observed that the district remains behind the state in math across all categories. Dr. Hallett noted that many students are close to proficiency and highlighted the importance of targeted strategies to help them meet standards.

School Improvement Plans

Cyrus Peirce Middle School - Principal Michael Horton

Cyrus Peirce Middle School Principal Michael Horton reviewed the school's vision and goals. He highlighted the implementation of Yondr pouches, noting a reduction in hallway traffic and the absence of cyberbullying during the school day. Principal Horton also discussed strategies for integrating artificial intelligence, emphasizing teaching students to use technology to work smarter, not harder.

Nantucket Elementary School, Principal Kimberly Kubisch

Nantucket Elementary School Principal Kimberly Kubisch provided an update, noting slight changes from last year while emphasizing the importance of maintaining previous initiatives. She highlighted the inclusion of a guide to acronyms and abbreviations on page 4, and reviewed action steps completed last year, updating outcomes and aligning the report with trimester-based standards. Principal Kubisch discussed the second goal focused on math instruction, including professional development and use of the Reveal resource for K–2 classrooms,

ensuring 90 minutes of daily math instruction and 120 minutes of ELA instruction per classroom. She noted that over 50 volunteers have signed up, with four training sessions completed. Bins of math and ELA activities with instructions in multiple languages were created to support small group instruction, helping families better understand the curriculum.

Nantucket High School - Principal Mandy Hilemn

Nantucket High School Principal Mandy Hilemn began by reviewing the school's vision of a graduate and noted upcoming professional development on November 4 focused on transitioning to a "Portrait of a Learner." She highlighted that SEI strategies benefit all students.

Regarding Goal 4, Principal Hilemn discussed efforts to increase instructional time by reducing office referrals through restorative practices and revised discipline protocols. When asked by SBM about the difference between the "Portrait of a Graduate" and the "Vision of a Graduate," she provided clarification.

Dr. Lepore inquired whether the vision aligns with the Department of Education, and Ms. Hilemn confirmed it is an adopted framework. Dr. Hallett noted upcoming work on competency determination. Mr. Murphy commented positively on the discipline goal and questioned why it applies only to the high school. Ms. Hilemn explained the focus is on teaching students to learn from mistakes and addressing avoidance behaviors.

Nantucket Intermediate School - Principal Becky Janda

Nantucket Intermediate School Principal Becky Janda reported that the school council has grown significantly and highlighted collaboration through Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to ensure all students achieve essential math outcomes by focusing on key skills and concepts. She described efforts to increase student engagement and growth through active learning strategies, including student-to-student discussion, Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) supports, and thoughtful use of AI as a learning tool to enhance critical thinking. Opportunities for teachers to observe colleagues' classrooms were also emphasized. Principal Janda outlined initiatives to strengthen students' social-emotional skills and sense of belonging, including staff training in SEL practices, family partnerships through a school climate survey, and alignment with Massachusetts SEL standards and CASEL's five social competencies. She provided an update on the literacy program, noting the challenges and progress in supporting both students and teachers. The new EL curriculum, Imagine Learning, is being fully implemented across all grades to support growth in reading, writing, and foundational skills. In response to Mr. Murphy's question, Ms. Janda clarified that third graders use AI as a thought partner rather than to search for information.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:33 PM by Timothy Lepore, seconded by Vincent Murphy, and with none opposed, the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Bedell
School Committee Clerk