

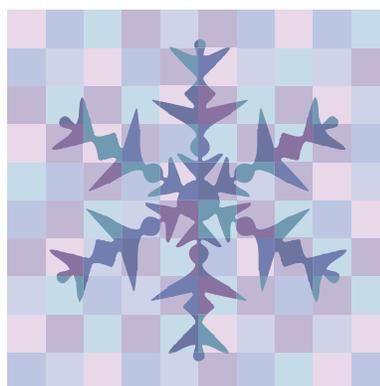
SPECIAL POINTS OF IN- TEREST:

- High School Report Cards will be issued 1/28/2005.
- School Committee Budget Workshops and Meetings begin on Thursday, January 27, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at the Nashoba Regional High School, 12 Green Road, Bolton. Meetings are in the Media Center. And Tuesday, February 8th, at the same location and time. February 10th the regularly scheduled meeting, which will include a budget workshop, will take place at 6:00 at the high school.
- Florence Sawyer Sixth Graders raise over \$7000.00 to aid the tsunami victims.

Winter Weather Comes to New England

We have been hit with several significant weather systems thus far this year. Inevitably, questions come up as to how the decision is made regarding the closing or the delaying of the opening of the district. Let me review how I do it:

1. I check the weather stations the night before.
2. I wake up between 4:00 am and 4:30 am.
3. I begin by talking with the Director of Facilities to get road and parking lot conditions.
4. By 5:00 am I have to have the decision made.



5. If the weather system is current and is only snow, as long as there are no extenuating circumstances I will probably decide to go to school. Buses are heavy vehicles. They are safe vehicles.

6. If the weather system involves ice or sleet I am more likely to delay (depending on the timing of the storm) or actually cancel (if the system won't stop before the close of school).
7. Depending on the questions I need answered, I talk to DPW directors in each town, the police departments, and the Superintendents in other districts.

Why Did We Have School?

I make this decision, after many conversations as discussed above.

Specifically, on Wednesday, January 26th, the following occurred: At 4:00 am there was no snow. By 5:24 I was beginning to be alerted by colleagues of their intent to cancel. It had only begun to flurry. The decision has to be made by 5:00 in the morning, as we have bus drivers who have to travel a great distance. By 6:45 there was about two inches on the ground. The weather reports were still reporting 4" to 8" over the course of the day. (Web sites were still saying 2" to 3".) Because it was a light snow it has been my experience that buses and most cars can travel quite safely. Visibility was also good. The storm was to be over when students were going home for early release.

Unfortunately, for my crystal ball the time between 6:00 am and 9:00 (when buses were on the road) was like the clouds opened up and dumped everything they had. It is my understanding that

best practice is to treat roads before snowfall and then to plow after 3" or so of accumulation, so some plowing did not begin until after our buses had begun their bus routes.

The bus garage is in contact with the DPW in each community. The DPW usually can respond to requests for clearing, plowing, and sanding. This was the first inclement weather day that bus drivers chose not to travel down specific roads and I was made aware of this. I will have conversations with the bus company to discuss how these decisions get made. I will also look into how to use Connect Ed so that children are not waiting outside when a bus is late or alternative plans for transportation are being made.

I also want to stress that people should call the bus garage if a bus is running late. They have first hand communication with the drivers.

Superintendent's Recommended FY 06 Budget

BUDGET PREP

I am pleased to share with you the FY 06 Proposed Budget for Nashoba Regional School District. The administrative team, the individual school councils, teachers and staff spent numerous hours developing their budget requests based on a needs assessment from their respective schools and departments. After proposal meetings with John Antonucci and myself, I prepared a plan for incorporating their needs in a multi year approach. The administrators, then, rated their priorities and based on these ratings, efforts were made to put the highest priorities in the FY 06 plan. Most of the multi year planning is based on staffing requests, however, as we look toward recommendations of task forces in the district, I expect other types of planning will be added to this model.

In an attempt to build on the zero based budgeting (ZBB) process started last year we identified the needs of the district based on the expected outcomes for students, staff and faculty. These outcomes are derived from many sources:

- District Goals approved by the School Committee
- District School Improvement Plans Approved by the School Committee
- School Improvement Plans Approved by School Councils
- Student Assessment Information
- Student Individual Plans (Special Education, Section 504 of ADA, Other)
- Capital Plan Review
- NEASC Review

Only new staffing requests with a priority rating of three or four were considered for this proposal and not all of these were finally included. Existing programs were reviewed, and where necessary, have been adjusted to best serve our students and the organization's goals as a whole. For new items costing more than \$1,000 an administrator will be able to break out the rationale and share this during his or her presentation.

To the extent that this document provides the details, the principals and directors will be present

during the meetings and workshops we have scheduled in February to give further explanations.

Due to the late release of the Governor's Proposed Budget (HOUSE I) we will only be able to provide estimates of the revenues expected for the District. As we learn more, we will provide an updated version of the revenues expected.

I believe this budget is well constructed, focused and moves us forward. We captured the immediate needs, and have a multi year schedule to address requests that this year's process placed at a lower priority. This proposal is about trust, respect and validation for the school district by those who are served by the district directly. I believe that the initiatives speak for themselves as to their viability and necessity for those who may not have as complete an understanding of our need.

Budget pages may be accessed on nrsd.net/School Committee/ Finance Advisory Board/ Budget.