

## NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# NASHOBA NEWS

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Last Day of School will be Wednesday, June 15, 2005. Lunches will not be served and students will be dismissed early as shown below.**
- **Rowlandson, Pompo/Center and Sawyer will be dismissed at 11:35 a.m.**
- **Burbank Middle, Hale Middle and the high school will be dismissed at 10:40 a.m. \**
- **Tri Town**  
(Next Meeting)  
June 1, 2005  
7:00 PM  
Bolton Town Hall
- ♦ **Early Release Days Wednesday, June 1, 2005.**

## SENATE FY 06 BUDGET



The Senate Ways and Means Committee released its proposed budget Tuesday, May 17, 2005. The following is part of the Executive Summary of the proposed budget.

“The Committee recommended increasing chapter 70 funds by \$105.6 million. This was achieved by meeting the foundation budget for each school district and guaranteeing that every district see an increase of at least \$50 per student.” (This is generally consistent with the House Budget).

“The Committee also created a \$55 million reserve for education to school districts only to be allocated upon enactment of future legislation passed by the General Court. These funds will help level the playing

field in the distribution of school aid so that towns of similar wealth and income receive similar aid from the state. Aid will also go to improving under-performing and at-risk school districts through strengthened educational quality and district accountability.”

At this time it is unclear how such funds might be applied but it is highly likely that it will be a topic of discussion when the Joint Conference Committee meets. We will provide more information as it becomes known.

## *REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION*

Senator Brewer is filing an amendment for 58 million (which should fully fund regional transportation) and Senator Resor has signed on to that bill. This would be a great benefit to our district and everyone should take the opportunity to contact their Senator in the next week or so.

## *Differentiated Instruction Demonstration*

On May 18, 2005, the District held its first ever Differentiated Instruction Demonstration. This was a year long in the making. Every teacher in the District was required to develop a differentiated lesson or series of lessons that they were to use in their classroom and then bring it to this demonstration day to share with their colleagues across the district.

This day, planned under the leadership of Sally Sullivan, and supported by the Teaching and Learning Associate Laura Friend, was absolutely outstanding. Seeing and hearing every teacher present throughout the afternoon was a great way for teachers to celebrate their own work, share and gather new ideas, and develop connections among colleagues in other schools.

There were presentations of units in the MRE auditorium that had the audience in stitches, the use of technology connected to the instruction was simply amazing, and there were a number of teams of teachers who worked together on grade level projects. These teams often included the able work of our tutors and aides who really complete the circle when it comes to teaching to all children.

There were a number of presentations that could be adapted for grades above and below the ones they were originally developed for, so teachers were able to “shop” around for good ideas.

A team from UCONN was also in attendance and could not say enough about what they were seeing. They continue to say that this is a model for replication across the state and throughout the nation.

Most every project had student work attached to it so you could see how the teachers were able to tier the learning for the variety of students that are in all of our classrooms.

I encourage everyone to talk with their child’s teacher about what they shared and how they thought the day went.

It was a great example of when quality professional development, support and nurturing of our own learning are provided, an environment for sharing is realized.

This day would not have been as successful without teamwork. Along with Sally and Laura, the District’s professional development team worked to create this event. Teachers and administrators had numerous meetings, spent their time setting up and developed a real system to what they were trying to achieve. There is no doubt in my mind that we have set a bar for how our annual professional development plans can be implemented. I have heard many already begin to talk about how we can do this again next year.

Key to our success was also the focus we have had on differentiated instruction. Every release day and full day professional development opportunity was connected to the topic of differentiated instruction. We brought in experts, had them on site for follow up presentations and coaching of our teachers, and we communicated using technology.

Next year’s plan is coming together with the same approach and I am even more confident that our plan will be better received and the outcome will have an even greater impact on our teachers and students.

