



NEF NEWS FALL 2022

NORTHAMPTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

P.O. BOX 44 · NORTHAMPTON, MA · 01061 · WWW.NORTHAMPTONEDUCATION.ORG



Hitchcock Center: Take it Outside!

The Take it Outside! program promotes greater use of the outdoors as a highly effective learning environment for nature-based STEM education in all four Northampton elementary schools.



Northampton
Education Foundation
A Community Investment in our Public Schools

President's message

Dear NEF Community,

The 2022-2023 academic year is off to an exciting start! For the past two and a half pandemic years (like dog years, these seem seven times longer than they actually are), we have remained committed to being as dynamic and flexible as possible in order to fund as many amazing grants as possible. But with teachers overextended and all of our in-person fundraising events canceled, both grant applications and donations have been down.

Until now.

October saw the return of our signature event, the Adult Spelling Bee, which raised over \$12,000 for our Small Grants to Teachers program. Even more exciting, the number of applications for this program has skyrocketed! We are so excited to be back on track to enable as many incredible homegrown creative educational projects in Northampton's public schools as possible.

This fall, our Small Grants are funding several innovative projects, including a program connecting elementary students with students from Northampton High School to share their love of STEM subjects, lessons on anti-racism, and even a program teaching the technical (lighting and sound) aspects of theater.

Moreover, our Endowment Grants have awarded a total of \$86,411 to eight projects for the 2022-23 school year—the most ever awarded in a single Endowment distribution cycle. Endowment grants fund multi-year, multi-school projects, such as a collaboration between the Hitchcock Center and the elementary schools that helps teachers and students utilize the outdoor spaces near their schools for educational lessons, a program to connect adaptive cycles and cycling lessons for middle and high-school students with disabilities, and early childhood professional development.

When people ask me what NEF does, I always reply that we fund the innovative, creative programs that stretched school budgets often cut. I'm looking forward to an incredible year, and I hope you'll continue to make more amazing educational programs happen by supporting NEF with a contribution. I'm proud that our community continues to support the essential art and science of teaching, our fabulous faculty, the stupendous staff, and - of course - our students!

We hope you'll consider a donation using the enclosed envelope or online at northamptoneducation.org/donate-to-nef. Thank you for helping us support our public schools.

*With warm wishes,
Lisa Papademetriou, President*



Thank You NEF Annual Fund Donors!

The following donors gave to the NEF Annual Fund from Sept. 1, 2021 to Oct. 20, 2022. Annual Fund dollars underwrite the Small Grants to Teachers program, as well as our yearly administrative costs. Thank you for your generous support of NEF and our schools!

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Small Grants Awarded

The following Small Grants to Teachers were awarded in 2021-2022

Due to Covid delays, some grant projects are still in process.

Family Reading and Math Collaboration

Leeds, \$3,000

Project Leads: Jo-Anne Intrator, Terry Flynn, Kristen Vale da Serra

Early Childhood Educators at Leeds will work in a collaborative effort with school and families to support the foundation of literacy through reading, books discussion, and book activities, and support mathematical thinking through hands-on learning and games. The program is designed to promote equity and inclusion.

She Shapes History: JFK Women's History Month

JFK, \$1,811.62

Project Leads: Regis Chandler, Margie Riddle, Kristen Picard

This project will expand the League of Women Voters' "She Shapes History" exhibit panels at JFK for students and staff members to study more closely, including an updated Google Slides curriculum project and a voting rights section of resources in the JFK library.

Worlds Imagined: Fantasy and Afrofuturism at JFK

JFK, \$3,000

Project Leads: Haley Pearl, Katie Schofield

The 7th grade English team at JFK will develop an Afrofuturism and Fantasy Reading Workshop unit, aiming to make the English curriculum diverse and culturally responsive, to bring joy and engagement into the classroom while maintaining high expectations, and to promote student achievement in reading and writing. The unit will center around literature circles based on various fantasy books by authors of color.

PACE Program Courtyard

NHS, \$396.02

Project Leads: Jennifer Mae Viets, Kate Burt

This project will provide hands-on vocational and daily living skills to students in the PACE program, while also making the courtyard outside of their classroom a more functional and accessible space. PACE (Preparing for Adulthood with Community Education) is a special education program for 18-21 year-old students with moderate to severe disabilities. They will make student-designed stepping stones to make the space more accessible and more personalized.

Self-Evident Resource Access and Professional Development

All schools, \$5,000

Project Leads: Michael Lawrence-Riddell, Kate Fontaine

Self-Evident Education will work with NPS educators to facilitate learning experiences around "A Mother's Bond" and the eight other Self-Evident modules. These modules use the power of storytelling to connect students to the history of their specific geography, connect their own lived experiences to stories from our past, and connect a sense of justice in the present and future to an understanding of the past.

The Viking Runestone

Smith Vocational, \$2,520

Project Leads: Kim Keogh, Tracey Burke

This grant will support the printing of the fourth volume of The Viking Runestone, a book of artwork and writing produced by the students, faculty, and staff at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School.

Empowering Youth: How to be Anti-Racist

Leeds, \$1,000

Project Lead: Jessica Schreiber

Students and educators in all grades at Leeds will work with Tiffany Jewell, a Black biracial writer and anti-racist educator and consultant, to engage in grade-level-appropriate anti-racist dialogue, learning, and practice. Topics explored include: Waking Up: Understanding and Growing into Our Identities; Going Beyond the Dictionary: Understanding Racism; The History We Carry with Us; Choosing Your Path: Taking Action, Responding to Racism; What We're Fighting For.



Empowering Youth: How to be Anti-Racist

JSS, \$3000

Project Leads: Sarah King, Katharine Walmsley

In year three of this grant students and educators in all grades at JSS will continue to engage in grade-level-appropriate anti-racist dialogue, learning, and practice with the support and coaching of an experienced local anti-racist educator and author, Tiffany Jewell. Work this year will prioritize small group learning opportunities, including opportunities for affinity groups as well as neurodiverse groups, to support special education and English-learner students in particular.

Empowering Youth: How to be Anti-Racist

Ryan Road, \$3,000

Project Lead: Rachel Ellis Dworkin

Students and educators in all grades at Ryan Road will work with Tiffany Jewell, a Black biracial writer and anti-racist educator and consultant, to engage in grade-level-appropriate anti-racist dialogue, learning, and practice.

Theater Tech Club Monday Mentors

NHS, \$3,000

Project Lead: Paul Kinsman

Building on an NEF Endowment Grant, this small grant will be used to hire local sound and lighting professionals, Andrew Zucchini and Ezekiel Baskin, to continue training NHS "Techie" students on how to run events in the auditorium at their after-school club. They will learn how to run live sound, how to set up and run lighting, and how to manage the space, including set up and take down of different stage sets.

Bringing Sensory World to Classroom

Leeds/RR/NHS, \$3,000

Project Lead: Kristin Zottoli

Ms. Zottoli will construct program-relevant teaching tools designed to facilitate instruction with Special Education (SPED) students with unique learning challenges that require the use of a multisensory approach. The kits and games developed will enhance the learning experiences of all students with a focus on those with sensory, cognitive, and motor challenges.

Building Resilience: Mindfulness

JFK/NHS, \$1,860

Project Lead: Michelle Eastman

Year two of this project will continue to develop and pilot the mindful moments curriculum for educators and students. Educators will participate in mindfulness workshops (yoga, share circles, movement, reflective writing), the expansion of some Onward Book group activities, and gentle yoga twice per month.

STEM Exposure and Outreach

All schools, \$1,465

Project Lead: Meshia Begin

This is year two of a student-designed, student-coordinated peer mentoring initiative that helps to establish connections between high school students and elementary/middle school students. High school students will lead activities and give presentations on their personal journeys of how they got into STEM and what careers they are looking for in the future, while encouraging exploration of STEM.



NEF Endowment Grants

The following Endowment Grants were awarded in 2021-2022

Due to Covid delays, some grant projects are still in process.

Affinity Groups

District wide, \$15,000

Project Leads: Ed Stone, Andrew Samuelson, Allyson Spencer-Bunch, Laura Frogameni

This project supports a more inclusive, diverse, and stable workforce in our schools by providing designated safe spaces for staff members who share a particular identity to come together to feel more connected. This grant will support a full school year of affinity groups, with the ultimate goal to support student achievement, reduce staff turnover in the district, and attract a more diverse workforce.

All Out Adventures

JFK/NHS, \$5,069

Project Leads: Karen Foster, Sarah Hougen, Elodie Chicoine

All Out Adventures will visit both JFK Middle School and Northampton High School with their fleet of adaptive cycles, giving students with disabilities an opportunity to learn to cycle on equipment that works for them. This initiative will also help to raise awareness among the larger school communities of what is possible for students with disabilities.

Music and Poetry Synchronized

Northampton High School, \$5,000

Project Leads: Tom Willits, Paul Kinsman

The MAPS program will provide NHS music students the opportunity to creatively collaborate and work together with poetry and art students from Bulkeley High School in Hartford, CT, and to learn about different cultural, racial, gender, and socio-economic backgrounds and geographical experiences. The MAPS Program Review captures the poetry, music lead sheets, and art created throughout the year in a published book.

Plant Science and Food Justice Course

Northampton High School, \$6,642

Project Lead: Megan Murphy

This project will support the development and implementation of a new course offering at NHS, bringing together Plant Science and food justice. Combining these elements into a single course, students will learn about sustainable and more just alternatives to current local and global agricultural and horticultural models, including community and home gardening.

JFK Health and Wellness

JFK Middle School, \$15,000

Project Leads: Kathy Casale, Janice Soucy

This grant will go towards the RULER program, a Yale-developed approach to social and emotional learning, as well as library resources focused on mental health, which have been in higher demand since students returned to school. JFK plans to tie this in with a Health & Wellness Day and additional physical education tools and equipment to support student well-being.

"The data shows all grade levels growing in terms of detailed observations and inferences (both unsupported and supported). In addition, word counts went up across grade levels, an indication that students are giving themselves longer to sit with and explore images before feeling "done." This all feels like a massive success to me, especially given the challenges this year has presented. Thank you again for supporting this project over the past year. It has been incredibly rewarding for students, teachers, and me."

Sara Lasser-Lau

Project Lead, Visual Thinking Strategies grant

Early Childhood Professional Development

Preschool, \$8,000

Project Lead: Laura Frogameni

This professional development project focuses on both NPS preschool teachers as well as community preschool teachers who primarily work with future NPS students. This grant funds professional development related to social-emotional learning, especially pertaining to students with special needs. Components include a workshop series by the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE), a series focused on legal aspects of special education law, and a workshop offered to both teachers and caregivers to help deepen partnerships and improve student outcomes.

Visual Thinking Strategies

District wide, \$11,700

Project Lead: Sara Lasser Yau

VTS is an innovative, discussion-based art-looking practice that fosters collaborative, community-building dialogue. This grant builds on a prior Endowment grant that brought VTS to Leeds. After a successful first year of direct classroom teaching at Leeds, Sara Lasser Yau will broaden the reach of VTS by offering professional development to a self-selected group of teachers from across the district at the Smith College Museum of Art.

Hitchcock Center: Take It Outside!

All Elementary schools, \$20,000

Project Lead: Colleen Kelley

This program will build on the successful partnership between the Hitchcock Center and NPS to build teacher confidence in utilizing outdoor areas around the elementary schools to enhance student engagement and learning. This second year of the grant will focus on outdoor classroom management techniques to deepen, reinforce, and sustain the learning of new approaches and practices.

The NEF Endowment

Since 1991, NEF has enhanced public schools in Northampton through its signature Small Grants to Teachers program. The endowment, the brainchild of several NHS PTO members, was established at NEF in 2004, to ensure that funding will continue in perpetuity – and allow educators to plan more far-reaching projects with a longer-term focus. Building on a model used by colleges and private schools, and increasingly by public school districts, the NEF Endowment represents fiscal responsibility and a strong commitment to the future. Money given to the Endowment is not spent, but rather carefully invested through the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. A portion of the earned interest from these investments is used to give multi-year grants to the schools, and to sustain successful, proven projects. A portion of the interest is re-invested, so that the Endowment continues to grow. Gifts from local parents, alumni, community members, and businesses ensure educational excellence. This powerful combination of private resources for one of our city's most important public resources is critical to our success.

The following named, unrestricted funds are under the umbrella of the NEF Endowment and contribute to all Endowment grants awarded:

The bankESB Fund

The Eli Daniel Nemetz Todd Memorial Fund

**The Florence Bank Fund
for Public Education**

The Marie Hershkowitz Memorial Fund

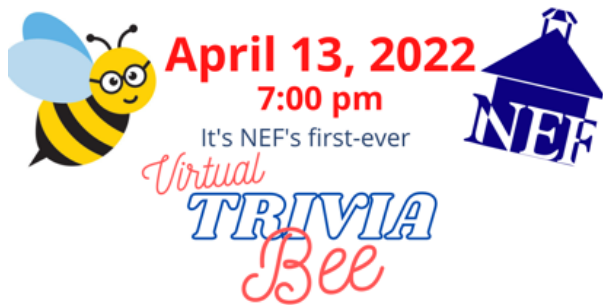
The Northampton Area Pediatrics Fund

**The Principal Gwen Agna Fund for
Northampton Public Education**



Thank you to our Endowment donors!

For more information on our Endowment and to see a list of recent donors, please visit our website: northamptoneducation.org



The First NEF Online Trivia Bee

NEF’s first annual Online Trivia Bee was a blast! We spent a fun evening dancing with friends and family in our living rooms, meeting pets, and answering amazing questions, and we raised more than \$7,000 for our Small Grants for Teachers program.

When the COVID-19 pandemic put our annual Spelling Bee on hold, NEF needed to develop another fundraising event that would work remotely. Inspired by a similar event hosted by the Amherst Education Foundation, we launched the NEF Trivia Bee.

The Trivia Bee took place on April 13, 2022 and was hosted by the Trivia Brothers, who specialize in online trivia competitions. Local businesses and organizations sponsored questions for \$250 and teams paid \$25 to participate.

The winning team was Jaytown with teammates Michael Stavely Hale, Andy Meeker, Dan Williams, Jason Townshend, and Clay Pearson. We also gave awards for: Best team name: Subscribe for More Hot Takes on Pythagoras (Anisa Schardl, Rachel Stavely Hale, Heather Fuller, Dylan Boyd, Randy Gordon, and Matt Hine); Most humorous team: Alternative Facts (Katie Gerstle, Jen Werner, Karen Brown, Jonah Zuckerman, and Jack Gerstle); Best onscreen pet cameo: The Nov Crew (Sasha Novetsky, Karen Dublin Jason Novetsky, Larry Dublin, Zoe Marketan, Carol Marketan, and Erik Marketan); Best dancers: COVID Pod Squad And The PTSD (Samantha Bakker-Norton, Sallie Batchelor, Andy Batchelor, and Craig Rossein)

Our generous Trivia bee sponsors were: A2Z Science & Learning Store; Applied Mortgage; Chia Collins and Michael Cohen; Daily Hampshire Gazette; Dale Melcher and Bill Newman; Gage-Wiley & Co.; Grow Food Northampton; High Five Books; Marisa Labozzetta and Martin Wohl; Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra Campaign Committee; Miriam Krell Bourke, Valley Mediation; Paradise Copies, Inc.; PixelEdge; River Valley Co-op; Sasson, Turnbull, Ryan and Hoose; The Community Classroom Tutoring; The Dadz; The Law Office of Valerie Vignaux; Thornes Marketplace; Whalen Insurance; and Wohl Family Dentistry.

Stay tuned for the Second Annual NEF Trivia Bee, planned for late winter or early spring of 2023!

Did you know?

Three times each year, NEF convenes representatives from the PTOs of all Northampton public schools (and often special guests) to share experiences, ideas and challenges. The latest NEF/Citywide PTO meeting took place on Nov. 3, and others are planned for February and May. Hosted by NEF for more than a decade, these gatherings foster innovation and collaboration among schools, and reflect NEF’s commitment to learning how they can help our schools thrive. A shout-out to A2Z Science and Learning Store (and owner/NEF board member André Boulay) for their gracious hosting of these meetings, as well as NEF board meetings. There may be no better venue than a toy store for discussing creative projects for young people!

Daniel S. Goldstein CONCERT

The 2022 Goldstein Concert will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 22 at Northampton High School and will feature a performance by Stu Fuchs, a master of gypsy jazz, guitar and ukulele.

Learn more about this award-winning musician and teaching artist at stufuchs.com

(Please note that these performances are for the NHS community and not open to the public).

In fond memory of Marcia Burick

Marcia Burick, who sadly passed in June 2022, was a Northampton treasure, loved and valued by the many people, groups and institutions she touched over the years. The Friends of Marcia Burick are immensely grateful for her visionary ideas about collective efforts to improve a community. As a co-founder of the Northampton Education Foundation in 1991, Marcia had the vision to understand that enriching and enhancing public education is an immense benefit for the entire City. At the same time, she was instrumental in forming the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, whose mission is to enrich the quality of life for all Valley residents by encouraging and facilitating philanthropy.

After the tragic loss of her son Dan, Marcia established the Daniel S. Goldstein Fund for the Arts, held by the CFWM and administered by NEF for the benefit of arts education at Northampton High School. With advice and guidance from Joe Blumenthal, NEF’s Goldstein Fund presents an annual educational program and performance at Northampton High School.

Marcia was also a member of our Endowment Legacy Circle, and we are profoundly honored and moved to have a received a bequest from her estate.

We remember Marcia with love and affection, and honor her significant contributions to the City of Northampton, the Northampton Public Schools, and especially the many students who, whether they knew it or not, reaped the benefits of Marcia’s vision and generosity. She is very much missed.

NEF Book Fund supports range of learning materials

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and those who shopped at our spring garden market, NEF is pleased to announce that we raised \$17,000, which will be allocated to Northampton schools this fall for the purchase of classroom texts, library texts, instructional materials, or digital learning resources. Last year, each school used some of the funds to expand their library resources. In addition, Northampton High purchased books and musical compositions for Fine Arts, added additional texts to accommodate greater enrollment numbers in certain classes, and added texts to ninth grade to assist students having trouble reading Shakespeare. The sixth grade at JFK Middle School purchased young adult fiction and memoir to pilot a reading workshop approach. The elementary schools continued to diversify their curriculum and expand their resources for their youngest learners.



Mural project at NHS, with support from a 2021 NEF Small Grant to Teachers

Thank you to our NEF Book Fund donors!

The following donors gave to the NEF Book Fund from October 2021 through September 2022.

Janet Aalfs and Janis Totty	Elizabeth Detmold	Susan Intile	Margaret and Bob Riddle
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Martha Coons and Tom Bein	Marjorie Hess and Rudolph Talaber	Ellen and Barry Nigrosh	Harold and Deborah Wheeler
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Sarah Creighton	Diane and Richard Hirtle	Katie Olmstead	Katie B. Wright
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		Paul Poklewski	
		Carole Recore	

Plant Sale Continues to Grow



The spring 2022 plant sale was a success! We are grateful for all the volunteers who donated plants as well as those who ran the sale, and we greatly appreciate the many wonderful shoppers who showed up despite the chilly early May weather. We offer thanks to our sponsors, Keiter Builders, D.A. Sullivan and Sons, and Lashway Logging, as well as to the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School students who built the trellis for our raffle and who helped bag local compost for the sale



Save the date for next year's Plant Sale: May 13, 2023



Bee photos by Noah Daube-Valois

The NEF Spelling Bee Returns!

After a two-and-a-half-year hiatus, the NEF Adult Spelling Bee returned on Wednesday, October 19, 2022.

With COVID-19 delays, NEF took the opportunity to move the beloved annual fundraiser to the fall to create more time between it and our annual Plant Sale, which takes place each May. The 20th Spelling Bee brought out our dependable sponsors and competitors and many new faces as well. As always, local businesses, organizations, and individuals sponsored teams for \$275. Some opted to be SuperBee sponsors, committing to sponsoring both the 2022 Spelling Bee and the 2023 Trivia Bee. Six very generous local businesses and groups served as major sponsors, contributing at least \$500 each. **The event raised over \$12,000 for NEF's Small Grants to Teachers.**

The doors at JFK Middle School opened at 5:00 p.m. with Cooper's Corner/State Street Fruit Store selling dinner and snacks at Le BEEstro. Competition began at 6:00 p.m. with emcee Kelsey Flynn presiding. Northampton Open Media live streamed the event and Monte Belmonte and Bill Newman of WHMP broadcast a live play-by-play with special guest Emily Brewster, an editor at Merriam-Webster. The NEF bake sale

provided treats along with ice cream donated by Herrell's and drinks donated by A2Z Science and Learning Store. Twenty-three teams, many with silly "bee" pun names and even sillier costumes, competed to see who were Northampton's best spellers, correctly (or not) spelling words like cacoethes and quidnunc. Presiding over the Bee was a distinguished panel of local celebrity judges - Gwen Agna, Ivana Correctya, Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell and Jeromie Whalen.

The Royal Spellys (Sarah Mulvehill, Claudia Bukzpan Rutherford and Geraldine) won the Spelling Bee by correctly spelling quidnunc. The Compostables featuring BaBEE Got Back Hoe from Grow Food Northampton (Erin Ferrentino, Alisa Klein and Suna Turgay) took the prize for best costume and the Serial Spellers (Carolyn Edelstein, Anthony Giardina and Adin Thayer) took the prize for most humorous team.

Thank you to our major sponsors: Friends of Marcia Burick, D.A. Sullivan & Sons, PeoplesBank, Greenfield Savings Bank, Valley Home Improvement, and Fierst Bloomberg Ohm LLP.

Thanks to our team sponsors:

A2Z Science & Learning Store
Anonymous
Apex Dental Associates of Florence *
Applied Mortgage
Broadside Books
The Cat Hospital
The Community Classroom Tutoring *
The Dadz
Dale Melcher & Bill Newman
D.A. Sullivan & Sons
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Tandem Bagel
Thornes Marketplace
UMass Five College Federal Credit Union *
Valley Home Improvement
Whalen Insurance
Wohl Family Dentistry

***Denotes SuperBee sponsors, who are sponsoring both the Spelling Bee and the upcoming Trivia Bee**

LEARN MORE ABOUT NEF:

- DONATE ONLINE
 - CONNECT TO NEF'S FACEBOOK PAGE
 - DOWNLOAD GRANT APPLICATION FORMS
 - READ DESCRIPTIONS OF 20 YEARS OF SMALL GRANTS TO TEACHERS
 - LEARN ABOUT THE NEF BOOK FUND
 - LEARN MORE ABOUT EXCITING PLANS FOR THE NEF ENDOWMENT
- LEARN ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS AND SO MUCH MORE**

VISIT THE NEF WEBSITE

www.northamptoneducation.org

Northampton Education Foundation funds and supports excellence, innovation, and intellectual creativity in Northampton Public Schools. We are an all volunteer organization that relies on the energy, creativity and support of the community to realize our mission of strengthening our schools by enriching students' educational experiences. We rely on your help through the donation of your time and ideas as well as financial resources.

A Community Investment in Our Public Schools

Comings and Goings on the NEF Board

IN 2022 NEF BADE FAREWELL TO SEVERAL OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS.

OUR GRATITUDE FOR THEIR YEARS OF BOARD SERVICE TO:

Jason Berg • Marissa Hoechstetter • Mona Kulp • Emily Acker Quintana

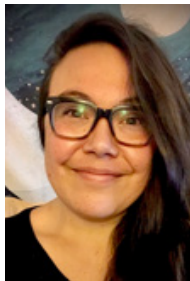
NEF is delighted to welcome three new board members:



Summer Cable

(she/her) has three children in Northampton's public schools and has been an active volunteer since 2012. Access to high quality education and student support has remained a top priority for Summer, and she is delighted to have the opportunity to further engage with the

community through the NEF. Summer lives in Florence with her husband, four ducks, three sons, two cats, and one dog.



Sam Hopper

she/they) is excited to join NEF's board. Sam has had the pleasure of serving on NEF's Small Grants Committee since her kiddo was in kindergarten at Bridge Street School, and has previously been a PTO officer and parent member on school council. Through these experiences, she's enjoyed

and appreciated learning insights about Northampton's public schools and looks forward to further engaging in ways to support Northampton's schools, students, and educators through NEF. Sam lives in Florence with her partner, their child who is now a middle schooler at JFK, and their cat.



Dale West

has worked at The Food Bank of Western MA for 19 years, where she currently manages IT and data analytics. Dale and her partner Hannah and have four kids in the public schools - triplets in 7th grade at JFK and a 9th grader at NHS! They live in Leeds, and Dale is originally from California and

New Mexico (a town called Truth or Consequences).

NORTHAMPTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ENDOWMENT - VICE PRESIDENT

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Dorothy Nemetz

Dale West

Megan Zinn (*Grants Administrator*)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Gwen Agna

EX-OFFICIO

Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell,
Interim Superintendent

We are delighted to be working with **Rhyme Digital** to update our website.

Look for a new and improved NEF site in early 2023!

www.northamptoneducation.org