



NEF NEWS FALL 2024

NORTHAMPTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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

Presidents' Message

Fall has been a busy time for NEF. The new Endowment process has begun at Northampton High School, and JFK Middle School is about to launch its planning process for their Endowment funding. Our fall Small Grants to Educators process is underway, and the Annual Adult Spelling Bee brought the crowds out for an exciting and hilarious evening of spelling, wise cracks and costumes, raising more than \$12,000. You can track all these activities on our beautiful, newly-redesigned webpage (northamptoneducation.org) and on Facebook.

This school year we will be funding a variety of exciting projects. The high school Homesteading course will have additional resources. Students at Leeds and RKF Ryan Road will work with local scientist and author Naila Moreira observing and researching monarch butterflies. Families of all elementary students will benefit from a lending library of books and activities. Our fifth graders will work with the Hitchcock Center to study water – where it comes from, where it goes, how it's used and how to protect it. Our stellar HS marching band now has a percussion coach. And so much more.

None of this wonderful work would be possible without you, our community of educators, parents/guardians, sponsors and donors. The funds we make available for Small Grants to Educators and Book Fund grants in the Northampton Public Schools, our Pre-K program and Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School comes from the money we raise from our Adult Spelling Bee, Spring Plant Sale, Census Appeal and this, our Annual Appeal.

We are the funnel to channel your contributions to programs and resources that benefit our children. And we thank you from the bottom of our collective hearts.

Please continue to help us say YES to enrichment, excellence and access for our most valuable resources, our children. We were recently asked if we take donations! The answer, of course, is YES. Please donate now online at www.northamptoneducation.org or use the enclosed envelope to make a contribution.

We rely on volunteers to make all this happen. Please consider helping with the Spelling Bee or the Plant sale, or serving on a committee, or expanding our social media reach or possibly joining our Board. All are welcome. Use the "get involved" tab on our website or email President@northamptoneducation.org.

The amazing generosity and vision you provide gives the educational experience of Northampton's students an invaluable boost, especially during these times. Thank you for everything you do, and help us to do, for our children.

Dale Melcher, *President*
Martin Wohl, *Vice-President*



NEF's annual Showcase took place on June 14, 2024 at the Center for the Arts.

Mark your calendars for the 2025 Showcase on Friday, June 13

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



Students Flock to Modern Homesteading Course

Last year NHS teacher Mr. Bob Melnik used a NEF grant to start an Introduction to Homesteading class. It has not only evolved into a regularly-offered course in Modern Homesteading, but has fast become one of the most popular classes at the high school.

A teacher at NHS since 2010, Melnik recognized the need for students to learn where their food, clothing and other goods come from, how they can participate in the process, and how the process impacts the earth. He has called the course a “home economics class turned on its head,” in which students are exposed to fishing, foraging, cooking, root beer production, canning and preserving, sewing, leather craft, and more. An NEF Endowment Grant allowed Melnik to launch the course, and its success has made it a sought-after elective – and a class which is growing and evolving.

Melnik plans to continue the very successful and popular food units from year one, noting that “The kids loved the wood fired pizza ovens and we used them a lot and they learned a lot about that type of cooking.” He plans to expand the Foraging and Wild Food unit, teaching the students more fishing skills. Last year they stocked the Mill River with fish and then caught, cleaned and cooked them. To help the students hone their fishing skills, Melnik is seeking donations of fishing equipment like rods and tackle.



to access a little triangle of land the school owns that already has ramps growing in it as well as a few black walnut trees. This area is perfect for a permaculture garden and I have been eyeing it for a couple years now.”

Last year, as part of foraging, the class transplanted ramps (wild leeks) onto school property, and they hope to harvest them this spring; this year they will also try transplanting fiddlehead ferns. “Ideally I will have enough funding left over to put in a door in the fence near the back of the shop



“The thing that was a huge success last year that I am definitely looking forward to doing again was the wild flower jelly. Last year we did Magnolia, Violet and Dandelion flower jelly and I hope to expand on that and also include other preserves like pairing with Megan Murphy with her pickles project and fermenting our own sourdough starter and making bread from it.”

Thus far 44 students have taken the Homesteading class, and Melnik is gearing up for this year’s expanded offerings.

Last year the students did one full semester of sewing, while the second semester focused on food, primarily food the class harvested from the wild. “This year I plan on adding some leather work to the sewing section of the class with the focus on monetizing our sewing skills,” said Melnik. “Clothes are so cheap now that it is very hard to make money as a clothing designer, but hand bags and leather products are still very expensive so my aim is to show them ways to take their skills and put them to work on something that will be profitable. I am hoping to use the grant money I have received to get the necessary tools to get started in that endeavor.”

Daniel S. Goldstein Concert

On November 26, the Northampton High School auditorium will echo with the sounds of jazz, hip-hop, folk, funk, and soul as saxophonist Mtali Banda and his quintet perform in the 2024 NEF Daniel S. Goldstein Fund concert. The fund was established in memory of Daniel Goldstein, a 1988 graduate of Northampton High who loved music and theater. Since 1990 it has supported an annual concert or theatrical performance that all students in the high school have the opportunity to attend. Banda, an Amherst native with both African-American and Malawian ancestry, brings influences of both to his distinctive style of music.



The **BUZZ** on the NEF Adult Spelling Bee

The 22nd NEF Adult Spelling Bee was, as always, a fun and edifying event. The stirring competition took place on October 22, 2024 once again at Bombyx Center for Arts & Equity in Florence. We had a packed house for the competition, and thanks to our generous sponsors, the event raised more than \$12,000 for NEF's Small Grants to Educators program.

The Bee's emcee was once again local favorite Kelsey Flynn and her sidekick, Lila Flynn. Judges were Ivanna Correctya (and her sky-high hair), Gwen Agna (co-chair of the Northampton School Committee), Jeromie Whalen (Northampton High School technology, communications & media production teacher), Dr. Portia Bonner (Northampton superintendent of schools), and Kathy Service (nurse practitioner and dementia care specialist). Pronouncing the words for our spellers were Stephen Eldridge (retired Northampton High School theater teacher and founder of TheaterPlay), Molly Moss (assistant director of Forbes Library), and Peter Sokolowski (editor-at-large for Merriam-Webster). Dr. Bonner was also honored as our Word Wizard, and "threw out" the first word of the competition.

UMassFive Hive, sponsored by the UMassFive College Federal Credit Union, won the Bee by correctly spelling *exergue*. The three teammates, Devora Klionsky, Ellen Asermely, and Julianna Canabal-Rodríguez had become friends when they were kids competing in the Scripps National Spelling Bee!

Royal Spellys (Claudia Rutherford, Geraldine Unger, and Sarah Mulvehill), sponsored by Friends of Marcia Burick, took the prize for best costume and The Bee 52's, (Allie Wittner, Joanna Nix, and Ashley Bennet), sponsored by Marisa Labozzetta & Martin Wohl, took the prize for most humorous team.

All of our winners received jars of honey donated by a local business, Red Barn Honey Company.

Steve Sanderson and Bill Newman of WHMP broadcast a live play-by-play of the Bee on WHMP radio and Northampton Open Media live streamed the event. You can watch it on their YouTube channel: youtube.com/watch?v=REIJzmN5vBE

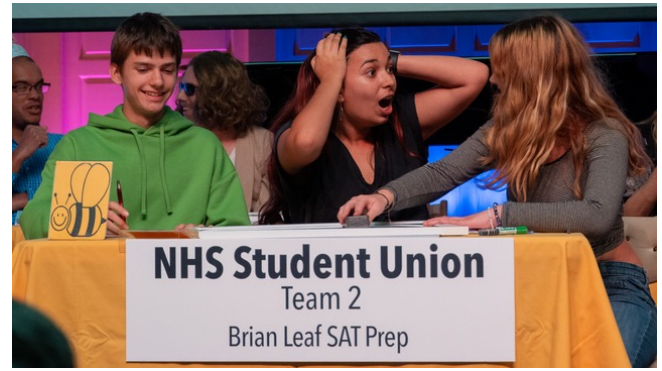
The Spelling Bee attendees enjoyed food prepared by Cooper's Corner/State Street Fruit Store, baked goods donated by NEF supporters, and ice cream donated by Herrell's Ice Cream & Bakery.

Thank you to our generous Spelling Bee sponsors, who made it all possible!

Emerald Sponsors: DA Sullivan & Sons, Friends of Marcia Burick, Greenfield Savings Bank, Marisa Labozzetta & Martin Wohl

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Spelling Bee 2024 Team Sponsors: A2Z Science & Learning Toy Store; Applied Mortgage; Brian Leaf SAT Prep; Broadside Books; Chia Collins & Michael Cohen; Committees to Elect Rachel Maiore, Jeremy Dubs, and Quaverly Rothenberg; The Community Classroom; The Dadz; The Daily Hampshire Gazette; Dale Melcher & Bill Newman; Lesser, Newman, Aleo, & Nasser; The Lions Club; Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra Campaign Committee; Northampton Area Pediatrics; Osaka Lunch Club; Ostberg & Associates Financial Services and Insurance; Paradise Copies; River Valley Co-op; Sallie Deans Lake & Kevin Lake; Sharp, Heyman, Dolven, & Elkins; SOS—Support Our Schools; *Talk the Talk* on WHMP; Tandem Bagel Company; The Law Office of Valerie Vignaux; Thornes Marketplace; UMass Five College Federal Credit Union; and Whalen Insurance



Photos by Ray Brod Photography @RayBrodPhotography

DID YOU KNOW?

A whole host of community members give their time, energy and expertise to help select which Small Grants to Educators and Endowment Grants are funded from the pool of applications. In the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, the following served as members of the Small Grants Distribution Committee and Endowment Grants Distribution Committee. **Our deep thanks to each of them.**

Small Grants to Educators Distribution Committee:

Tom Annese	Katie James
Joe Bianca	Mona Kulp
Dr. Portia Bonner, <i>Superintendent</i>	Claire Lobdell
Dev Boulay	Nadia Lowy-Orzolek
Keith Cable	Olivia Lowy-Orzolek
Roni Gold	Maria McKinney
Kathy Goos	Dale Melcher
Pelle Hinckley	Margaret Miller
Sam Hopper	Emily Quintana
Pam Hunter	Amy Thompson
Jennifer Sanders James	Megan Zinn

Endowment Grants Distribution Committee:

Amandine Barras	Claire Novotny
Josh Bedell	Stan Schapiro
Lucy Braudis (student)	Allie Sullivan (student)
Summer Cable	Jordana Willers
Joy Hermansen	Martin Wohl

Thank You NEF Annual Fund Donors!

The following donors gave to the NEF Annual Fund from Oct. 1, 2023 to Sept. 30, 2024.
Annual Fund dollars underwrite the Small Grants for Educators program, as well as our yearly administrative costs.
Thank you for your generous support of NEF and our schools!

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|--|---|--|--|



Plant Sale Seeds Book Fund Money

Another wonderful year of selling plants to raise money to grow readers!

All money raised from the NEF Plant sale goes towards the purchase of books and literary materials for the classrooms and libraries in each of the public schools. This year we raised over \$15,000!

We so appreciate the effort of our plant donors to grow plants, dig them up and get them to us for the sale. **We thank our annual donors: D.A. Sullivan, Fierst Bloomberg Ohm LLP, Friends of Marcia Burick, Greenfield Saving Bank, High Five Books, Keiter, and Anonymous.** We could not do this event without the knowledgeable and hard-working volunteers who dig, lug, re-pot and curate the plants at the sale. Our plant sale committee, quilters and the Smith Vocational Carpentry Department invest their time and efforts months in advance of the sale, meeting, quilting and building, thank you all very much!

On to next year! We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday, May 10, 2025 on the front lawn of the Smith Vocational School at 9:00 am when we countdown to the best plant sale ever!

A Sneak Preview of our 2025 Quilt!



Thank you to our NEF Book Fund donors!

- | | | | |
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| and Sarah Osgood-Felten | Sara Lennox | Eleanor Rothman | |
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| Fishman family | Marian Macdonald | | |

Small Grants to Educators Awarded

The following Small Grants to Educators were awarded in 2023-2024 totaling \$52,088.

3D Mapping (Year 1) \$3,000

School: Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School | Project Lead: Joseph Brewer

Funds purchase and implementation of software and equipment

Students in the Criminal Justice program will 3D map buildings and areas on campus with new STEM software and equipment. Smith Voc Criminal Justice educators will integrate the software and equipment into the curriculum and support students in collaborating around campus to increase the safety and security of all students.

College Visit Field Trip (Year 2) \$1,325

School: Northampton High School | Project Leads: Audra Dankwardt, Karen Hidalgo

10th and 11th grade students will visit a local college for a tour and lunch at the dining commons.

The trip will consist of students who have historically had less access to college (e.g., first generation, low-income, underrepresented, special education, etc.)

Performance Residency of "Mother Tongue" by First Generation (Year 2) \$3,000

School: Northampton High School | Project Lead: David Grout

David Grout's theater students will again attend a performance of Mother Tongue, created by the First Generation company of the Performance Project, and the second year of this grant will expand the student audience beyond the ELL community.

Music Field Trip to see Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra Educational Concert (Year 1) \$1,600

Schools: Bridge Street Elementary School & Leeds Elementary School

Project Lead: Capella Sherwood

3rd and 4th grade students in Caden Boeri's music classes will take a field trip to enjoy a lively, dynamic, and educational orchestral program of the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, musicians will visit the students' classrooms to share their instruments and experiences.

BSS Diversity Equity Committee Fund (Year 1) \$2,725

School: Bridge Street Elementary School | Project Lead: Elizabeth Byl

Bridge Street's Diversity and Equity Committee is a group of educators who started their work in 2021 with goals to create change in themselves, in the school, and in the community, focused on an annual social justice theme relevant to the school community.

Doug Anderson: The Things He Carries (Year 1) \$1,500

School: Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School | Project Lead: Kimberly Keough

12th grade English students will attend a performance by local poet, professor, photographer, and Vietnam Veteran Doug Anderson. The performance will weave together a staged poetry reading with recollections from Professor Anderson's own experience in Vietnam.

Queer Heroes (Year 1) \$440

School: Jackson Street Elementary School | Project Lead: Kieran Slattery

5th grade students in Kieran Slattery's class will engage in an immersive research project centered on queer heroes of color. Through community collaboration with Holyoke-based Sexual Minorities Archive, students will learn from primary and secondary sources prioritizing the narratives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color that will inform students' development of a poster, podcast, or short video.

Art Therapy Education for students with Autism and Beyond (Year 1) \$2,078

School: JFK Middle School | Project Lead: Jess Terry

Jess Terry, Teacher for Autism at the middle school, will engage in an internationally accredited professional development certification course focused on the research, psychology, and application of art therapy to benefit students.

Re-Imagining Worlds: Speculative Fiction as Social Critique at JFK (Year 1) \$2,970

School: JFK Middle School | Project Lead: Jenna Idenward

7th grade students will explore speculative fiction and how it can act as a social critique. Students will engage in book clubs focused on a diverse offering of young adult (YA) fiction, learn from Gregory Scott Katsoulis, author of YA novel All Rights Reserved, and create their own speculative fiction.

Priya Darshini Performance and Workshop \$1,500

School: Northampton High School | Project Leads: Brian Foote, Paul Kinsman, Susan Dillard

Visiting artists Priya Darshini and Max ZT will work with students and teachers to share information about the different musical forms they have studied and delve deeper into specific subjects including theory, composition, and improvisation of Indian classical music, West African music and improvisation, American folk music, and South Indian percussion techniques.

Improving and Supporting After School Enrichment at Bridge St. School (Year 3) \$3,000

School: Bridge Street Elementary School | Project Lead: Maria Silva

Bridge After-School Enrichment (BASE) provides K-5 students a range of enriching after-school classes led by teachers, staff, caregivers, and community members.

F23-9 Moving and Grooving (music and movement) in the preschools (Year 1) \$2,400

School: Bridge Street Elementary School & Leeds Elementary School | Project Lead: Alice Heller

Preschool students and teachers will receive custom-designed lessons and activities to advance students' spatial awareness, encourage individual expression, and provide mindful practices for self-regulation all through music and movement.



Mural at JFK Middle School, projected funded by NEF

NHS Band Percussion Coach (Year 1) \$1,000 + \$1,500 for time-sensitive grant

School: Northampton High School

This grant funds time for NHS's drumline to learn from a percussion coach who specializes in marching percussion, dedicated to this "band-within-a-band."

Digital Balance: Mindfulness Meets Social Justice & Technology for Students & Educators (Year 1) \$2,555

School: Northampton High School

This project aims to integrate mindfulness practices with social justice principles and technology education for both students and educators.

Project Lead the Way Certification (Year 1) \$3,000

School: JFK Middle School

This grant will fully certify an educator in Project Lead The Way, a pre-engineering program, supporting them to facilitate, coach, and become more comfortable in guiding students in coding projects.

Ooch Experience at Bridge Street (Year 1) \$2,520

School: Bridge Street Elementary School

This grant brings local entertainer and educator Brett "Ooch" Outchunis to Bridge Street School for multiple school-wide performances. Ooch's programs teach educational and social skills by engaging students through comedy, storytelling, yo-yos, music, and creative movement.

College Visit Field Trips (Year 3) \$3,000

School: Northampton High School

In the third year of this project, students will take two trips visiting three colleges where they can find support programs for marginalized and underrepresented students while being close to home.

Monarchs of Northampton (Year 1) \$1,975

Schools: Leeds Elementary School, Ryan Road Elementary School

Fourth grade students and teachers will learn from local scientist and author Naila Moreira about observing local monarch butterflies to inform and provide research for an informational report and fictional piece in their English language arts unit.

Homesteading at NHS (Year 1) \$3,000

School: Northampton High School

This grant will build off a successful new elective class funded by NEF's Endowment Grants program, Introduction to Homesteading, which teaches self-reliance and a plethora of skills with a focus on locally sourcing supplies and living sustainably and in harmony with the seasons.

Building Bridges for Literacy (Year 1) \$5,000

Schools: Bridge Street Elementary School, Jackson Street Elementary School, Leeds Elementary School, Ryan Road Elementary School

This project will develop a lending library of books, provide take-home information and activities to families, and organize a series of informational events for families and caregivers, all supporting literacy development for all first grade students in the Northampton Public Schools.

Leeds Family Reading and Math Collaboration (Year 3) \$3,000

School: Leeds Elementary School

The third year of this grant continues to commit to fostering strong community bonds between educators with families and caregivers to support kindergarten and first grade students in reading and math. In addition to workshops for families and caregivers, lending libraries providing free access to books and materials, and interactive activities designed to strengthen learning outside of school, the program will expand this year to offer access to a video library.

Endowment Grants Awarded

Spurred by the completion of our second \$1 million campaign at the end of 2019, delayed by the disruption of the Pandemic in a multitude of ways, the promise of perpetual funding to enhance and enrich Northampton district public school students from Pre-school through High School, is at long last being realized.

This year the Northampton Education Foundation, under its guidelines, will award Northampton High School up to \$100,000 over the next three years, and for every three years thereafter, to fund creative and meaningful projects and programs. Through the NHS School Council, but most importantly, with the collective will of innumerable stakeholders, the school and community will utilize these funds to help actualize their collective vision of the high school experience. Since its first grant in 2007, the NEF Endowment has awarded almost \$900,000 to district educators and students in a competitive process. Now, through this inclusive and collaborative structure, grade levels will cooperate to maximize their benefit with immediate and long-term goals.

This year the high school is listening to all the engaged voices, and seeking more, to create a flexible three year plan, and present it to the NEF Distribution Committee and Board of Directors, for review and approval. This plan allows for approximately 25% of the funds to sustain valuable, previously NEF-funded projects. It is of prime importance, and we highly encourage, that all interested voices participate.

JFK Middle School will soon begin their process to construct the plan, and then be awarded funding, for their three years, beginning the fall of 2025. Additional funds will be available in our RFP model this year for the pre-school and elementary grades, as JFK received this year, during this transition. When fully in place during school year 2026/2027, every three years each grade level will then follow this new and directly responsive method.



None of this can happen without the amazing generosity and commitment you, the Northampton community, have shown in championing public education to the benefit of us all. Thank you! We and our city's students are eternally grateful.

Presently we are committed to providing at least \$300,000 every three years in this model. We always graciously and thankfully accept immediate and planned gifts to grow this perpetual resource without spending the invested principal. We feel this new structure will enable the education communities to include all voices, focus their vision, and do collaborative long-term planning for the use of these additional resources. Our Small Grants to Educators program will continue to fund small projects twice a year, allowing schools to respond to unanticipated needs or new ideas. Our NEF Book Fund will also continue as is. It is our hope that continuity of funding from this local community-based Endowment can be leveraged to secure additional outside funding. We are very excited and grateful to see the enthusiasm and creativity that is being generated as NEF further partners with our dedicated and talented educators.

Endowment Grants this Past Year

The NEF Endowment Fund, together with its named funds (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, and the Principal Gwen Agna Fund for Northampton Public Education, all under the NEF Endowment umbrella), awarded a total of \$35,172 to two projects for the 2024-25 school year.

Hitchcock Center: H2Whoa! \$8,172

All NPS fifth grade classes
Funds consultant time and materials

H2Whoa! is an inquiry-based, phenomenon-anchored residency for all NPS fifth-grade classes, designed to give students the chance to think critically about where water comes from, how water sustains their communities, and to create hopeful, practical solutions to mitigate runoff pollution and improve stormwater infrastructure in schoolyards and beyond. Hitchcock educator Rachel Quimby will work with students and teachers to use each school's grounds as a foundation for building skills like mapping, materials testing, modeling and design evaluation. During the final session, students will create a redesigned model schoolyard, complete with permeable surfaces and stormwater frameworks. Teachers will receive detailed lesson plans and supply lists for future use, as well as a nonfiction storybook filled with facts and questions meant to stimulate classroom discussion and inspire creative solutions.

Enhancing Communication Support in Classrooms \$27,000

All NPS elementary schools
Funds educator time and resources

The NPS elementary schools have identified a critical need for multimodal communication support in lower elementary grades due to diverse communication abilities and language backgrounds among students. Non-speaking or minimally-speaking students, those with speech, language, or learning delays, multilingual learners, and students with emotional dysregulation face significant participation challenges. In collaboration with special educators, speech and language teams propose developing Tiered Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) support in preschool to grade two classrooms. This tiered support will include modifications to the current curriculum so materials, lessons, and technology will be accessible to students with more diverse learning profiles and promote inclusive practices in our general education classrooms.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dale West

My job is... IT and Data Manager at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts

I live with... Partner Hannah (works at Smith), four kids (2 at NHS [9/11 grades], 2 at SVAHS [9th grade]), a deceptively charming cat (Valentino), a dog (Scout) who is the family noodle, and a very loud parakeet (Pebbles). Our afternoon pickup/sports/activities/dinner schedule sometimes gets a little, well... complicated.

I can't start my day without... tea or coffee. Pretty basic.

My favorite place in Northampton is... ooh, hard to say. I really love my neighborhood, but also the path along the Mill River that goes from Smith to Federal Street is up there as well. It's such a nice little walk!

My favorite food/dish/place to eat in Northampton is... Bombay Royale! It's our family favorite.

To relax I love to... paint (either oil or acrylic). I mostly paint portraits of my children and pets. Sometimes I stray and do something else, but I always go back to painting them.

My last vacation was to... Ocracoke Island in NC. We go there every year and love every minute of it. We also did a big family trip around New Mexico this year, and it was great to show the kids where I am from.

The last book I read was... *Stolen* by Ann-Helen Laestadius, a mystery of sorts about a Sami reindeer herding family and the impacts of racism, poaching, and climate change on their lives. I highly recommend it.

The last TV show I binged was... Our family has been working our way through Young Sheldon and Brooklyn Nine-Nine. Two great light-hearted comedy series.

I've been part of NEF since... I joined in 2022.

If I had a magic wand, the Northampton public schools would have... Adequate support from the Commonwealth! We need adequate and equitable funding from the state so we can keep supporting the arts, math/reading specialists, paraprofessional support, socio-emotional supports, etc. in our district. I'm not an expert, but I really believe these are all integral to our kids' learning; I wish state lawmakers (especially those in Eastern MA) would fix the funding formula that leaves towns like Northampton in the dust. And huge thanks to Jo Comerford and Lindsay Sabadosa for their continued advocacy to keep this at the forefront!

I support the Northampton public schools because... they have been incredibly great with our kids! We have four distinctly different children with unique learning struggles, and NPS and SVAHS teachers and staff have shown up to support our kids in monumental ways. We can't express our gratitude enough, so supporting the work of NEF is a great way to give a little back.



From left to right NEF board members Steve Platt, Dale West, Tom Annese and Mandy Gerry, and intrepid volunteers Amy Levine and Lora Sandhusen at the 2024 NEF Plant & Garden Market.

In 2024 NEF bade farewell to several outgoing board members.

Our gratitude for their years of board service to:

- Summer Cable
- Lisa Papademetriou
- Megan Rubiner Zinn

NEF Board

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