

Wellfleet School Committee  
June 12, 2018

Present for the Committee: Jan Plaue, Mort Inger, Jill Putnam, Betsy Pontius and Martha Gordon

Present for the Administration: Thomas Conrad, Mary Beth Rodman, Ann Caretti

**Call to Order**

Superintendent Conrad called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and asked for nominations for the Chair.

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to appoint Jan Plaue as Chair of the Wellfleet School Committee.

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to appoint Betsy Pontius as Vice Chair of the Wellfleet School Committee.

The following appointments were made:

Secretary: Ann Tefft

Payroll Authorizer: Betsy Pontius

Policy Subcommittee – Betsy Pontius

Central Office Budget – Jan Plaue

Negotiations – Mort Inger

Transportation – Martha Gordon

Health & Wellness – Jan Plaue

Substance Abuse Task Force – Martha Gordon

Cape Cod Collaborative – Jill Putnam

PTA Liaison – Betsy Pontius

School Council Liaison – Martha Gordon

Selectmen Liaison – Jan Plaue

Union 54 Voting Members – Jan Plaue, Jill Putnam, Mort Inger

Alternates: Betsy Pontius and Martha Gordon

**Chair's Report**

Jan Plaue reported on the wonderful events happening at Wellfleet Elementary School. She also praised the OES Kindergarten Teachers for the outstanding presentation of "Tools of the Mind."

**Members Speak**

Jill Putnam indicated at the last meeting she was asked to provide more information on early childhood. She suggested that people go on to the NAEYC website as there is so much information. She suggested looking at a "Guide for Families." (curriculum, assessments, management, etc.) She talked about the "Golden Standard" and what makes a good early childhood program great. She distributed information to members relative to preschools and the importance of play, which is learning. She did not want to meet in the summer

months even though it is an important topic, being concerned about Administrations' workload. Jan Plaue indicated that she would like an August 14 meeting to discuss preschool, back-mapping, preparing a brochure and communicating with stakeholders. Stakeholders were identified as people who are in our Administration, Nancy O'Connell, Ann Caretti, Joanna Stevens and any others who will make this happen. The committee will also inform the Selectmen and Finance Committee about their plan. She indicated there is an urgency to meeting if Wellfleet is to have a four-year old program in September of 2019.

### **Citizens Speak – None**

### **Written Agreement– Wellfleet Montessori School –**

The Superintendent signed the agreement and gave it to Principal Rodman for the signature from the Director of the Wellfleet Montessori School.

### **Administrative Reports**

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She highlighted staff positions and movement at Wellfleet Elementary School. It was noted that April resigned to take a position with the Wellfleet DPW and the committee decided to send her a note with flowers to thank her for her outstanding service to WES. Principal Rodman indicated that she went to the Council on Aging to the Human Service Committee to apply for a grant. She should hear about the grant in a couple of days. She has posted three positons for the after school program. She indicated that a Site Coordinator position will be available. They also need a program aide. Principal Rodman and the Superintendent met with Becky Rosenberg a couple of times to figure out when the Recreation Department can be available. She highlighted accomplishments, things the school is working on and her excitement for ECRI, Letters and iReady assessments. She has also just received new kits for Second Step.

Assistant Superintendent Gauley's report was sent separately.

Superintendent Conrad reminded members of the MASC November 7-10 conference and to let him know who will be attending. He also thanked Principal Rodman for all her efforts in working with the Recreation Program. He mentioned the childcare gap with vacations and summer but indicated they will take one step at a time. He reiterated that Principal Rodman is doing a wonderful job.

Administration is working on the fire suppression question and working with Dan Hoort about pooling together projects through MSBA.

The Superintendent also suggested, if we move forward with costs for Universal Preschool, he would like to give a little information to the Selectmen and Finance Committee as it is discussed. He would like to get people thinking about it.

### **FY18 Budget**

Superintendent Conrad reported that the budget balance is \$53,368. He indicated the Town was very helpful in giving the school \$48,000. He projected they will bring the budget in with a positive balance. He met with Dan Hoort about this money. Mr. Hoort did

not want the school to turn back money to the town but to roll it into next year to defray costs for the student at the Collaborative. They discussed the voucher program money and if that could go to 3-year old children. The Town Administrator left that up to the professionals. He has a great deal of respect for the work the board is doing. The Superintendent suggested members talk with the boards during Citizens Speak to keep them updated on the Universal Preschool Program.

### **Preschool Survey**

Principal Rodman reviewed the preschool survey from parents. Ann Caretti expressed concerns about the Integrated Preschool and how it can all work. She suggested Principal Rodman, the Superintendent, Joanna Stevens and Nancy O'Connell meet to discuss this. Nancy O'Connell indicated she would like to see a cohesive view and evaluation of all programs. She indicated some decisions might not have a good impact for some children. Members discussed involving community stakeholders. It was suggested that the voucher program could be shifted to 3-year olds and then the preschools would still have their businesses. It was stated that everything we can do to help young families will be well-received by the community. Having a forum was suggested to explain the public school four-year old program and the voucher program for 3-year olds. The importance of maintaining the Integrated Preschool was noted. Concerns about having a forum in the summer was mentioned as most parents are working and this is the busiest time of year for local businesses. It was suggested that Educators and Stakeholder get together including the Montessori School, all preschools and the Cape Cod Children's Place.

Dr. Ann Caretti shared her concerns about being very strategic with getting information out to the community. She would like to meet with the school committee in August, discuss their findings and move forward in September.

### **Motion:**

A motion was made and seconded to have an August meeting to discuss the topic of Preschool. (4 yeas and 1 nay (Jill Putnam))

### **Reports and Information**

Substance Abuse Task Force – Martha Gordon reported that the subcommittee met and is looking at the Mission Statement, evidence based programs, goals for the next school year, ways to help staff understand the stigma around substance abuse and mental health issues, improving service and curriculum, and would like to see a Second Step and Botvin presentation. They would like families on Lower Cape to have access to mental health services.

Cape Cod Collaborative – Jill Putnam reported that the Cape Cod Collaborative hired an Assistant Director of Special Needs Education, reported health insurance costs have increased, dealt with housekeeping issues, and personnel changes. She reported there is a golf tournament to benefit Waypoint. Monies raised are for educational training beyond Cape Cod Collaborative. The Wing School three-year lease is up in 2020. They voted a 2% wage increase for personnel. All Cape In-Service – less demand this October for

professional development. A number of public schools are providing their own. There will be fewer offerings. Three students graduated from Way Point.

PTA – No report.

School Council – Martha Gordon reported that the School Council talked about the School Improvement Plan, applying to Suzanne Thomas for a grant and the closing ceremony on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Preschool – Report included in packet.

Transportation – Martha Gordon reported that the contract has been signed and buses ordered.

Policy – Betsy Pontius indicated that the subcommittee met and is reviewing the Social Media Policy for Staff as well as the policy regarding surveys. The subcommittee decided the policy on surveys was not needed at this time and the other policy will come forward in September.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 8, 2018 as amended.

#### **Adjournment**

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ann M. Tefft