

**MEETING MINUTES of the
BREWSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

MEETING DATE AND TIME:
Thursday, March 17, 2022 @ 6:30PM

This meeting took place **remotely** pursuant to the law signed by Governor Baker on June 16, 2021 – An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, which includes an extension, until July 15, 2022, of the remote meeting provisions of his March 12, 2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE: Dave Telman, Katie Jacobus, Judi Lech, Casey Mecca, Sarah Sherman

NON-MEMBER ATTENDANCE: Robin Millen, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Giovanna Venditti, Director of Finance & Operations; Keith Gauley, Principal Brewster Schools; Robert Tobias, Brewster Finance Committee Liaison; Kari Hoffmann, Brewster Select Board Liaison; Peter Lombardi, Brewster Town Administrator

Call to Order & Declaration of a Quorum, Meeting Participation Statement and Recording Statement:

Chair Telman called the meeting to order at 6:30PM, and read the meeting participation and recording statements.

Agenda Changes:

There were no agenda changes.

Citizens Speak:

Chair Telman opened the floor to citizen's comment(s)/public participation.

One citizen spoke to Brewster Schools potential consolidation and whether the projected enrollment for 0 – 3 year olds, as well as 3 – 4 year olds over the next five to ten years were included in the numbers while considering all consolidation options. At the community presentation, Mr. Jack Shea did say the maximum number of students for all consolidation options is 510. The citizen also asked how many homeschooled or private school students will be returning for the upcoming 22-23 school year to Stony Brook Elementary and Eddy Elementary Schools. Chair Telman noted that those questions will most likely be answered over the next few months while the consolidation discussion takes shape.

PRIORITY BUSINESS:

Chair Report: Chair Telman let the Committee know that the Town of Brewster Select Board voted to allow in-person meetings to certain boards, including the Brewster School Committee. If the Committee decides to meet in-person, it will be a hybrid set up for citizens to participate remotely for April and May 2022.

Superintendent's Report: The Superintendent Report was included in the Committee packet. Highlights included: the FY23 Budget Process is winding down, Superintendent Clenchy had a good meeting with Senator Julian Cyr and is looking forward to working with him, and the NRSB Central Office has new LED Lights courtesy of Cape Light Compact. In addition, Dr. Millen reported that Mr. Patrick Clark has been hired as the new Principal of Nauset High School, effective July 1, 2022.

Principal's Report: Keith Gauley reported the Principal's Report to the Committee, which was included in the packet to the Committee. Highlights included: the feedback from the last staff meeting was sent to the Committee, and the vacant position for School Psychologist/Counselor has been posted again, due to lack of qualified applicants.

FY23 Budget Public Hearing:

MOTION: It was moved by Katie Jacobus, seconded by Judi Lech and unanimously (5-0) via roll call vote to enter into Public Hearing at 6:51PM.

Giovanna Venditti reviewed the FY23 Budget with the Committee. The FY23 Stony Brook Elementary School Budget totals \$4,327,328 which reflects an increase of \$104,747 or +2.48%. The FY23 Eddy Elementary School Budget totals \$3,821,645 which reflects an increase of \$92,738 or 2.49%. Combined FY23 Operating and Benefits Budget for both schools totals \$10,491,562 which reflects an increase of \$408,761 or 4.05%.

Discussion ensued around increase of benefits of Brewster Elementary Schools compared to the increase of benefits in the Town of Brewster. It was suggested that more details around benefits and pension be provided at the Joint Finance and Select Board Meeting on March 23rd.

MOTION: It was moved by Katie Jacobus, seconded by Sarah Sherman and voted unanimously (5-0) via roll call vote to move out of Public Hearing at 7:04PM.

FY23 Budget Discussion and Vote: Principal Gauley explained the line item for Guidance/Adjustment Counselor will be grant-funded and level-funded, giving one full time school adjustment counselor and one full time school psychologist at Eddy Elementary School, and one split school psychologist and school adjustment counselor, and a 50% school adjustment counselor at Stony Brook Elementary School.

MOTION: It was moved by Sarah Sherman, seconded by Judi Lech and voted unanimously (5-0) via roll call vote to approve the FY23 Combined Budget for Stony Brook and Eddy Elementary Schools.

FY22 Expenditure Report: Giovanna Venditti reviewed the FY22 Expenditure Reports for both Stony Brook Elementary and Eddy Elementary Schools. The expenditure report was included in the packet to the Committee.

Stabilization Fund – Request from Town Administrator Peter Lombardi: Mr. Peter Lombardi explained the concept for the Stabilization Fund to help with towns and school districts unexpected special education related expenses, out of district placements, transportation costs, staffing and services. If approved by Brewster School Committee, it will go onto the Town Meeting Warrant to approve its creation. For FY23, the Town has included \$100,000 appropriation to this fund into its operating budget.

MOTION: It was moved by Sarah Sherman, seconded by Judi Lech and voted unanimously (5-0) via roll call vote to approve the Brewster Stabilization Fund.

Review & Approve Brewster Elementary Schools 5 Year Capital Plan: The FY2023 –FY 2027 Capital Plan for Brewster Elementary Schools was included in the packet to the Committee.

MOTION: It was moved by Katie Jacobus, seconded by Sarah Sherman and voted unanimously (5-0) via roll call vote to approve the Brewster Elementary Schools 5 Year Capital Plan (FY2023 – FY2027).

Brewster Schools Potential Consolidation: Chair Telman stated the feedback from staff of both Brewster Elementary Schools was sent to the Committee. Discussion ensued around those concerns (needs of students and staff, needs of space for students and staff, impact of consolidation on staff and programming, costs). It was agreed that the Committee needs more information on current operating costs, and what the Town of Brewster is looking for, and to come up with some sort of time line for the process. Any questions from the Committee should be sent to Chair Telman, who will forward to Town Administrator Lombardi for answers.

School Committee Email Communication: Chair Telman reiterated that no committee member should use his/her personal email for any communication that has to do with their role as members of the Brewster School Committee. All communication should be handled through their Nauset email account.

REPORTS & INFORMATION:

A. **Cape Cod Collaborative:** Casey Mecca reported that at the Collaborative meeting, there was discussion around the move of Waypoint Academy in Sandwich to their future location in Yarmouth, and discussion of professional development on trauma-informed practices and meeting student needs.

B. **PTO Liaison:** No report.

C. **School Council Liaison:** Eddy Elementary: Casey Mecca reported they met about the budget, potential building consolidation, school improvement goals, and utilizing community resources for students and families. Stony Brook Elementary School: Sarah Sherman reported they met on the budget, additional action steps for school improvement goals, potential consolidation, and concerns of the teachers regarding the consolidation.

D. **Policy Subcommittee:** Judi Lech reported that the Policy Subcommittee began reviewing a policy around Nauset Administration's COVID Attendance Intervention Plan, but was interrupted to address Governor Baker's February 28th decision to hand over masking and face covering to local government. This resulted in additional meetings with the Superintendent, School Attorney, and Nurse Leader to revise Nauset's policy on face coverings. This policy went to the Joint School Committee for approval of a new optional face covering policy. On March 14th, the Policy Subcommittee met to revise more policies, including sexual harassment, non-discrimination, as well as electronic messaging by school committee members which Chair Telman spoke about this evening. In April, the Policy Subcommittee will return to its work on the COVID Attendance Intervention Plan.

E. **Behavioral Health Task Force:** Katie Jacobus reported the last meeting was March 7th; the District is currently using a DESSA screener (Aperture Education) for Social Emotional Learning. At the elementary level, teachers will rate students three times per year; Nauset Regional High School is part of a two-year pilot program (grant funded) with Outer Cape Health. Jennifer Ferron is a navigator at the school Monday – Friday from 7:30AM – 4:30PM to help students and families expand access to services including insurance, finances, mental health and substance abuse, and so far since beginning in January, 26 families have been helped; the Task Force is trying to get Gosnold to present on vaping at the high school for students during the school day.

F. **DEI Task Force:** Dr. Robin Millen shared with the Committee that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force began a few months ago, and consists of community members, staff, parents, and students. They meet regularly with about 70 people interested, and 20-25 people attending the meetings. In addition, the Nauset High School has a Social Justice Club of about 17 students that will be hosting a community forum to highlight diversity and other interests at the high school. A flyer will be sent out again to parents, students, staff, and community members with details. The goal of the task force will be to come together build both a personal and team equity culture, setting the stage to do a “deep dive” into what is actually the vision for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the District and then setting that vision and looking to see what is actually happening with our schools, and if there is a disconnect to that, what should be done to connect.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved by Katie Jacobus, seconded by Sarah Sherman and voted unanimously (5-0) via roll call vote to approve the minutes of February 17, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: It was moved by Katie Jacobus, seconded by Judi Lech and voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Miller
Recording Secretary

Documents Reviewed and Available Upon Request

Superintendent’s Report, Principal Report, March 8, 2022 Brewster Schools Enrollment, FY22 School Expenditure Report, Brewster Elementary Schools 5 Year Capital Plan (FY2023-FY2027), FY23 Combined Budget Worksheet, FY23 Brewster Schools Budget Worksheet, FY23 Brewster Schools Budget Line Item Descriptions & Justifications, Brewster School Committee Minutes of February 17, 2022