

Wellfleet School Committee Meeting Minutes
Wellfleet Elementary School
January 9, 2018

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

Present for the Administration – Superintendent Tom Conrad, Director of Finance and Operations Giovanna Venditti, Keith Gauley, Assistant Superintendent and Principal Mary Beth Rodman

Call to Order

Chair Plaue called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Chair's Report

Chair Plaue distributed an article entitled: *Quality afterschool programs in jeopardy in Massachusetts.*

Members' Speak

None

Citizens Speak - None

None

Priority Business

Administrators' Reports

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She made a couple of corrections in it and indicated that the PTA rescheduled their meeting to be held on January 30th, 5:00 p.m. She reviewed the enrollment figures with the Committee. Attendance will be discussed next month. She will be meeting with David Agger relative to educators utilizing the Preservation Hall for programs and events.

Principal Rodman also reported on the special needs student with the 45-day placement at the Cape Cod Collaborative and the increase in transportation costs for that student. Concerns were shared about the student, the costs and the various scenarios that will have financial ramifications. Ms. Venditti reported that she anticipates a savings from utilities, will receive Circuit Breaker funds in the amount of \$17,051, will receive tuition revenue in the amount of \$24,869, savings of \$12,000 from retrofitting light fixtures and will save about \$15,000 in the fuel line item. The balance if all of these things come to fruition is \$57,000. She also indicated that she will apply for extraordinary relief when the costs get to a certain number.

Superintendent Conrad will apprise the Town Administrator, Dan Hoort, of the situation indicating the school might need some help from the town.

Assistant Superintendent Gauley's report was included in the packet. He highlighted various professional development offerings on the PD Day and noted that overall the day went very well.

He indicated that the Preschool PD was in the area of IEP Goals and transitioning from Preschool to Kindergarten. He also reported on an APP for non-verbal students – App Touch Chat.

Superintendent Conrad reported that he participated in the Professional Development Day by joining in a session at the Middle School on social emotional learning, the risk survey, and homework. He informed the committee that the Middle School is holding a parent forum on the topic of high honors/honors. The Superintendent will discuss that topic with the Administrative Team as it relates to the stress and anxiety issues in our schools. He reported that he will be visiting Woodrow Wilson School with Jan Plaue and Martha Gordon on January 24th to see an elementary IB program.

FY18 Budget

Ms. Venditti reported that the budget balance is -\$24,889. She reiterated the various funding mechanisms that will bring the budget balance to \$57,031 if everything comes to fruition. She also indicated that the District will apply for extraordinary relief funding. (Circuit Breaker funding, fuel savings, transportation savings)

FY19 Budget – Public Hearing

Chair Jan Plaue called the Public Hearing to order at 5:02 p.m. There were no citizens in the audience who wished to speak to the budget. Principal Rodman distributed her Public Hearing document and answered questions from the Committee. Chair Plaue suggested putting the new transportation system into the document to show that the schools are trying to help themselves and looking for ways to save money for the taxpayers. The Superintendent indicated that he is waiting for correspondence from the Collaborative relative to the costs. He suggested that the retrofitting of lights and that savings amount should be part of the presentation to the public.

The new after school program was discussed and it was suggested that the first year be offered without a fee but in the subsequent years parents will have to contribute. This initiative increases the budget by \$41,000. The regular day portion of the budget will decrease by \$6,851 and the Special Education portion will decrease by \$14,125. The total decrease between the FY18 and FY19 budget is -\$20,976 or -.79%. The Superintendent and Principal Rodman met with Fred Magee of the Wellfleet Finance Committee to review the budget with him.

Motion:

On a motion by Betsy Pontius, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to accept the Wellfleet FY19 Budget in the amount of \$2,631,903.

Chair Plaue closed the Public Hearing on the FY19 budget at 5:17 p.m.

Members discussed strategies in presenting the budget to the Selectmen, Finance Committee and at town meeting. The Superintendent and Principal Rodman will present. It was suggested that grants and PTA contributions be included in the presentation as well as the state wide percentage and the Wellfleet percentage of special needs student population.

Reports and Information

Cape Cod Collaborative – Jill Putnam reported that there are quorum issues at the Collaborative with towns other than Nauset. They are working on the Directors evaluation and the Strategic Plan. They are beginning the interview process for the Director of Way Point Academy. Ms. Putnam explained the interview schedule and process. The Annual Report was reviewed and all is well. She reported virtual classes at the High School are doing quite well.

PTA – Meeting on January 30th.

School Council – Meeting on January 29th. Spaghetti Supper is scheduled for April 6th.

Nauset Preschool – Enrollment report included in packet.

Transportation – no report

Policy – no report

Substance Abuse – The Superintendent indicated that he had a conversation with Dr. Caretti and they are putting the survey on hold for now. It has not been distributed.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted 5 yeas to approve the minutes of December 12, 2018, as amended.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger and seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Ann Tefft

Included in the packet: Administrators' reports, expenditure report, FY19 Public Hearing Report, minutes.