

Wellfleet School Committee Meeting Minutes
Wellfleet Elementary School
October 10, 2017

Present for the Committee – Chair Jan Plaue, Mort Inger, Martha Gordon, Betsy Pontius, and Jill Putnam (arrived at 5:24 p.m.),

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

Call to Order

Chair Plaue called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chair's Report

None

Members' Speak

Martha Gordon announced a viewing of *Generation Found* that will be held at the Nauset Regional Middle School on October 18th at 6:00 p.m. with a panel discussion to follow.

Citizens Speak

None

Priority Business

Principal's Report – Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She reported that the afternoon enrichment courses and the Intergenerational Read Aloud Program have begun. She informed the Committee that Mrs. Anderson will be out through the holiday break and they are looking for a Kindergarten substitute that has *Tools of the Mind* skills. She reviewed hiring options if they cannot find a suitable teacher substitute. She also informed the committee of a new Grade 3 student registering, which brings the total enrollment to 102 students.

Mr. Gauley's report was included in the packet and members were asked to email him with any questions.

Superintendent Conrad reported that he attended the *Screenagers* presentation along with 100-150 parents. The video was about raising children in a digital age and went far deeper than just children, with a lesson for everyone. He indicated a lot of research is being done on the effectiveness of devices, watching a screen and impact on the brain. He congratulated Principal Rodman and the WES staff for a well-attended Open House that set high expectations for parents at all grade levels. He also reported that he met with Fred Magee of the Finance Committee.

Enrollment

Superintendent Conrad distributed the October 1st District Enrollment figures. The Committee discussed enrollment at Wellfleet Elementary School, per pupil costs, special school concept,

preschool and school choice. The Superintendent reported that last year 18 students from the Nauset District traveled to Provincetown for education. He will bring that information to the November meeting for discussion and review. He indicated that they must find a creative answer to meeting the needs of Wellfleet families. He suggested looking into after school programs. He also suggested involving parents and staff in a survey to see what WES can offer them and what will attract them to the School.

The Superintendent distributed the 2017-2018 Budget Calendar. He also indicated that he will be giving the enrollment figures to the Town Administrator, Dan Hoort.

FY18 Budget Review

Ms. Venditti reported the balance is \$39,375 which includes all salaries, utilities, special needs costs, and sub line items. She anticipates \$20,899 from FY18 Circuit Breaker Funds, savings in transportation of approximately \$25,000 from the reduction of a bus, and potential fuel savings. The long term substitute for Kindergarten has not been encumbered yet.

Preschool Update

No report this month.

Policy Updates

Betsy Pontius reviewed the policy updates with the Committee as approved by the Policy Subcommittee.

Motion: On a motion by Martha Gordon, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted unanimously to approve, for a first reading, the policy changes as submitted.

MASC Resolutions and Delegate

Motion: On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to appoint Jill Putnam as the official Delegate of the Wellfleet School Committee and to vote on the resolutions on their behalf.

Motion: On a motion by Betsy Pontius, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted unanimously to vote yes on all the Resolutions.

Transportation Update

The Superintendent reported the savings in running fewer buses at Wellfleet Elementary School and running fewer buses going to the High School each morning from the Middle School. He also reported the progress of the Transportation Subcommittee and highlighted a little of the work they are doing such as researching propane, diesel, maintenance of buses, sizes of buses, and leasing buses. They are working with the Cape Cod Collaborative, a non-profit. The Transportation Subcommittee will have a report in October at the Joint meeting.

Reports and Information

PTA – Betsy Pontius reported that the PTA is seeking a new secretary, donated \$10,000 to the school for the gift account, submitted their fundraising list, are recruiting members, and will continue to share the cost of the Farmer in the School.

Motion: On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to approve the Oyster Fest Fundraiser.

Cape Cod Collaborative – Jill Putnam reported that the handbooks, policies, employee manuals and health care procedures have been updated. Larry Carroll is the interim Director of WayPoint. The Town of Sandwich has a three year contract with Wing School for a temporary place for WayPoint. WayPoint graduated 10 students last year, some went on to the community college and the rest obtained employment. She also reported that the All-Cape Professional Development Day was very successful, receiving good feedback. Mark Houser, researcher from Harvard, renewed his contract for consultant work.

School Council - Principal Rodman reported that Jen Schumacher is co-chair, opening of school updates were reviewed, school climate, reunification drill, SEL learning update, school theme (A Piece of Peace) and Intergenerational Book Club were discussed.

Nauset Preschool – Enrollment report included in packet.

Transportation Subcommittee – Previously discussed in the meeting.

Policy Subcommittee – Previously discussed in the meeting.

Substance Abuse Task Force – Martha Gordon reported that the subcommittee is gathering and reviewing information for an elementary school survey. The purpose is to identify students with anxiety. The next meeting is October 23rd at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

June minutes need approval next month.

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 12, 2017.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger and seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m

Submitted by,

Ann Tefft

Included in the packet: Administrators' reports, enrollment report, expenditure report, policy changes and MASC Resolutions.