

Wellfleet School Committee Meeting Minutes
Wellfleet Elementary School
November 14, 2017

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

Present for the Administration – Superintendent Tom Conrad, Assistant Superintendent Keith Gauley, 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 - None

Citizens Speak - None

None

Priority Business

Fundraising Activities

The committee thanked the Parent Group for all their efforts and Betsy Pontius will send a “thank you” note.

Motion: On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted unanimously to accept the fundraising list for 2017-2018 with gratitude.

Administrators' Reports

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She reported a staffing update on the Kindergarten Class and indicated the transition has been seamless.

Superintendent Conrad reported that he visited Wellfleet and observed a reading class with the Principal. The teacher was outstanding and the class very welcoming. He also reported that Dr. Caretti is working on the survey for preschool and daycare, collating, and consolidating information. The elementary social/emotional survey for students in Grades 3-5 was distributed. Dr. Carretti sent it to all the Principals and received feedback. The value of the survey was explained and discussed. The Superintendent indicated that the depth of the needs of some students has never been higher. The next step will be to post the survey so parents can see it and opt out, if they so choose.

Superintendent Conrad explained the evaluation document and listed his three goals. He invited members to meet with him if they would like to discuss the goals in depth.

FY18 Budget

Ms. Venditti reported that the budget balance is \$23,678. She reviewed the variances with Committee members. She also indicated that expenditures that need to be reclassified include: FY18 Circuit Breaker - \$20,899, Transportation savings of approximately \$25,000 and a fuel savings of approximately \$15,000 which will bring the balance to \$84,577. Wellfleet will also receive tuition revenue from Eastham at \$24,869. She also indicated that the cost for a 45-day placement for a student is \$23,751. Ms. Venditti indicated budget balance, with adjustments is \$85,695 and they are proceeding cautiously.

Out of District Placement

Principal Rodman explained that there is a student who needs a 45-day placement at the Cape Cod Collaborative. The tuition with transportation is \$24,000. The Superintendent thanked the Principal and the staff for their tremendous efforts on behalf of the student and family. The Superintendent will inform the Town Administrator, Dan Hoort.

MCAS Presentation

Principal Rodman and Assistant Superintendent Keith Gauley presented data and information on the results of the spring MCAS. Principal Rodman indicated that she was pleased with the outcomes. WES maintains a Level 1 designation, met target for all students in assessment participation, and outperformed the state's meeting or exceeding expectations achievement levels in all grade levels in ELA and Math and 100% of students in Gr. 3 met or exceeded expectations in math. Assistant Superintendent Gauley showed the Committee the old legacy MCAS indicating that you cannot compare the old to the new.

Policy 2nd Reading – Adoption

On a motion by Martha Gordon, seconded by Jill Putnam it was voted 4 yeas and 1 abstention, Mort Inger, to approve the wording changes in the policies for a second reading and adoption.

Discussion relative to the Superintendent's Homework Goal took place.

Enrollment

The Superintendent distributed the State Enrollment Report from the MSBA. The MSBA report predicted enrollment to within 10 students. He indicated that the Nauset Regional High School's enrollment number has been set at 905 by the state for the building project. The number of Region students attending the High School is 603, with the remainder of the students being Choice, Provincetown, and Truro and International students making up the difference. He indicated that enrollment could increase when the IB program is in place at Nauset High School. He reported Wellfleet has 5 students going to Provincetown and is losing 6 students to Truro. A discussion took place regarding the after school program and what could be done to make the program topnotch. He will gather information regarding other after school programs, costs, and bring it back to the Committee.

The Superintendent reported that he has been trying to schedule a visit to an IB school off-Cape.

The Chair suggested the committee explore the IB Program, all day program, and universal preschool to show that Wellfleet is trying to be a 21st Century School. The Superintendent suggested the Committee begin to explore the after school program and build on that.

Town Budget Guidelines

Superintendent Conrad reported that he met with the Town Managers and Town Accountants, along with the Business Office Administrators to give them an update on finances. The Town of Wellfleet is looking at a 2.5% increase in the budget. He also indicated that the budget being presented is very responsive to the needs of students and the taxpayers.

Transportation Update

Martha Gordon reported that the Transportation Subcommittee continues to meet to discuss ridership, configuration, seat belts and propane vs. diesel. The Superintendent reported that he met with the dispatcher and the bus drivers to let them know what was being discussed.

Reports and Information

Cape Cod Collaborative

Jill Putnam reported that a subcommittee was formed to work on the evaluation format for Mr. Hilton. The Audit Report looked good. Way Point Director, Larry Carroll, is back for a couple of days a week working with another staff member at the alternative school. They will begin interviewing people to take the position. Dr. Chris Bogden is the Director of Special Projects and providing help during the transition. The school in Sandwich, that has a 3 year lease, needs some work. At Thanksgiving, the Star Program holds an Open House. This year 14 families have signed up and staff members will cook. Cape Cod In-service Day was outstanding. Evaluations were 4.6-4.7.

PTA – Betsy Pontius reported that the PTA reviewed the funds raised from the Oyster Festival which was very successful. They will be setting up the Book fair during the holiday concert.

School Council - Principal Rodman reported that the Council reviewed the MCAS results, discussed choice of technology tools, iPads vs. Chrome Books.

Nauset Preschool – Enrollment report included in packet.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted 4 yeas, 1 abstention-Martha Gordon, to approve the minutes of October 10, 2017 as amended.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger and seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Ann Tefft

Included in the packet: Administrators' reports, expenditure report, MCAS report, policy changes and minutes.