

Wellfleet School Committee Meeting Minutes
Wellfleet Elementary School
December 12, 2017

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, Ann Caretti, Director of Students Services and Principal Mary Beth Rodman

Call to Order

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

Chair's Report

Chair Plaue thanked Martha Gordon for all her work she did not the Transportation Subcommittee.

Members' Speak

Jill Putnam recognized Mort Inger for doing a wonderful community poetry read.

Citizens Speak - None

None

Priority Business

Administrators' Reports

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She highlighted the Night Library Open House that was attended by approximately 24 students.

Assistant Superintendent Gauley's report was in the packet. Chair Plaue requested that the committee receive a copy of the elementary questionnaire before it is completed.

Superintendent Conrad reported that he has been busy with school budgets. He reported that the HR Office researched providing fingerprinting for our employees so that they will not have to travel to Pocasset to have this done. Training for Central Office employees will take place in January. He updated the Committee on the IB Program indicating that the exit survey was without recommendations. The IB Team gave Nauset many commendations. The District will know in a couple of months if selected. He also indicated that on January 24th he will visit the Woodrow Wilson School in Framingham that is an IB elementary school. He will also travel that same day to the Barbieri School to see the Spanish immersion program. The Calendar Committee is beginning an 18-month study to review the calendar, looking at national models. He continues to research the topic of homework.

FY18 Budget

Ms. Venditti reported that the budget balance is \$22,562 and she will reclassify about \$85,000. She reviewed the accounts with significant movement during the month. A situation involving a placement at Cape Cod Collaborative has impacted the budget. The Superintendent indicated that they will exhaust the extraordinary relief and he will keep Dan Hoort informed.

Coordinated Program Review

Dr. Caretti reviewed the findings from the Coordinated Program Review. Special Education, Civil Rights and ELL were reviewed by the state. Corrections were submitted to the Department of Education.

Preschool Update

Chair Plaue indicated there was some talk at the Joint School Committee Meeting on a plan to expand Preschool in four Cape Towns. Materials were distributed at the Joint meeting. The towns that were referenced are: Dennis Yarmouth, and Monomoy. Wellfleet does have Universal Preschool using the voucher system. Dr. Caretti indicated that Paul Hilton will provide her with a report for expanding preschool. Through a parent survey it was noted that the hours are too short in the current preschool day and parents are looking for full year. Other suggestions included affordability, transportation, pay equity for teachers, program quality, family events, communication, and expand access to all. Dr. Caretti also indicated that Mashpee had Public Preschool but could not sustain it.

Chair Plaue indicated the town of Wellfleet already spends money on preschool and she thinks there should be preschool at Wellfleet Elementary School in 2019. She would like to have something ready for the town meeting in April. She stated that people teaching preschool would receive a better wage, receive professional development and students could begin Tools of the Mind curriculum. She indicated the Cape Cod Collaborative can provide a lot of information and can be used as a springboard to jump start the committee's work. Principal Rodman indicated that her certification includes preschool. Dr. Caretti agreed and emphasized that research shows that children are so ready for kindergarten when they have attended preschool.

Dr. Caretti indicated that she will consult with Joe Gilbert and look at the process he went through and follow a similar process. She would like to begin with a Needs Assessment. Questions that would be asked in the Needs Assessment were discussed. Dr. Caretti indicated she will also speak with Cindy Horgan.

After School Program

Chair Plaue indicated that Wellfleet's Long Range Planning Committee is trying to get a plan in place for town meeting. Preschool and Daycare programs were in the strategic plan from 8 years ago.

The Superintendent indicated there is a lot of pressure on working families with childcare. Many of the parents do not work on a school schedule. He indicated that Ann Caretti, Cindy Horgan and the Lead Teacher at the Children's Place met. They discussed the cost of preschool. Ms. Horgan showed the cost of a program at the Children's Place to be around \$1,100 but built into

the school program would be \$550. They discussed students ready for enrollment, helping families, quality of a WES program and will have further discussion.

They are also looking at afterschool models in the district. Most programs run until 5:00 or 5:30 p.m., homework help is provided, and they do other activities. The neighboring town programs are attractive to Wellfleet parents. What can Wellfleet Elementary do to keep their kids in our school going forward. The Superintendent would like to meet the needs of our families on their schedules and find programs kids would be excited about.

FY19 Budget

The budget was discussed and how this after school program could be incorporated into it. Presently the budget is under 2.5%. Concerns such as licensing, qualifications, and costs of the afterschool program were mentioned. It was indicated that the present afterschool program at Payomet is \$15 per day and at Orleans Elementary School \$20 per day. Members were happy to hear that the afterschool program was being discussed and would like a quality program with homework help. It was also suggested that community volunteers might conduct a program once a week or once a month for the children.

Principal Rodman is worried about the present after school program as she received an email from the Town Administrator stating he had seen donation jars for the program around town.

Principal Rodman reviewed the FY19 budget with the Committee that is -.9%, well-below the parameters of a 2.5% increase. She reviewed the enrollment and staffing as well as increases, decreases, or line items that are level funded. She indicated she is proposing that WES offer a free public school operated after school child care program for Grades K-5. She reviewed the budget of \$41,000 for the proposed program.

Motion:

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously, 5 years, to adopt the Proposed FY 19 Budget Option B (55% and After School child care) in the amount of \$2,631,903.

It was noted that after the first year of the after school program, perhaps the parents could could pay a small fee. The Superintendent would like to see a fresh start and a new robust program. It was suggested that the financial arrangement be clearly communicated to families from the start. It was stressed that parents must know it is free the first year and there will be a fee the second year.

Surplus Equipment

Motion: On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously, 5 years, to declare the list of equipment surplus.

Reports and Information

Cape Cod Collaborative – no report

PTA – no report

School Council - Martha Gordon reported that the school improvement plan, testing, Trauma Workshop and Professional Development Day. They also talked about the holiday concerts, Gr. 4 going to the Cape Cod Symphony, and after school enrichment.

Nauset Preschool – Enrollment report included in packet.

Transportation – no report

Policy – no report

Substance Abuse – Martha Gordon reported they are working on revisions to the survey and will meet in January.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted 5 yeas to approve the minutes of November 14, 2017.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger and seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Ann Tefft

Included in the packet: Administrators' reports, expenditure report, surplus list, CPR report, budget options A & B and minutes.