

Wellfleet School Committee Meeting Minutes
Wellfleet Elementary School
February 13, 2018

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

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

Chair Plaue reported that she, Jill Putnam, and the Superintendent attended the Legislative Breakfast at the Cape Cod Collaborative. They learned that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education are going to evaluate the MCAS and all testing differently. WES will be evaluated with other District schools Grades 3-8 and it will be a District evaluation. The Superintendent indicated that Keith Gauley will make a presentation to the Administrative Team.

Members' Speak

Mort Inger inquired about the Technology Presentation at the Union 54 meeting. Principal Rodman indicated that students have a Digital Literacy Standard (2014) and they must be able to present their work digitally. They must know how to utilize equipment and show that they understand the subject matter. Betsy Pontius indicated that NAP Research indicates there is an amount of time spent on technology. How much are we spending and is it impacting student learning? Principal Rodman indicated that technology is integrated through the classroom.

Citizens Speak - None

None

Priority Business

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. Principal Rodman indicated that presently 39 students are going on extended vacations outside of the planned school calendar vacations. She is sending letters out to parents regarding attendance.

Principal Rodman indicated that the staff had a brainstorming session with David Agger and Jane Lesniak and came up with ideas of how WES students can use the Preservation Hall. It was noted that not all programs are free but may have a reduced fee. It is the hope that some of the programs would be free for WES families.

Assistant Superintendent Gauley's report was included in the packet. Members asked about Project 351 and the grant opportunity for summer work around the implementation of high-quality instructional materials.

The Superintendent distributed an inventory of various technology devices in the Nauset District. The report showed the life expectancy of equipment which is important for forecasting. He will work with Barbara Lavoine to project out the need and costs for replacement. They continue to look at the impact of technology on student learning. Discussion ensued regarding technology, costs, consistency and benefits. Superintendent Conrad indicated that Mr. Gauley, along with the Technology Committee, is developing areas that can be measured. It was suggested that teachers print to copy machines. The Superintendent also reported that the Central Office was hit by lightning that has resulted in damage of equipment. He informed the Committee that Dan Hoort has been outstanding to work with and is very receptive to the schools.

Attendance

Principal Rodman indicated that she sent attendance letters to parents. She indicated that WES attendance is worse than the state average. She referenced “Keep Them Coming Program” that helps her work with parents to get children to school and to school on time. She reviewed data over the past two years and from September to January 2017, showing every class has gotten worse. Teachers try to catch students up who have missed school, which is a real challenge. Teachers put packets of work together for students. The Superintendent indicated that Administration is looking at attendance across the District. He also indicated that some parents dismiss the importance of learning at the elementary level and we have to help parents understand how and when learning takes place. It was suggested that the format for curriculum night be different noting that at Math night parents were engaged with kids and it was an opportunity to reach parents. The Superintendent indicated the schools need to partner with parents. He also indicated that this is a system-wide issue and the Administrative Team will look into this to help all the schools.

FY18 Budget

Ms. Venditti reported that the budget balance is -\$13,651. Ms. Venditti distributed a report dated February 12, 2018 that showed expenses and savings with a balance of \$7,011 for the next four months. The Superintendent indicated there is reason to believe that the student in outside placement will stay at the Cape Cod Collaborative for the rest of the year. He informed the Town Administrator and he will apply free cash. The Administration must finalize this number by the end of February. An additional \$39,780 will be needed to pay tuition through the end of the school year. Ms. Venditti stated that if the Committee asks the town for \$40,000, it should be sufficient to get the school to the end of the year. The only concern is substitutes. The Superintendent indicated any money left at the end of the year must go back to the town.

School Calendar

Motion:

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to approve the 2018-2019 school calendar.

Town Meeting Preparation

Principal Rodman reviewed her presentation to the Board of Selectmen. She would like to publicly thank the Director of WCCA, Margaret Wood for 14 years of service to the Wellfleet

community. Chair Plaue suggested that they mention the budget is being presented with two unknowns, sort of a disclaimer. If intervention services are needed next year, it is not in the budget. It is realistic to think that the school could need \$105,000 for a special needs student plus transportation costs. Superintendent Conrad will address the Board of Selectmen regarding transportation savings and ways money can be saved in the future.

Reports and Information – no reports

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted 5 yeas to approve the minutes of January 9, 2018.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger and seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Ann Tefft

Included in the packet: Administrators' reports, expenditure report, attendance report, and minutes.