

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

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

Absent: Jill Putnam and Martha Gordon

Present for the Administration – Superintendent Tom Conrad, Director of Finance and Operations Giovanna Venditti, Dr. Ann Caretti, Director of Student 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 reminded the Committee that they will meet again on April 10, 2018.

Members' Speak

Mort Inger inquired about the student walkout and heard the students were not able to hold signs. The Superintendent indicated that he heard from students and staff that it was a good experience. He also reported that a bus load of students was going to Washington D.C. to protest while others were going to Boston.

Skip Arnette was introduced to members. He is running for School Committee in May. He has been a taxpayer since 1975 and has lived in town since 2012. He has grandchildren attending Wellfleet Elementary School.

Citizens Speak

None

Priority Business

Beth Foerster, Director of the Montessori Preschool housed at Wellfleet Elementary School, requested classroom space for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion: On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously, 3 yeas, to continue to loan the classroom space to the Montessori Preschool.

Principal Rodman explained the enrichment tutor who was hired as an Enrichment Team Works Teacher for students in grades 1 and 2.

Mr. Gauley's report was included in the packet. The MIT visit by staff members was mentioned. The Superintendent explained the visit indicating that teachers had an opportunity to see interesting projects, labs and meet with professors. MIT may work with the District on curriculum going forward. The Superintendent informed the Committee that Ed Rohmer is the contact on this. They are looking at an "Einstein Institute" concept that the District would have a

summer program for all ages of elementary students to gain an awareness of science and technology.

The Superintendent distributed a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Cape Cod Collaborative with regard to bus transportation. The Superintendent shared news of the incident that happened in Brewster. They have been scheduling parent and staff meetings, moved the technology lab into the Library, forming parent groups and continue to find ways to assist staff, students and parents. He also indicated that the Brewster Police and the Cove in Orleans have been outstanding with their response and assistance. The Nauset HR Coordinator is presenting, to the Administrative Team, a process for obtaining background checks and other protocols for the District when hiring employees.

Principal Rodman indicated she heard from a few parents who shared concerns because their child/children attended the Children's Place. She invited Abby Foley from the Independence House and the Wellfleet Police to a meeting to answer questions and address concerns- from parents on April 3, 2018.

Chair Plaue inquired about safeguards going forward relative to windows, doors, and metal detectors. She asked that this be an agenda item in the future.

FY18 Budget

Ms. Venditti reported that the budget balance is -\$47,405. Ms. Venditti indicated that reclassifications need to be completed. She is looking to reclassify building expenses, unencumber fuel expenses and make adjustments in Circuit Breaker. They have asked the town for additional funds which will give the school \$53,163 to operate between now and the end of June. Any balance, will go back to the town. She will continue to monitor this budget very closely.

School Choice

Motion:

On a motion by Betsy Pontius, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted unanimously, 3 years, to NOT participate in school choice for the 2018-2019 school year.

Elementary School Survey Results

Dr. Caretti distributed the results of the elementary survey to members. The committee reviewed a couple of the questions. Mort Inger did not agree with the way the questions were written on the survey. Betsy Pontius suggested they use the results as a guide. Dr. Carretti talked about Second Step, which has a curriculum for social-emotional learning that is developmentally appropriate for grade levels. It is sequential, manages feelings, deals with conflict resolution and self-regulation. Dr. Caretti indicated this survey is good for talking points to raise teacher awareness.

The Chair indicated that it is up to Dr. Caretti and Principal Rodman as to how to use this information.

Universal Preschool

A survey created by Joanna Stevens, Principal Rodman and Dr. Caretti was presented to members. Members talked about when to distribute the survey, during Kindergarten registration or should it be mailed. Chair Plaue objected to the survey as she did not want parents to have choices about the school day but would rather have the four-year-olds come to school on the bus and attend the regular school day. Mort Inger agreed with Jan Plaue. Betsy Pontius felt parents need to have a vision and know what this might look like for them. Betsy Pontius inquired if preschool became public, do they follow the same requirements and do the children attend school a certain number of days? Dr. Caretti indicated it would have to follow the District policy on attendance. Betsy Pontius asked that the committee figure out the scope of what the it wants and then formulate a program. The Chair would like WES to run a public preschool, five days a week for four-year-old children and have them attend a typical school day. She asked members to think about this and it will be discussed again next month. (it was suggested the town vouchers could be used for 3 year old children)

IB Discussion

This item was held.

Reports and Information

Cape Cod Collaborative – No report

PTA – No report

School Council – Principal Rodman indicated they continue to work on the school improvement plan, MCAS testing and tutoring.

Transportation – No report

Substance Abuse Task Force – Dr. Caretti asked Mr. Gauley to attend the next meeting and talk about the curriculum and where this is addressed. Mary Ellen Reed, Nurse Coordinator for the District, had some information about a curriculum offered at elementary schools.

Policy Subcommittee – Betsy Pontius indicated that the Policy Subcommittee met and reviewed the following policies which will be on the April agendas for a first reading: Technology Policy for Staff, Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use Policy, Online Fundraising Policy and policy regarding educational surveys.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted 3 yeas to approve the minutes of February 13, 2018 as amended.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger and seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Ann Tefft

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