

Wellfleet School Committee
April 10, 2018

Present for the Committee: Jan Plaue, Mort Inger, Jill Putnam, and Betsy Pontius

Absent: Martha Gordon

Present for the Administration: Thomas Conrad, Giovanna Venditti, MaryBeth Rodman

Call to Order

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

Chair's Report

Jan Plaue shared a letter from Amy O'Leary regarding early childhood education. She also indicated that congress passed a bill for 2.37 billion dollars for child care and development.

She attended a meeting at WES with two counselors from Independence House and the Police Chief who shared ways parents can question their children without alarming them, in light of the situation that may have occurred in Brewster. Principal Rodman indicated that 10 parents and 8 families attended. She gathered information for another parent that could not be in attendance.

The Chair also indicated that the Spaghetti Supper was very well attended and thanked the members of the board that participated. Jill Putnam also thanked the parent committee and businesses that donated goods to the 35th Annual Spaghetti Supper.

Members Speak

Mort Inger reported that Provincetown town meeting may vote to have free PreK and child care starting with infants. Chair Plaue felt this would put tremendous pressure on Wellfleet Elementary School as they already lose students to Provincetown. Mort Inger indicated that it will be open to Provincetown residents and people who work there.

Citizens Speak- None

Classroom Space - Wellfleet Montessori School -

The Superintendent suggested that the Committee have a written agreement with the Wellfleet Montessori School. This would be protection for the school district and not have financial impacts for the Montessori School. He will draft a document for the Committee's review. Members were in agreement with the Superintendent that a written agreement should be formalized for liability purposes.

Administrative Reports

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She highlighted the numerous field trips to Audubon. She also indicated that MCAS testing has started and students are using the computer for test taking.

Assistant Superintendent Gauley's report was included in the packet.

Superintendent Conrad reported that he and Principal Rodman met and had a discussion on her goals and the evaluation process. He indicated that Principal Rodman is doing an outstanding job. He also had an opportunity to meet with the Recreation Director that was beneficial to understand the operations for WES and the Recreation program. They discussed expectations and standards for that program.

He distributed the Superintendent Evaluation Documents reminding the Committee that he will be turning in his evidence on April 27. May 1st Union 54 will meet at 5:00p.m. at the Central Office to discuss the evaluation.

Superintendent Conrad also reported that Independence House counselors were at the Middle School, as they continue to provide services for families. He will be moving forward after vacation forming support groups for parents. He hopes the support groups will consist of 8-12 people and run about 4 weeks. Once he understands the size and needs in other schools, he will try to get something established for them. The criminal investigation is ongoing. He indicated he will do everything he can to help the parents and the community. He reported that they will be working on protocols for school safety and security.

FY18 Budget

Giovanna Venditti, Director of Finance and Operations, reported that the budget balance is -\$27,494. She indicated the School Committee is asking for \$48,780 from the town to help with the negative balance due to an unanticipated special needs placement. She reviewed the balances in various line items and indicated where she will utilize funds to help with the deficit including FY18 Circuit Breaker funds, Cafeteria Revolving Account, Building Use, and fuel oil savings. There may also be a savings in the electrical line item. Any monies left at the end of the year will be returned to the town.

Preschool Survey

Chair Plaue reviewed the last meeting discussion regarding Preschool. The Committee did not like the wording on the survey and Principal Rodman created another survey to parents for the committee's review. Jill Putnam felt the survey is important to get a needs assessment. The Chair asked if the use of vouchers could be incorporated into the survey so that parents using the voucher system can see how it would interface with a program at WES. Presently 19 families are using the voucher system. Jill Putnam asked about extended day and summer programs as some people need this for their work schedule. She also indicated that you do not want to have too many transitions for children.

The Superintendent suggested focusing on the voucher payment and ability to offer services for working parents. He suggested they think about a summer program for

working parents. Chair Plaue hoped the vouchers could be channeled to 3 year olds. The survey could ask would you like to see your child in a public preschool?

Betsy Pontus suggested having a parent forum and starting a conversation with parents. She also suggested a subcommittee and Dr. Caretti work on this after the conversation with parents. It was suggested that Kindergarten screening would be a good place to have a conversation with parents. Principal Rodman meets with parents for 10-15 minutes during Kindergarten screening and will talk about it at that time. Betsy Pontus suggested a pamphlet be distributed that qualifies that preschool has a positive impact. Jill Putnam indicated that the survey is a good snapshot and has an open-ended question in the back. It is just another tool and a way of gathering information from people.

Policies

Betsy Pontus reviewed the policies with the Committee.

Motion: On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted unanimously to accept IJNDD- Policy on Social Media and Staff Responsible Use Policy Addendum for a first reading.

On a motion by Jill Putman, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted unanimously to approve JICH -Alcohol, *Tobacco*, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited, for a first reading.

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to approve GBEBD-Online Fundraising and Solicitations – Crowdfunding for a first reading.

On a motion by Mort Inger seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to approve ILD – Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research policy for a first reading.

Town Meeting Preparation

Principal Rodman will answer any questions on the new after school program. Giovanna Venditti reported that the \$48,000 will be coming out of Free Cash for the SN student and appears in article 2.

Reports and Information

Cape Cod Collaborative- Jill Putnam indicated they are meeting tomorrow. Last month they worked on the Executive Director's Evaluation. The Waypoint Director had two very qualified candidates but the staff preferred it be someone internally. They changed the roles of some staff people. Anita Woods has partial responsibility for the Way Point Program. She also reported that other school districts are consulting with the Cape Cod Collaborative relative to bus transportation. (Falmouth, *DY*, Monomoy and Bourne) She also reported that Dr. Patti Grenier and the Executive Search Committee hired a new Superintendent for Falmouth. They are working on All Cape In-service Day for October.

Betsy Pontus shared that she and Tracey Deegan have been welcomed into the Collaborative and started a consortium for Math Coaches Cape-wide. Cape Cod Collaborative is very welcoming to them. Dr. Bogden offered his resources. She is looking

forward to this work and has people from Monomoy, Nauset Bourne and Barnstable attending.

PTA- No report

School Council- No report

Preschool – Report included in packet.

Transportation- No report

Policy- Accomplished in agenda item

Substance Abuse Task Force- No report

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 27,2018 as amended.

Adjournment

Mort Inger stated, with no further business to conduct, I motioned to adjourn.

The motion was seconded by Betsy Pontius and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:45p.m.

Submitted by,

Ann M. Tefft