

WELLFLEET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES ~ Tuesday, January 14, 2014 ~ 4:30 PM

Wellfleet Elementary School Staff Room

Members Present: *Chair*, Jan Plaue *Vice-Chair*, Betsy Pontius, Terri Frazier, Mort Inger, and Jill Putnam, Terri Frazier

Administration Present: *Superintendent*; Dr. Hoffmann, *Director of Finance and Operations*: Giovanna Venditti

Principal; Mary Beth Rodman *Staff*: Lee Miller *Citizens*: Christie O’Campbell and Martha Hyams of the Montessori Preschool, *Reporter*: Marilyn Miller

I. CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES

Jan Plaue called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM. Copies of the revised agenda were distributed. Jan postponed item F (Food Service), section V.

II. CHAIR’S REPORT

Jan asked if anyone wished to make discussion suggestions for the Union 54 meeting.

III. MEMBERS SPEAK

Terri Frazier supplied a handout to members on Campaign Finance Guidelines for Elected Officials.

IV. CITIZENS SPEAK ~ None.

V. PRIORITY BUSINESS

A. Wellfleet Montessori Preschool

Christie O’Campbell, who is no longer serving on the Montessori Board, introduced Martha Hyams who is the new interim director, replacing Jackie O’Hara. Leah Harrington who was not at this meeting, is the Co-director with Martha.

Mort motioned and Terri seconded to grant the Wellfleet Montessori Preschool permission to continue to use classroom space at the Wellfleet Elementary School for the 2014-2015 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Jan asked how the playground project was going and Christie shared that the new play-scape was built in November, 2013, is fully certified, and was a community-build project under the supervision of the State. Christie shared that Liberty Schilpp replace Christie on that playground committee.

B. Administrators’ Reports

1. Principal’s Report

- Mary Beth Rodman reported the new date for Mrs. Kocaba’s Title 1 Parent Presentation to be January 27, 2014.
- Amanda Rice is student teaching at WES under Moderate Special Needs Teacher, Alana Wilson. Amanda started this week.
- Sue Landers’s one hour program “Be the Change” took place last week with a pizza and salad prelude.

2. Assistant Superintendent’s Report

In Mr. Gauley’s absence, Dr. Hoffmann provided a handout of Keith’s January report. With regard to the second bullet of the written report under Leadership and Organizational Management, Mort Inger asked who was making “*weekly visits ... to each of the District schools...*” Dr. Hoffmann offered to find out.

3. Director of Student Services Report ~ None.

4. Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. Hoffmann visited the Middle School’s Breakfast Café, and encourages members to do the same.
- The Middle School Roof project’s estimated cost has increased.
- German is being cut back at the High School and Mandarin will be introduced.
- Friday, January 17 is a professional development day for Nauset.

C. **FY14 Budget**

Giovanna Venditti distributed a handout on Cafeteria Projections and a handout on the Food & Nutrition Services Mid-Year Report for January, 2014.

D. **FY15 Budget**

- Mary Beth shared the results of researching the idea of adding pre-kindergartners to the FY15 Kindergarten class. After consulting the Town Census, adding this demographic would not increase a need for another classroom at this time.
- Mary Beth supplied a handout with Staffing Projections for FY15. Mary Beth said evening custodian Shawn Butler accepted a full time position at the High School, and was replaced at WES by William Wilson. The handout includes this most recent staff change.
- Dr. Hoffmann distributed a handout of the FY15 Budget to replace the former in members' budget binders. Mary Beth questioned the increase in WES's share of the Central Office expenses, noting Dr. Hoffmann shared another handout relative to CO expenses that were recently decreased in order to stay under a 2.5% increase. Giovanna will investigate the discrepancy.
- Jill Putnam asked Mary Beth for an update on the water bill situation. Mary Beth was urged to write another letter to the Water Commissioner asking for a reduction in rates without which WES would investigate reverting to a well for at least irrigation purposes.
- Jill also asked about the per-pupil cost increase/ Dr. Hoffmann will look into this.
- Jan asked for next month's agenda to include a Public Hearing to consider the FY15 Budget. Meanwhile Dr. Hoffmann will give the Town Administrator a solid estimated of the school's budget which presently is under 2%.

E. **Update on the Roof** ~ none.

F. **Food Service** ~ postponed.

G. **Preschool Update** (*this item refers to the committee investigating public funding of pre-k; perhaps in future agendas it may be referred to as 'Potential PreK Funding Committee'*)

After discussion amongst those present, and the conclusion that a clear direction is needed, Terri said she will follow up with the committee. No action was taken.

H. **Policy Updates**

- **Mort motioned and Jill seconded to Approve Policy I, Instruction, for a first reading and approval "in form". The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mort motioned and Jill seconded to approve Policy J, Students, for a first reading and approval "in form". The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mort motioned and Jill seconded, relative to Section G (which was approved for a first reading in October) having one more edit made in the Substitute Policy, to approve "in form" for a first reading. The motion passed unanimously.**

It is noted that sections G, I, and J will be brought to the Joint Committee in January for approval "in form" for a second reading.

VI. **REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

A. **Cape Cod Collaborative**

Jill said that last week all subcommittees met instead of a general meeting taking place. Next meeting in February.

B. **PTA**

Betsy reports 3 of the 4 board members are not continuing, and candidates are being sought. There is a current balance of est. \$9,700. Spaghetti Supper is scheduled for March 28, 2014.

C. School Council

Working on School Improvement Plan/ next meeting next week.

D. Joint Meeting

Mort, Terri, and Betsy will attend the January meeting. Union 54 will meet one hour prior on that same date. On the agenda is the Superintendent's mid cycle review; staff and school committee communication; Fundraising policy review; use of Nauset Preschool revolving account revenue.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After making the correction for the first bullet under section II, Chair's Report, to read: "*Jan asked if anyone wished to make discussion suggestions for the Union 54 Meeting...*" **Mort motioned and Jill seconded to approve the minutes from December 10, 2013 as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.**

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jill motioned and Mort seconded to enter into executive session at 6:20 PM to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel, not to return to open session. Members were polled and each voted in favor of the motion.

IX. PAYMENT OF BILLS

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mort motioned and Terri seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ferro

REF: Agenda for January 14, 2014, Principal Rodman's January report, WES Expenditure Report-Comparison, Minutes from December 10, 2013.