

WELLFLEET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES ~ Tuesday, February 11, 2014 ~ 4:30 PM

Wellfleet Elementary School Staff Room

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

Administration Present: *Assistant Superintendent*; Keith Gauley, *Director of Finance and Operations*; Giovanna Venditt *Principal*; Mary Beth Rodman

Other Officials Present: Harry Tarkanian, Wellfleet Town Administrator and Chris Easely, Nauset Regional School Committee representative for Wellfleet

I. CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES

Chair Plaue called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and indicated the Food Service Presentation (D) would come before Administrators' Reports (B)

II. CITIZENS SPEAK ~ None.

III. PRIORITY BUSINESS

A. FY15 Budget – Public Hearing

A handout was distributed and Principal Rodman reviewed the FY15 Wellfleet Budget. The Committee discussed declining enrollment and giving up a teaching position. Chair Plaue indicated that the budget is a compromise with no lack of academic excellence or increase in class size. Chair Plaue asked the audience if there were any questions, hearing none, the committee moved on. It was noted that Principal Rodman did a wonderful job in building the budget and concerns were shared relative to more children requiring special services.

Mr. Gauley presented Version 3 of the budget indicating that it reflected the vote taken by the Joint School Committee to use \$40,000 from the Preschool Account to reduce assessments, noting Wellfleet's budget was reduced accordingly. Version 3 budget – 1.75%.

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously (5-0), to close the FY15 Budget Public Hearing.

On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously (5-0), to approve the FY15 Budget, Version 3, in the amount of \$2,457,690.

Food Service Update

Susan Murray, Director of Food Service, gave a presentation on the status of the cafeterias, revenues, losses/profits, and initiatives underway to boost participation. Participation at Wellfleet Elementary School is 61.54%. She indicated that the Wellfleet cafeteria program will be audited after vacation. Jill Putnam thanked Ms. Murray for all her energy and for keeping the Committee informed.

Administrators' Reports

1. Principal's Report:

Principal Rodman reported on the change in date for the 100th day of school. She also reported that she offered the special needs teaching position to someone who declined it, and they are moving forward with a long term substitute. She also informed the Committee that signature pizzas, created by classrooms, are being offered in the cafeteria each week.

Betsy Pontius mentioned the number of teachers who applied for and received grants for the school. She thanked the teachers for all their efforts pursuing grant opportunities.

2. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Keith Gauley referred to his report emphasizing Title I funding and noting continued support of ESL instruction and coordinating the District-wide implementation of curriculum assessments by adding a K-5 Language Arts Coordinator (0.2 – 0.4 FTE) and a K-5 Mathematics coordinator (0.2 – 0.4 FTE). These Coordinators will help with curriculum mapping, resources, and assessments such as the math unit tests and the Nauset writing assessments.

Also highlighted was the IB Program which is currently under review at Nauset Middle School and Nauset High School.

3. Director of Student Services Reports

Included in the packet.

B. FY14 Budget Update

Giovanna Venditti reviewed the FY14 expenditure report noting a balance of \$130,903. Noted was account 4058 – Contracted Services – Extraordinary Maintenance – \$8,479m clean-up cost for Serv Pro after the HVAC smoke emergency.

Giovanna Venditti indicated that Ms. Rodman and Dr. Hoffmann will determine a spending plan for any remaining balances.

D. Update on the Roof

Massachusetts School Building Authority sent a letter indicating their Board voted to approve the Proposed Accelerated Repair Project for the Town of Wellfleet for a partial roof Replacement at the Wellfleet Elementary School. In addition to the accrued \$71,900 that is set aside for this project in WES capital money, the MSBA Board approved an estimated maximum grant of \$151,296 (est. 37 cents on the dollar) to offset the cost of replacing a portion of the roof. It is estimated that the project will come in under \$200,000.

E. Technology Update

Keith Gauley discussed the technology plan specific to Wellfleet Elementary School. (Year 1 – Computer Lab upgrade, Year 2 – additional tablets and laptops, Year 3 – additional cart – with a goal being to get a 3 device to 1 ratio)

The Region Technology Subcommittee will be meeting to discuss devices and if the same devices should be purchased at the elementary level. An instructional support specialist, which may be a shared position for the elementary schools, was mentioned. Chair Plaue indicated the Lab was in the capital budget but any other technology would be out of the operating budget.

F. Policy Updates

Betsy Pontius will be at the next Policy Subcommittee meeting and noted a lot of discussion occurred at the Joint meeting on policy. Some committees may customize the fundraising policy and the school committee/staff communication policy.

VI. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. Cape Cod Collaborative

Jill Putnam attended the Cape Cod Collaborative Annual Legislative Breakfast that was outstanding. Members from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education gave a presentation on PARCC and Common Core. Other highlights included a Legislative panel discussion with State Representatives and Senators. Inequity in the formula for School Choice and other formulas was a topic of discussion. Gubernatorial candidates gave a presentation and stated their opinions on education.

PTA

Betsy reported that the spaghetti supper is being planned. She also indicated that the officers are resigning and they are waiting for someone to step into the positions.

B. School Council

Ms. Rodman indicated she will get back to the Committee regarding the water. She also indicated that she is very excited about the new School Improvement Plan that will be forthcoming for School Committee review and approval.

C. Joint Meeting

Members indicated that John O'Reilly did a good job in the absence of Chair Plaue.

D. Transportation

There was only one vendor that bid on the transportation contract and the contract is being reviewed with our attorney.

E. PreK

Terri Frazier reported that surveys went out and thanked Ms. Rodman and Ms. Ferro for all their assistance in helping facilitate the mailing.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the minutes of January 14, 2014 with the following correction: Page 2. Change Mid year – December 2013.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Terri Frazier, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted by roll call vote to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel, not to return to open session. On a roll call the vote was as follows: Betsy Pontius-yea, Mort Inger-yea, Jill Putnam-yea, Terri Frazier-yea and Chair Plaue-yea. The Committee went into Executive Session at 5:54 p.m.

IX. PAYMENT OF BILLS

X. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Terri Frazier, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the Meeting at 6:16 p.m., subject to payment of bills.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. tefft

REF: Agenda for Feb. 11, 2013, Administrators' reports, Expenditure Report, Technology Report, FY15 Public Hearing Slides, Per Pupil Cost Explanation, MSBA Letter dated January 29, 2014, Minutes of January 14, 2014.