

Joint School Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 14, 2014
Brewster Town Hall

Present for the Committees:

Region: Sue Skidmore, Sarah Blackwell, Ed Brookshire, Ed Lewis, Chris Easely, Jayne Fowler, John O'Reilly, Chris Galazzi
Brewster: David Telman, Brenda Cazeault, Trish Hill, and Claire Gradone
Eastham: Ann Crozier, Mary Lou Sette, Amy Handel, and Joanne Irish
Orleans: Josh Stewart and Gail Briere
Wellfleet: Jan Plaue, Jill Putnam, and Mort Inger

Present for the Administration:

Dr. Hoffmann, Keith Gauley, Giovanna Venditti, and Ann Caretti

Call to Order

Chair Plaue called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and voiced her hope that the strain that individuals have felt during the last few Joint meetings will lift so that the Joint Committee can go back to bringing our school system together. She stressed the need to move forward in a positive manner for the health of the Nauset system to serve our children in the best way we can. She would like to tend to the business of the Joint School Committee as positively as possible and treat colleagues with mutual respect.

Agenda Changes - None

Citizens Speak - None

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Superintendent Search

Chair Plaue reviewed what happened at the last meeting with regard to selecting a representative from each committee to serve on the Superintendent Search Committee. The following were chosen to represent their committees:

Wellfleet – Mort Inger, Eastham – Joanne Irish, Orleans – no quorum, Brewster – Brenda Cazeault, Region – Ed Lewis and John O'Reilly

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Ann Crozier, to appoint Joanne Irish as Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee.

The Committee discussed possible additions to the subcommittee which may include a principal, parents, community member or an NEA representative. Chair Plaue indicated that it was up to the subcommittee to decide how to proceed. John O'Reilly indicated that the subcommittee should decide how big the search committee should be and will identify the positions.

Ed Lewis stated that he believed the search committee is primarily the responsibility of the Joint Committee and suggested having public hearing for various groups. Brenda Cazeault indicated she was on the search committee for the principal in Brewster and she liked the process where parents were allowed to come and give their input as to what qualities they would like to see in their next principal. Trish Hill agreed that parents should be part of the process as they want the best quality education for their children.

Joanne Irish indicated the subcommittee would meet, create a plan, and report back at the next Joint School Committee Meeting.

Jill Putnam stated the Collaborative has a wonderful Executive Search process, they know the district with its strengths and challenges. Marie Enochty suggested looking at MASC, NESDEC and the Collaborative in order to look at all the options. Ed Lewis asked if there was a budget for the search and Chair Plaue indicated the money will need to be found in the budgets.

Update on Superintendent's Contract

Chair Plaue indicated that the Superintendent should have a six-week extension of his contract and the Subcommittee comprised of Jan Plaue, John O'Reilly, and Ann Crozier met to settle this as quickly as possible working with the attorneys. Dr. Hoffmann submitted a list of priorities he could work on for the school system. It was understood that Dr. Hoffmann would have a title, not superintendent, but a title that corresponds with his certification which could be associate but can't be consultant. It was noted there will be no big financial impact to the district.

Chair O'Reilly indicated that there is no agreement on wage or responsibilities yet. Marie Enochty indicated that it was too soon to have this discussion and this should just be informational. Chris Galazzi felt it was getting too complex and perhaps the committee should consider an easier path. Chair Plaue indicated that the subcommittee does not think anything is arduous or complex. There will be one attorney for the School Committee and one attorney for Dr. Hoffmann involved in the contract. Ed Lewis agreed with Chair Plaue to let the subcommittee do their work.

Policy – School Committee/Staff Communication Policy

Chair Plaue reviewed the history of what has taken place with the school committee / staff communication policy. After much discussion, it was suggested a subcommittee be created to look at the staff communication policy, appointed by the Joint Committee. Trish Hill stated that a few members did meet to draft some language. Ed Lewis indicated that he preferred to wait on the draft language. He also indicated that he, Chris Galazzi, and Trish Hill met but really did not come up with anything and that the draft has not been agreed upon.

Dave Telman stated this policy should be brought back to the Policy Subcommittee for re-review. Chair Plaue thought the Policy Subcommittee should get input from a wider group like teachers and consult with parties of interest.

Sue Skidmore, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee indicated the policy was submitted twice for approval and the committee unanimously voted to move forward with the present policy as written. She also indicated the Policy Subcommittee was given advice from legal counsel, verbally and in writing, and the Policy Subcommittee voted to accept the attorney's recommendation.

Mr. Telman asked that the policy be sent back to the Policy Subcommittee for their review once again. He felt it was incumbent upon that group to continue discussion and get teachers, administrators and school committee members on the same page with regard to this policy. Mr. O'Reilly felt the present subcommittee does not wish to deal with this policy, then others should be appointed to replace them on the committee by their individual school committees.

Mr. Gauley indicated that in reality, the committee and administration do not know what the issue is. The issue is for certain individuals. He suggested getting those individuals involved and they create draft wording of the policy.

Motion:

On a motion by Marie Enochy, seconded by John O'Reilly, it was voted 20 yeas and 1 nay (Ed Lewis) to direct the Policy Subcommittee to revisit this policy / issue and come back with a plan or recommendation.

Management of Life Threatening Illness for a Second Reading and Adoption

Motion:

Brewster -

On a motion by Marie Enochy, seconded by Dave Telman, it was voted unanimously to approve the policy on Management of Life Threatening Illness for a Second Reading and Adoption.

Orleans –

Orleans did not vote because they did not have a quorum.

Region-

On a motion by John O'Reilly, seconded by Jayne Fowler, it was voted unanimously to approve the policy on Management of Life Threatening Illness for a Second Reading and Adoption.

Eastham –

On a motion by Ann Crozier, seconded by Joanne Irish, it was voted unanimously to approve the policy on Management of Life Threatening Illness for a Second Reading and Adoption.

Wellfleet –

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to approve the policy on Management of Life Threatening Illness for a Second Reading and Adoption.

Dr. Hoffmann indicated that the district nurses helped craft this policy which clarifies roles and makes things as safe as possible.

Meeting Schedule

Chair Plaue stated that the Superintendent's salary has not been set and the amount of an increase could be 2 or 2.5%. This will be on the next agenda.

Members talked about the increasing the frequency of Joint Meetings if necessary and keeping agendas shorter. Ms. Enochty stated the Joint Committee should meet when a vote is necessary as members meet each month as individual committees. Joanne Irish felt it was important to hear from other committees. She felt it was important to have meetings for important information dissemination, especially from the Search Committee, so that all school committee members hears the same thing at the same time.

Next meeting scheduled for October 1, 2014 and the October 30th meeting date for the Joint Committee will be kept as well. These meeting will take place at the Middle School.

Mr. O'Reilly indicated that the search subcommittee may decide that they need to engage a consultant and may need to get back to the individual committees regarding the cost. Representatives from the search subcommittee should report back to their committees with updates.

Ms. Briere suggested that having an October 1st meeting would allow the Policy Subcommittee to make their recommendation and then we can move forward on this subject. October 1st is a good opportunity to take a vote on the Policy Subcommittee recommendation. The majority of members agreed with this.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Fowler, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of July 10, 2014.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Inger, seconded by Mr. Telman, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. Tefft

Included in packet: Policy on Management of Life Threatening Allergies and minutes