

Joint School Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 28, 2016
Eastham Town Hall

Present for the Committees:

Region: John O'Reilly, Chris Easley, Deborah Beal, Sarah Blackwell, Ed Brookshire, Chris Galazzi arrived late, Ed Lewis, Tim Linkkila, Sue Skidmore and Tracy Vanderschmidt
Brewster: Claire Gradone, Jessica Larsen, Dave Telman
Eastham: Mary Lou Sette, Amy Handel, Judy Lindahl, Ann Crozier, Joanne Irish
Orleans: Josh Stewart, Gail Briere and Hank Schumacher
Wellfleet: Jan Plaue, Jill Putnam, Mort Inger, Martha Gordon and Betsy Pontius

Present for the Administration:

Thomas Conrad, Superintendent, Keith Gauley, Assistant Superintendent, Barbara Lavoine, Director of Technology

Call to Order

Chair Plaue called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Joint School Committee meeting.

Citizens Speak

None

Agenda Change

Chair Plaue indicated instead of the next Joint School Committee meeting scheduled for March 24, 2016, it has been moved to March 31st.

Technology Presentation K-12

Barbara Lavoine, Director of Technology, updated the School Committee on the technology equipment being used in the Region by students and staff. She indicated the presentation would include how technology impacts student learning. She gave a brief history of where the District was as far as Technology in 2012 and where the District is today, noting the District has made substantial progress to move forward with technology imbedded in teaching and learning. She referenced the Technology K5 Blueprint and the Technology Plan for the Region that was included in School Committee packets. The draft plans include benchmarks and indicates how students will achieve those benchmarks. The Technology Committee meets once a month and will continue working on the Tech Plans. She indicated that Professional Development takes place on PD Days, in afternoon sessions, in minute classes, and with technology training in the buildings through the Technology Integration Specialist. (High School) It is her hope that the School Committee will support the Technology Integration Specialist for the Middle School. She concluded by saying that Technology has positively impacted teaching and learning through motivation, collaboration, and self-paced learning using a tremendous number of resources.

Lisa Orendella, Technology Integration Specialist, explained what they are doing at the High School with the use of Technology. Kaelly Farrell, a freshman, shared a day in the life of a freshman using many different technology tools to enhance her learning experience. She thanked the Committee for voting the 1:1 iPads and finds it to be an invaluable tool. She uses her iPad in her culinary class, in band, in Math, and in French. She can access tutorials and educational games. Teachers can instantly comment on her work and correct it as needed. She indicated she uses Google Docs and has many advanced computer skills. She can move data between various programs and make wonderful presentations with partners in other towns without having to meet in one town or another. She likes that everyone has access to an iPad and it has made her educational experience exceptional. She feels the iPads were a great investment for Nauset.

Ms. Orendella thanked the School Committee for the 1:1 iPads and for the full time Integration Specialist position. She indicated that there are 190 apps available to students throughout the District. In her position, she goes into the classrooms with teachers and co-teaches using technology. It is transforming how students are learning and it is vital for student and teacher collaboration. They even have a monthly community call to talk to people around the world. Also available at the High School are technology courses in coding and languages, Java, Python, and Mechanical Design. The Notability app is also used for music courses showing students' band practice. Their work is recorded and sent to the teacher. She thanked the Committee again for all their support.

Brandi Jackson presented for the Middle School along with two students. She stressed the need for an Integration Specialist and hoped the committee could support it in the budget. The Middle School uses the shared iPad cart system. She indicated they have a Smart Board in every classroom, six computer labs, 2 technology classes, a grade level computer lab, 8 iPad carts used at various grade levels and with exploratory teachers. She explained a science lesson where students had an opportunity to talk with scientists. In History they are making movies or comic books that correlate with their studies. In Foreign Language, where you teach a child to be verbal, they use iPads to record their lesson and send it to the teacher to check. Tests with essays can be done online and the teacher can see if the students understand, as it is an instant assessment. The material can be retaught immediately if necessary. Students can access high curriculum as well as collaborate with one another. Ms. Jackson would like to see more technology in the kids' hands and someone on staff to help the teacher.

Dawn Steber, Technology Teacher at Orleans Elementary School and Lisa Norton, Technology Teacher at Wellfleet Elementary School purchased iPads which enables individualized student learning. Madison Fields and Justin Capello, students, explained various projects using technology to the committee. Ms. Steber indicated Grade 3 made an iMovie of Pleasant Bay. The elementary schools are also sharing a Green Screen. They will post their work on line so that the Committee can view it.

Ms. Lavoine concluded by inviting School Committee members to stop by the schools and see the learning taking place using technology. Committee members commented how proficient students are in their presentations and are pleased about what is happening in the District in technology.

Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Review

Superintendent Conrad reviewed his evaluation documents with the committee that included; his student learning goal, strategic plan goal, professional practice goal, and entry plan. He also reviewed the standards that included: curriculum, instruction and assessment, management operations, family and community engagement and professional culture. He invited the Committee to come to the Central Office to see his evidence in these areas.

Deb Beal commented that she has viewed some of the interviews on Superintendent's Spotlight and is very impressed. She thanked the Superintendent for being very receptive to her needs in her first year as a school committee member. She is very impressed with the work he is doing. Ed Lewis thanked the Superintendent for all his hard work. He would like more publicity of the Superintendent Chats for the community, namely, people who do not have children in school. Jill Putnam informed the other committees that Wellfleet decided to hold a community open house that is being planned. They are very aware and appreciate the citizens who are stakeholders in the town. Mr. Brookshire thought it would be a great idea for community members to visit the schools as it will answer many questions for them about education and programming.

The Superintendent concluded that administration is usually top down but that he wants to become partners with the teachers as they are the people who deliver so much of the product. He would like everyone to partner together and take ownership at all levels. He wants collaboration with the teachers and hopes to make it very meaningful for them. He also indicated he is very happy with the new subcommittees on transportation, substance abuse and renewable energy. He realizes how committed committee members are and are invested in their work for the schools.

Policy Updates

Physical Restraint of Students (JKAA)

Region: On a motion by Ed Lewis, seconded by Deb Beal, it was voted 10-0 to approve the Physical Restraint of Student Policy (JKAA), for a second reading.

Brewster: On a motion by Dave Telman, seconded by Claire Gradone, it was voted 3-0 to approve the Physical Restraint of Student Policy (JKAA), for a second reading.

Eastham: On a motion by Joanne Irish, seconded by Ann Crozier, it was voted unanimously to approve the Physical Restraint of Student Policy (JKAA), for a second reading.

Orleans: On a motion by Gail Briere, seconded by Josh Stewart, it was voted 3-0 to approve the Physical Restraint of Student Policy (JKAA), for a second reading.

Wellfleet: On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to approve the Physical Restraint of Student Policy (JKAA), for a second reading.

Fundraising Policy (JJE)

Brewster: On a motion by Dave Telman, seconded by Claire Gradone, it was voted 3-0 to approve the Fundraising Policy (JJE), for a second reading.

Eastham: On a motion by Joanne Irish, seconded by Ann Crozier, it was voted unanimously to approve the Fundraising Policy (JJE), for a second reading.

Orleans: On a motion by Gail Briere, seconded by Josh Stewart, it was voted 3-0 to approve the Fundraising Policy (JJE) for a second reading.

Wellfleet: On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to approve the Fundraising Policy (JJE) for a second reading.

Security Cameras in Schools (ECAF)

The Superintendent clarified the change in the MASC policy which indicates who controls what is seen on the film. He indicated that this is the Superintendent's role and as we move forward with cameras, including on the buses, we have to consider the rights of who is on the film. Josh Stewart clarified that the Policy Subcommittee made a slight change to indicate that the Police and Fire, as well as the Superintendent could see the film and they do not have to wait for permission from the Superintendent in the event of an emergency. Mr. Lewis indicated he was not concerned about emergency situations for Police and Fire to have access but is concerned that the school superintendent not having the ability to see something and have the first account what happens in a school for a student that is not an emergency situation. He indicated that the Superintendent and Principal have to have an opportunity to look at something before the Police. The Superintendent indicated that the MOU is going to be discussed with the Police including the sharing of information, who will see it first, and security cameras. Ms. Skidmore, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, indicated the Policy Subcommittee will have an opportunity to look at the MOU and if the wording needs to be changed, it can be changed. This policy can be revisited at any time and she felt it should be voted and will be adjusted in the future, if necessary. Ms. Briere indicated that the policy states "the Superintendent shall ensure that proper procedures are in place and are followed regarding use, viewing, disclosure, retention, disposal and security of video recordings or photographs from security cameras in accordance with applicable laws and regulations." Mr. Brookshire asked to move the question.

It was voted unanimously to end discussion.

Motion:

Region: On a motion by John O'Reilly, seconded by Chris Easely, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay (Ed Lewis) and 1 abstention, Chris Galazzi, to approve the Security Cameras in Schools (ECAF) for a second reading.

Brewster: On a motion by Dave Telman, seconded by Claire Gradone, it was voted 3-0, to approve the Security Cameras in Schools Policy (ECAF) for a second reading.

Eastham: On a motion by Joanne Irish, seconded by Mary Lou Sette, it was voted unanimously to approve the Security Cameras in Schools Policy (ECAF) for a second reading.

Wellfleet: On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted 4 yeas and 1 abstention (Martha Gordon) to approve the Security Cameras in Schools Policy (ECAAF) for a second reading.

School Calendar 2016-2017

Assistant Superintendent, Keith Gauley, presented the proposed 2016-17 school calendar to the committee. He gave them an overview of the philosophy behind the creation of the calendar which was to have more meaningful learning time and uninterrupted stretches of instruction. The calendar was developed with a great deal of input from Teachers, NEA, Professional Development Committee and the Administrators. The Professional Development – Collaboration Day has yet to be finalized. January 3rd is a District-wide Professional Development Day which is better for staff and parents. The last day is a half day.

Most members thought it was an excellent calendar. Mr. Lewis would like to change February vacation and add the time to the Christmas Break or have fewer days in June. He felt a long weekend in February was all that was needed. Questions were raised about what other schools are doing as a change would impact after school sports and clubs.

Mr. Gauley indicated that the state testing schedule is a huge scheduling problem. He also indicated that a vacation in March would be too disruptive. Mr. Schumacher asked about starting school earlier in the year, perhaps the last two weeks in August. Mr. Gauley indicated that starting date is a negotiating topic. Members commented that they liked the new format and the color coding. Ms. Skidmore and Ms. Crozier would like to see the conferences added to the schedule. Ms. Skidmore wanted to know how much time is needed to advance a change, or front the idea of a shortened February vacation. She felt it was time to change and the best things we can give our students are more teacher contact time and more quality time in school. She felt we could make February a long weekend. This would have to involve the Superintendents' group. Ms. Briere indicated that at the MASC Conference in November they were talking about the two vacations. They made a commitment to reach out to other school districts to look at their schedule. Mr. Brookshire felt it could impact parents financially and stressed the need for a lot of research and planning before changing it. Chair Plaue indicated that in Connecticut, their February vacation is just two days this year. Mr. Lewis was confused with the rationale that parents were planning vacations as the newspaper indicates that families are struggling on Cape Cod. Ms. Larsen mentioned that some local families are very busy over the summer and are fully engaged until after Labor Day. Chair Plaue suggested that the Administration get parent input, athletes, Administration and other stakeholders to see what their suggestions are for the future. Discussion ensued about putting the half day conferences on the calendar and if school committee could change those dates. Mr. Gauley indicated the school committee votes the calendar without those dates. Mr. Stewart and Ms. Pontius supported voting the calendar.

On a motion by John O'Reilly, seconded by Ed Brookshire, it was voted 29-1(Sue Skidmore) to approve The 2016-2017 calendar as submitted.

Ms. Beal suggested a survey to parents for future research.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Chris Easily, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of November 30th as amended.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Dave Telman, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann M. Tefft

Included in the packet: Policies, Supt. Mid-Cycle Review, and Minutes