

WELLFLEET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES ~ Tuesday, October 13, 2015
Wellfleet Elementary School, Staff Room

Members Present: Betsy Pontius, Jill Putnam, Martha Gordon, Mort Inger

Member Absent: Jan Plaue

Admin. Present: Supt. Tom Conrad, Giovanna Venditti & Mary Beth Rodman

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES** – Chair Pontius called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
- II. **CHAIR’S REPORT** – No Chairs Report.
- III. **MEMBERS SPEAK** – Mort Inger said he received a phone message from a reporter at The Banner asking to speak with him about the WES School Committee. He returned the call and left a message but has not heard back from the reporter.
- IV. **CITIZENS SPEAK** – None.
- V. **PRIORITY BUSINESS**
 - A. Reorganization – Subcommittees: Members discussed the WSC Subcommittee assignments for 2015-2016. They are as follows:
 - a. Policy: Betsy Pontius
 - b. Union/Region (CO) Budget: Jan Plaue
 - c. Negotiations: Mort Inger
 - d. Transportation: Martha Gordon
 - e. Cape Cod Collaborative: Jill Putnam
 - f. PTA Liaison: Betsy Pontius
 - g. School Council Liaison: Martha Gordon
 - h. UNION #54 Voting Members: Jan Plaue (Chair), Jill Putnam, Mort Inger. Alternates: Betsy Pontius & Martha Gordon
 - B. Wellfleet Energy Committee: No material prepared. Will report next month.
 - C. Fundraising Activities: The WES PTA submitted a proposal to run the same fundraising activities as last year:
 - a. Oysterfest
 - b. OWY – Original Works of Young Art
 - c. Scholastic Book Fair
 - d. Spaghetti Supper
 - e. WES Fest
 - f. Sale of Live Wellfleet bumper sticker

Jill Putnam made a motion to gratefully accept the PTA fundraisers. Mort Inger seconded the motion and the motion passed. Betsy Pontius wrote a thank you note to the PTA and passed it to the members to sign.

D. Administrators’ Reports

Principal Rodman’s Report:

Principal Rodman reported that during October’s PD/In-Service days, staff participated in training for the new electronic Report Cards, technology workshops, CPI training for recertification, and curriculum work on Assessments and DDMs. The WES ASEP program will begin the week of November 2 with eight programs running. The WES Cafeteria welcomed Cassandra Nannini this month as the new cafeteria manager. Mrs. Nannini has 20 years of experience working at the Bookstore Restaurant and replaces Mrs. Tonya Felix. Mrs. Felix is taking on a new position at WES as a part-time aide in the Grade 1 classroom. Mrs. Felix will be working from October 5th through March 4th and her position is funded by the REAP grant.

Curriculum Night was held on September 24th. Approximately 70% of WES families attended. Fire Safety Week is October 5-9. Wellfleet Firefighters will provide fire safety presentations in all classrooms. The first lockdown and fire drill of the year were successfully completed with students and staff doing an impressive job.

WES received a Big Yellow School Bus Grant from the MA Cultural Council. The \$200 grant will be applied to the Grade 3 field trip to Plymouth in November.

The WES School Council met on September 16. Laura George accepted the position of School Council Secretary and Michael Terkanian was designated the School Council’s Co-Chair. The Council is currently working on the One Book, One School Program. Ann Gallagher and Judith Cumbler from Elder Services of Cape Cod & the Islands will be leading the WES Intergenerational Knitting Club & Intergenerational Book Club respectively. The Polished Dental Program will return to WES this year with three visits scheduled to provide free dental exams, cleanings and sealants to student from Pre-K through Grade 5. Fluoride varnish treatments will be offered in January of 2016.

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Gauley's report is included in the packet.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Conrad reported that the WES Curriculum Night/Open House was excellent. He loved the projects and displays from each of the "special" curriculum areas. He met with Jan Plaue on September 29th and then after the meeting hosted a "Community Chat" at WES where three parents and four staff members stopped by. He reported positive and constructive conversations from both events.

An evening meeting will be planned with Harry Terkanian regarding the budget and transportation. He plans to meet with the Selectmen in the future as well. He has three to five District-wide goals that are priorities on which he is focusing. Mr. Conrad met with Principal Rodman to discuss WES goals and agreed on two solid goals with which they are moving forward.

- E. Enrollment is a huge issue for the district. WES is down 5 students (115 students was the projection) and the trend is moving downward district wide among the elementary schools. Both NRMS & NRHS are up slightly. There are currently 10 Wellfleet resident students in Preschool classes.

Martha Gordon shared that Nauset's excellent schools are a draw to the area, but more affordable housing and jobs are needed to bring in new, young families. Mort Inger asked about the universal Pre-K program. Terri Frazier conducted a survey and 18 Wellfleet students are currently using vouchers. Betsy Pontius said parents want a small community-based school and want to work to "hang onto" WES. With shrinking enrollment, families are feeling "nervous". It was suggested that WES host a community Open House and invite all Wellfleet residents, selectmen and finance committee members to see how valuable the school is to the town.

- F. MCAS Presentation

Principal Rodman reported on the MCAS. Last year Grade 5 consisted of 25 students who took the STE component of MCAS. Of that class 12% received SN services, and 24% received Title 1 ELA and/or Math services. Thirty two percent of the class participated in an after-school Grade 5 Science Club from October through May. All students participated in the Boston Museum of Science's Engineering is Elementary units of study, the "Farmer in the School" program and were offered before and after school Student Assistance and Enrichment opportunities. WES remains a Level 1 School District and Grade 5 students outperformed the State in students scoring Advanced or Proficient in STE (WES: 68% , MA STATE: 54%)

- G. FY16 Budget Review

Ms. Venditti indicated that everything is encumbered. On page 2, Account #4067 has additional costs to come. On page 3, Jennifer Power's salary should be moved from SN (#4070) to regular (#4019). On page 5, Account #4047 is an error, should be Gift Account.

- H. FY 17 Budget Process Timeline

Superintendent Conrad acknowledged that this is a busy season for principals and appreciated their help in formulizing budgets early. They are looking for a 2.5% budget next year. Final budget documents for WES are due to CO by October 19th with the first of three School Committee Budget Review meetings scheduled for December 8th. He also announced a change in hiring substitute teachers in the coming year. Each substitute candidate will be interviewed by building principals before being placed on the Substitutes Online list. The Nauset district has also purchased 31 new school buses equipped with cameras. They are currently going through state inspections and will be operational within the next two weeks. The District will rotate the oldest buses out first when assigning the new buses.

- I. MASC Conference

Mort Inger made a motion that Jill Putnam be the WES delegate to attend the MASC Joint Conference on November 4th in Hyannis. Betsy Pontius seconded the motion and Jill was approved by the committee. The committee then went through the resolutions to be voted upon at the meeting with the following results:

Resolution 1 – YES

Resolution 2 – YES

Resolution 3 – YES

Resolution 4 – YES

Resolution 5 – YES

Resolution 6 – YES

Resolution 7 – NO (united in the NO vote, but for different reasons)

The group was instructed to review the Proposed Amendments to the MASC By-Laws on their own and email Jill Putnam with their thoughts and concerns.

- J. Substance Abuse Task Force

Superintendent Conrad announced that Dr. Caretti will chair the task force and asked the Committee to select a member to participate. Mort Inger made a motion to nominate Martha Gordon to be the WES representative. Jill Putnam seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

VI. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

- A. Cape Cod Collaborative – Jill Putnam reported that there are 23 workshops for specialists (OT, PT, Librarians, etc.) and 8 Early Childhood Workshops being offered. The costs for classes are very affordable ranging from \$11.00 - \$26.00 per class. Jim Brown, the CCC Business Manager is retiring and there is currently a Search Committee in place to find his replacement. There is an Open House planned for October 21st from 4:30-6:30 PM at the Osterville location. ASLP and Mass Maritime held a joint STEM/Humanities program with over 30 cadets helping with students. Forty students received financial aid to attend. The owners of Christmas Tree Shops donated \$10,000 towards the event.
- B. PTA – No formal report. There was not a quorum at the September 15th meeting. Principal Rodman said that the officers that did attend reported the PTA Roundtable on September 17th was attended by mostly teachers and staff and lasted about 30 minutes. The “Live WELLfleet” bumper stickers sales over the summer went well. The PTA is currently looking for volunteers to help at Oysterfest and in the hoop house as part of the Farmer in the School program.
- C. School Council – Principal Rodman reported that Laura Hansen will be the new secretary for the Council. Principal Rodman has also applied for a Wellfleet Cultural Council grant to purchase the books needed for the “One Book, One School” program. They are currently researching and reading books for consideration.
- D. Nauset Preschool Enrollment – discussed earlier in the meeting
- E. MASC Conference – discussed earlier in the meeting

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Martha Gordon, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2015 meeting.

VIII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann DeSandis