

## WELLFLEET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

**Present for the School Committee:** Jan Plaue, Betsy Pontius, Jill Putnam, Martha Gordon, Mort Inger  
**Present for the Administration:** Tom Conrad, Superintendent, Giovanna Venditti, Director of Finance and Operations and Mary Beth Rodman, Principal

**CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES** – Chair Plaue called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**CHAIR’S REPORT** – Chair Plaue reported that Harry Terkanian, Town Administrator, is holding off on Wellfleet Elementary School’s participation with the Energy Committee pending his discovery that the project may impact the tax exempt status for the loan. He noted that energy makes money and, therefore, that is contradictory to a non-profit. She stated the Town may decide to put the panels at one of the other sites and not the school for that reason.

The Chair also noted in the minutes of the last meeting discussion of enrollment and holding a Community Open House. She would like this placed on a future agenda.

**MEMBERS SPEAK** – Betsy Pontius reported that she attended a PTA meeting and the group would like an additional fundraiser through

AmeriGas brought before the School Committee prior to the December meeting. The Committee will meet prior to the Joint School Committee meeting to discuss and possibly vote approval of the fundraiser so that the PTA will benefit from all transactions that happened this year.

**CITIZENS SPEAK** – None.

### **PRIORITY BUSINESS**

#### **Administrators’ Reports**

##### **Principal Rodman’s Report:**

Principal Rodman reported that the director of the Montessori School, Beth Forester, met with her relative to providing shade to the playground by perhaps planting a tree. They also discussed putting woodchips on the playground. Principal Rodman indicated that this is a Nauset Integrated Preschool playground and the Montessori School should speak with them about the project. Ms. Nancy O’Connell, Preschool Teacher, indicated she supports the sailcloth for shade on the playground as proposed previously but does not support woodchips.

Principal Rodman reported that 8 of the 13 course offerings for the Enrichment Program have been filled. She also reported that Dr. Mack is the recipient of a \$400 book grant to order *Magic Tree House* books and *Fact Tracker* non-fiction books through the generous support of author

Mary Pope Osborne's Gift of Books and the Classroom Adventures program. She also reported that enrollment is 97 students.

Betsy Pontius mentioned that she was pleased with the backpack mail going home on Thursdays and the informative email that Principal Rodman sent to them. Mort Inger inquired if the book had been chosen yet for the community read. Martha Gordon reported that the Community Policing Group is working with the Police Department on a Substance Abuse Task Force in the Town of Wellfleet. They are going to put together a series of presentations similar to the workshop that the Joint School Committee held in July. She will keep the Committee posted. Jan Plaue indicated that there was a presentation on substance abuse coming up on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. and that Outer Cape Health, Gosnold and Barnstable County will be included in the presentation. Jan Plaue thanked Mr. Gauley for putting together the program for Union 54 on testing. Jan Plaue received a copy of the *Habits of Learning Standards* from Principal Rodman and indicated she would email it to the other members of the Committee.

**Assistant Superintendent's Report:**

Mr. Gauley's report is included in the packet. Betsy Pontius stated that Tracy Deegan, Nauset Math Coordinator for the elementary schools does a wonderful job. Betsy Pontius indicated that she collaborates with Tracy and noted that Tracy is in this position one day a week for Nauset while Betsy is doing the same work for DY full time. Superintendent Conrad indicated that Tracy Deegan is a trainer for all the elementary teachers. She trains them one day a week for a full day workshop. He is looking to have her train the Principals in EngageNY as well. Martha Gordon referred to a shared position and that she would talk with the Superintendent at a later time.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Conrad reported that he had a fantastic lunch on Wampanoag Day. He visited Preschool and had a wonderful experience. He also reported that he attended the MASC Conference and totally enjoyed the informative sessions that were offered. The Superintendent has been having community chats in the schools and noted that at two of the elementary schools teachers shared concerns about EngageNY. He also mentioned that the Transportation Subcommittee met and is looking at the ridership numbers. He also met with the Town Administrators and the Town Accounts to keep them informed of things happening in the district. He reported that the Nauset Educational Endowment which is 501.3c would like to fund educational needs that are beyond the budget. They would like to create k-5 mini-grants for teachers at all levels. He reported that the Administrative Team had a discussion about the school day, the school year and whether or not it is adequate or not adequate. He assured the Committee that anyone who is affected by change will be involved in the decision-making and every stakeholder will have a part in this if they decide to change the school day or year. The High School IB Program will be moving forward with an application, 8 teachers have been identified for teacher training and noted that Nauset is in the commitment phase.

### **FY16 Budget Review**

Ms. Venditti reviewed the FY16 expenditure report noting that additional days were needed by the nurse to get everything set up before school started in September and not enough was budgeted in that account. She indicated that the budget was in good shape with a balance of \$144,331.

### **FY 17 Budget**

Chair Plaue indicated that the Committee may be able to vote the budget in December. Principal Rodman reviewed the highlights of the FY17 budget with an increase of 2.27%. Wellfleet Elementary School anticipates between 6 and 9 students with severe special needs. The Special Needs student population is rising from 12% to 19% and meets the needs of the IEP's. FY16 Circuit Breaker funding pays for 1 Special Needs teacher and two additional Educational Assistants that could be paid by the tuition fee from Eastham. The Selectmen have chosen February 2<sup>nd</sup> for the School Committee to present their budget. Superintendent Conrad indicated that the Town Administrator was very happy with the pace of the budget process.

Chair Plaue asked that the Administration be prepared to explain Circuit Breaker Funding. Mort Inger was surprised to see the fuel oil increase and did not think it was appropriate with oil prices decreasing. A discussion ensued. Superintendent Conrad indicated that the committee can talk about utilities and that this is a first look at the budget. He wants to make sure that the budget is not cut to the bone in other areas. He thought the projected oil figure could decrease a little. He indicated that Administration will come back with a recommendation on fuel oil.

The Superintendent indicated that the Central Office budget is included in the budget book but has not been voted at this point. On November 18<sup>th</sup> the Central Office Budget Subcommittee will review it again.

Principal Rodman indicated that she will update the staffing page as it does not include the Special Needs Teacher. Principal Rodman reviewed the enrollment projections indicating they are expecting 17 students and 1 from Eastham. Principal Rodman indicated that they do not know the actual Kindergarten number yet.

## **REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

Cape Cod Collaborative – Jill Putnam reported that the Collaborative added more staff and there are two out of district placements from Carver. A Subcommittee on the facility has been appointed as the Otis Air Force Base has major problems in a big rain storm with the roof repairs are ongoing. They may be looking at another facility and Vocational Tech in Bourne has been embracing Cape Cod Collaborative

in building the facility there. She stated it could be a good partnership. The Collaborative is pursuing other partnerships. Camp Burgess was mentioned as well. The Early Childhood Grant has brought in a lot of good things. The Cape In-Service Day held 8 workshops in early childhood education. October 9<sup>th</sup>, 715 teachers took advantage of the workshops with 207 of them being in early childhood.

PTA – Betsy Pontius attended the last PTA meeting where they presented their budget. Over \$1,000 was raised at the Oyster Festival for Wellfleet Elementary School. They are working on projects from last year. They are not sure they can support the \$10,000 a year gift to the school. They discussed if it could be sustained. During that conversation the AmeriGas fundraiser was discussed. The PTA supports the Hoop House, Farmers in the School Program, and field trips. She noted there is a small group of parents but the work gets done and they use technology to reach out to other parents. She indicated that they really do a wonderful job for the students and families of Wellfleet.

School Council – Principal Rodman reported that Laura Hansen will be the new secretary for the School 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.

Martha Gordon reported that the School Council held a meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup> and they reviewed the new report card which will go to parents on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held about opening the afterschool enrichment programs to seniors. The School Theme this year is Fairy Tales. The Library is having an open House on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. The Holiday Concert is December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. or December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 p.m. December 17<sup>th</sup> is the Council on Aging Luncheon. The Annual Coat Swamp takes place through December 23<sup>rd</sup>. November 23<sup>rd</sup> the Cape Cod Jazz Band is coming to perform at 1:30 p.m. The school is having a one book one school reading activity to be announced.

Nauset Preschool Enrollment – no change.

MASC Conference – Jill Putnam indicated that everything that was discussed relative to the Resolution was voted, with the exception of Resolution #5, which lost, 60 against and 52 in favor. It lost because some very vocal people felt it was not the role of the School Committee and that donations could be impacted. She is very excited to be part of the Collaborative as this year early childhood education is finally being acknowledged. She was also very pleased to see so much about Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted to approve the minutes of October 13, 2015 as written.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Tefft

Included in the packet: Administrators' reports, new report card, expense report, preschool enrollment, and minutes. Budget books were distributed at the meeting.