

WELFLEET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 8, 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.

CITIZENS SPEAKS - none

CHAIR’S REPORT – Chair Plaue reported that there is a change in the date that Selectmen would like to meet. The new date is January 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Council on Aging.

MEMBERS SPEAK – Betsy Pontius let the Committee know that she will be taking a 12-week course and will miss three consecutive meetings. After discussion of different meeting dates, it was decided that Ms. Pontius will review the materials and email the Chair with her thoughts and/or concerns. She will attend the Policy Subcommittee meeting and give the Chair a recommendation on various policies from the subcommittee.

Ms. Putnam would like to know the per pupil costs for Truro and Provincetown.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Chair Plaue asked Principal Rodman for an updated personnel sheet for Wellfleet Elementary School.

Administrators’ Reports

Principal Rodman’s Report:

Principal Rodman reported that the High Schools’ Human Right’s Academy had to reschedule their program until January 25th at 12:45 p.m. She also indicated that the WES Library Open House was well attended with 333 families and 45 students.

Principal Rodman shared the spring PARCC results with the Committee. She also noted that Wellfleet is held harmless and WES remains a Level 1 school. She also indicated that teachers have been able to access some of the test.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report:

Mr. Gauley’s report is included in the packet. Questions were raised about the IB Program at the Middle School and the Superintendent indicated that this was tabled for now. He stated that in January there will be a big publicity show that the Region will move forward with the IB Program at the High School. The High School has identified eight teachers who are interested in the program.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Conrad congratulated Principal Rodman and the staff at WES for such great results and remaining a Level 1 school district. He also indicated that Nauset Regional High School is a Level 1 school. Two parent forums will be held after the holiday break relating to a number of issues including the shift into MCAS 2.0, EngageNY and report cards. He was hoping to see the Commissioner of Education regarding data reporting and the horrific submission in the fall.

FY16 Budget Review

Ms. Venditti reviewed the FY16 expenditure report with a balance of \$119,188.77. Variances were reviewed and it was noted that an inspection for asbestos is done every three years. If asbestos is found, it is abated.

PUBLIC HEARING -FY 17 Budget

Chair Plaue opened the Public Hearing on the FY17 Budget at 5:11 p.m. The Committee reviewed version 2 of the budget noting that fuel, #4060, has been level funded. Based on costs of the prior year, Electricity #4062, has been cut in half. It was also noted that a new vendor is being used for the Cloud back-up which gives a savings of \$2,019. Total savings is \$9,902. Principal Rodman increased #4084, Special Needs contracted services psychological by \$3,000. Overtime for custodians #4050 was level funded and \$1,500 was added back into that account. Other accounts that were adjusted were #4060, 4062, 4084 and 4050 which were decreased. These actions represent a 2.05% increase.

Mort Inger inquired about the 11% increase in transportation. Ms. Venditti indicated that the rate per mile has increased to \$7.97 per mile and in 2016-17 it will be \$8.25 per mile. Superintendent Conrad indicated that these are the contract numbers and that we only had a single bidder. The Transportation Subcommittee is working on this topic. Martha Gordon, a member of the Transportation Subcommittee indicated that the subcommittee is researching other alternatives, hiring our own drivers, looking at smaller buses and having our own buses. She also stated that there was discussion that the towns do the bus contract. The committee is looking a lot of things and researching ridership.

Motion:

On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously (5-0) to accept version 2 of the FY17 Budget in the amount of \$2,535,847, 2.05% increase.

Chair Plaue closed the Public Hearing at 5:27 p.m.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Cape Cod Collaborative – Jill Putnam reported that the Collaborative meeting was not held due to lack of a quorum.

PTA – Betsy Pontius shared with members the PTA Treasurer’s Report that included amounts of fundraising efforts - Live Wellfleet – over \$1,000, Oyster Fest - \$2,000. It was noted that the Bienvenue Family is to be applauded for their efforts at the Oyster Festival and the she will send a card on behalf of the committee to the family expressing their appreciation. Betsy Pontius indicated that the PTA will gift the amount of \$10,000 to the school.

School Council – no meeting

It was noted the Spaghetti Supper date is April 1st.

Nauset Preschool Enrollment – There has been no change in enrollment. Chair Plaue asked if the number is larger than in prior years and the Superintendent indicated he will check on that figure. The Superintendent let the Committee know that the Director of the Preschool, Joanna Stevens, will address the School Committee at the January meeting.

It was also noted that the AmeriGas fundraiser was voted at a special meeting on November 30th and minutes will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

Superintendent Conrad thanked the Committee for being flexible and accepting of the fast-pace of the budget.

Principal Rodman reviewed per pupil expenditures:

Provincetown - \$30,948	Martha’s Vineyard - \$26,084
Truro - \$23,436	Wellfleet - \$24,869
Nantucket - \$23,436	Orleans - \$23,147

It was noted that Orleans includes their health insurance in there per pupil cost. Chair Plaue stated that Wellfleet does a wonderful job for their students.

Substance Abuse Task Force

Martha Gordon reported on the Substance Abuse Task Force meeting. She spoke about the students in the Integrated Preschool Program in Brewster and their parents’ concerns. The Committee wanted to know what kind of services are available on the Outer Cape for them. She went onto say that these parents are stigmatized by the community and the schools. The subcommittee will continue to research what is working in other school systems and at all grade levels. The subcommittee meets monthly and this will be an ongoing process. She invited the

Committee to Cape Cod Community College on December 17th for a presentation on addiction and recovery.

Principal Rodman indicated that Wellfleet Elementary School uses the responsive classroom but the subcommittee will recommend that whatever program is used that all elementary schools be consistent throughout the system.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted to approve the minutes of November 10, 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 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Tefft

Included in the packet: Administrators' reports, Expense Report, Minutes and Preschool Enrollment