

WELLFLEET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Present for the School Committee: Jan Plaue, 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 thanked all the Committee Members for attending the Board of Selectmen’s meeting. She shared her concern about a member of her committee suggesting that she was trying to “influence the voting” at the Joint School Committee meeting. It was agreed that should not have been said and an explanation was given as to why it was stated.

MEMBERS SPEAK – Martha Gordon reported that over 50 people attended the program on Substance Abuse at the Preservation Hall. She expressed her disappointment that no one from the Nauset Substance Abuse Task Force was in attendance. She indicated that during that meeting, they learned of the loss of a 27 year old to an overdose. She indicated that there is a lot of support and a lot of momentum on this committee in Wellfleet. Chair Plaue was in attendance and stated Ms. Gordon did a great job.

Mort Inger and Ms. Putnam expressed concern after hearing that a member of the committee spent an hour and a half with Ms. Venditti and worried about the people taking up the Central Office staff’s valuable time. Ms. Venditti spoke to the concern, indicating that it was a special circumstance and that a new region member needed to be educated on various budget documents. The Superintendent stated that an unfortunate situation came up at the region level and that this was a unique situation. He thanked the Committee for their support.

CITIZENS SPEAKS – none

PRIORITY BUSINESS

A. Becky Rosenberg, Wellfleet Recreation Director, petitioned the Committee for painted lines for Pickle Ball in the gymnasium. Principal Rodman supported the request and explained the work involved in painting the lines and buffing the floor. Ms. Putnam was very excited that the program is so well attended and is excited that the kids will have exposure to a life-long learning sport.

Motion: On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously (4 yeas) to allow lines to be painted on the gym floor for Pickle Ball.

Administrators’ Reports

Principal Rodman’s Report:

Principal Rodman’s report was included in the packet. Highlights included: 100th day now on February 22nd

due to the snow day, graduate level courses are being offered in *Helping Traumatized Children Learn I and II* (7 members of the Wellfleet staff are participating in this course), and PARCC training is coming up for Test Administrators. She also mentioned that on February 10th at 12:45 p.m. the Cape Cod Orchestra would be performing at the school and the School Committee was invited to attend. Principal Rodman also indicated that attendance letters would be going out to parents for students with excessive tardiness or absences.

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Gauley's written report was included in the packet. Chair Plaue mentioned an article in the MASC newsletter indicating districts were losing Title I and remedial math funding. Superintendent Conrad advised the Committee that he just received information that they cannot take that much funding away in one year. He is looking at the budgets to see where we can supplement it and noted that quite a bit of this money is in the region budget.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Conrad thanked the Wellfleet School Committee for supporting the budget and attending the Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee meeting. He also thanked Dr. Caretti for bringing the Trauma courses to the District as they have met with a great deal of interest and participation. He also reported that parents attending Superintendent Community Chats have voiced an interest in extended time. He suggested the extended time may not be a core subject but it might be a little down time for staff and students between subjects, as he has witnessed the challenges of the pace of the day. Negotiations with the NEA will begin next year and he would like to have a conversation about extended time. Chair Plaue suggested having some specific idea from School Committee and Parents to see who is interested, so when negotiations take place, it is real and not hypothetical. The Superintendent indicated he would like input from parents, teachers, school committee members and students.

An article printed in the Cape Cod Times regarding Cape Teachers left Wellfleet Teachers out of the article. The School Committee will send a correction to the Times.

FY16 Budget Review

Ms. Venditti reviewed the FY16 expenditure report with a balance of \$104,139.76. She reported that there was very slight movement in many lines but indicated the budget was tracking well.

Community Week

Principal Rodman distributed a calendar for the proposed Community Friends Week, April 11-15. Members commented positively on the variety of classes included in the schedule. Ms. Rodman explained the process for reserving a space in one of the classes and will try to limit it to 3-5 people in a block. Student volunteers will take community members to the classrooms. Ms. DeSandis will work the schedule. It was suggested the Selectmen and Finance Committee members receive a special invitation. Principal Rodman also mentioned that the entire staff is on board with the event and they are very happy to open up their

classrooms to the community. The Superintendent indicated he is going to spread the word to other School Committees about this wonderful event for the community in Wellfleet in hopes they will mimic this effort.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Policy - No report

Cape Cod Collaborative - Jill Putnam reported that work continues on the Director's evaluation. The Committee voted on housekeeping items. She reported that the Collaborative has acquired 2 modular units and one is being refurbished to use for extra office space, meeting rooms and storage space. She also reported that the search for the new business manager is going quite well. Way Point, the alternative high school program, is starting a Farmers' Market which is a great collaboration between farmers and the school. She also indicated that 70% of the students receive free and/or reduced lunch and 60% of the Star program students receive free and/or reduced lunch. The Early Learning Network applied for additional grants and support. Discussion was held on additional Cape In-Service trainings. Transportation was also discussed and the Collaborative indicated that they provide transportation for Mashpee regular day and special needs students. They also provide transportation for Nantucket as well.

PTA – Principal Rodman spoke about the Spaghetti Supper and reported that the PTA is gearing up for WES Fest.

School Council – No quorum was present. Principal Rodman indicated they brainstormed ideas for kids relative to One Book, One School.

Transportation Subcommittee – Martha Gordon reported that the subcommittee met with the representatives from the Cape Cod Collaborative who are estimating what it would cost for the district to have them provide transportation. They are looking at reconfiguring the routes and using 41 passenger buses as well as smaller buses. They will meet with the Collaborative again in April.

Substance Abuse Task Force – Martha Gordon reported that they are researching what other school districts are doing in terms of curriculum at all grade levels, K-12. They are discussing what could be done this year, in one year, and in five years, as well as, researching what to do about prevention; parenting groups, groups for families, and support groups. The subcommittee is partnering with Gosnold for more education for people in the community as well as for kids. They are exploring the idea of peer to peer counseling. The subcommittee is moving slowly and very carefully, as they want this initiative to be well-thought out.

Chair Plaué suggested allowing Gosnold to use the elementary school after hours for counseling so that families would not have to go to Hyannis for treatment. Martha Gordon indicated that they were looking at the former Council on Aging building for that purpose.

Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon it was voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the minutes of the January 12th as corrected.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. Tefft

Included in packet: Administrative Reports, Expense Report, and minutes. Handed out at the meeting: Principal Rodmans draft schedule for Community Day.