

WELLFLEET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Present for the School Committee: Jan Plaue, Jill Putnam, Martha Gordon, Mort Inger

Present for the Administration: Thomas Conrad, Superintendent, Keith Gauley, Assistant 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 suggested waiting on the discussion relative to visioning until Betsy Pontius was back in May. She also thanked the Committee for their attendance at the Joint School Committee meeting.

MEMBERS SPEAK – Martha Gordon read a letter from a volunteer at Wellfleet Elementary School who helps with reading groups and works with students in the knitting group. She enjoys her time spent at the school as the kids are wonderful and so respectful.

Chair Plaue read a letter from Betsy Pontius indicating she will be at the May meeting.

CITIZENS SPEAKS – none

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Administrators’ Reports

Principal Rodman’s Report

Principal Rodman’s report was included in the packet. She highlighted the following: Farmer in the School Program and ASEP course offerings begin May 5th – June 1. Building maintenance is being reviewed as well as the Capital Plan. This summer, hopefully, ten classroom carpets will be replaced. The Pickle Board Court lines will be painted after August 13th and the gym floor will be refinished. Ms. Rodman reported that a Kindergarten Orientation evening was held and about 30 people attended. Wellfleet is anticipating a new second grade student which will bring the class number to nine. She also reported that the Health and Wellness Fair coordinated by Nurse Claudia Crosen was very successful with over 25 vendors participating.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report:

Mr. Gauley’s report was included in the packet. He also reported that the District is in the process of forming a Curriculum and Assessment Committee. He noted that this will be very helpful when students are transitioning throughout the District. He also reported that math surveys are being completed as well as report card updates for parents. The narrative comments have been added to the report card in Grades K-2. Kindergarten Grant funding is included in the state budget but was not included in the budget process.

Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent thanked the Wellfleet School Committee and Principal Rodman for holding the community event highlighting WES in their daily learning schedule. He would like to build on this model for the future and for schools in the District. He informed the Committee that some parents are having their students opt out of state testing and Mr. Gauley created a letter to parents so that they know the ramifications of opting out. Students who opt out of testing will attend school but be placed in a separate place during testing. A Wellfleet parent, who opted out, reconsidered after receiving the letter and left it up to the student whether or not to participate in the testing. Mr. Gauley indicated that there is no opt out provision at the state level and that if a student refuses the test, the school could drop in participation and then become a Level 2 or Level 3 school. Principal Rodman indicated they are not teaching to the test but are teaching the standards.

FY16 Budget Review

Giovanna Venditti, Director of Operations and Finance, reviewed the expenditure report noting a balance of \$98,115. She also indicated that next month a spend-down plan will be presented to the Committee.

Community Week Update

Principal Rodman reported that several community members took advantage of the invitation and visited classes. Attendees were very complimentary of the students and amazed at the high level teaching and learning taking place in the classrooms.

Superintendent's Evaluation

Superintendent Conrad reviewed the timeline and specific dates for submission of his evaluation. He will be sending evidence to Committee Members and encouraged them to talk with parents, staff, and community members regarding his evaluation. He reviewed the forms, the standards, and the goals. Union 54 will meet on May 9th to submit their evaluations to the Chair, Ann Crozier. She will compile them and meet with the Superintendent and the Chair of the Region, John O'Reilly.

Superintendent's Entry Plan

The Superintendent reviewed his Entry Plan with the Committee. Enrollment and budgets were key topics as evidence was gathered. He reviewed the Strategic Objectives and asked that the Committee prioritize a couple of areas they would like to develop.

Strategic Objectives include:

1. Examine the effectiveness and success of the assistance provided to students who have fallen behind, missed school work or need re-teaching of learning material.
2. Research the purpose of homework in the learning process.
3. Examine and develop a thematic global education program.
4. Examine the current length of the school day and school year.
5. Examine the role and purpose electives (specials) represent in a student academic program.

6. Examine the involvement and knowledge community members have regarding their schools.

He indicated that the Administrative Team reviewed the Strategic Objectives and indicated their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice. Their first choice was #1 (10), second choice #2 (7), third choice #3 (7), fourth choice #4 (6), fifth choice #5 (3), and #6 (3).

Principal Rodman indicated her choices are #2, #3 and #5. She feels Wellfleet is doing #2 quite well.

The Superintendent indicated that the Committee must focus on what has the biggest impact on student learning. He also stated that Town Officials are concerned about declining enrollments and rising budgets. Discussion ensued about the population at WES, Grade 6 and the SN program.

Town Meeting Preparation

The Superintendent confirmed that members would be at the Town Meeting and that Principal Rodman will speak to the article if necessary.

Visioning Event

The Committee reviewed materials from the Visioning Event held several years ago. Chair Plaue suggested the Committee focus on what is most important for WES and what the Committee would like to see in the future. She suggested, at the May meeting, Committee members have a list of three or four focus areas that are most important for WES.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Cape Cod Collaborative - Jill Putnam reported that they continue to work on the Director's Evaluation. The Articles of Agreement have been signed and submitted. Way Point is looking at a site change at Upper Cape Tech. She also reported that the Leadership Program has good numbers with a waiting list. The Business Manager's position has been narrowed down to three candidates. Cape Cod Collaborative is switching to a new auditor with more governmental experience.

PTA – Principal Rodman reported that the Spaghetti Supper profits totaled around \$5,000. The last PTA meeting did not have a quorum. They reviewed WES Fest.

School Council – Principal Rodman indicated the School Council report was included in her Principal's report.

Transportation Subcommittee – Martha Gordon reported that they are hoping to have firm figures from the Collaborative in May. Ms. Venditti indicated that they are looking at the enrollment, routes and will have a recommendation. They are also looking at 71 passenger, 45 passenger and small buses. The Collaborative indicated that Nauset should see a substantial savings.

Substance Abuse Task Force – Martha Gordon reported that the Superintendent created a charge for the Substance Abuse Task Force. The Subcommittee put together an action plan for next year, the year after and five years from now. There are three goals in each year. They are trying to collaborate with other groups in the Nauset community. They are also trying to get a place where families and kids who are at risk can get services. She mentioned the numerous grant opportunities available and indicated that Mary Ellen Reed, Nurse Coordinator for Nauset, applied and received a grant for initiating screening. In the first year, seventh grade students will be screened as well as students who might be at risk and then tenth grade students in the next year. Martha Gordon stated the Task Force is very committed and wants to keep working on this. She mentioned there is a program going on at the High School called “Open Doorway.” She also informed the Committee of the upcoming films on addiction to be held at the Wellfleet Library.

Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the minutes as amended, for March 8, 2016.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. Tefft

Included in packet: Administrative Reports, Expense Report, Supt. Evaluation documents, Supt. Entry Plan, Visioning Documents and minutes.