

WELLFLEET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 2106

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

Present for the Administration: Thomas Conrad, Superintendent, Keith Gauley, Asst. Superintendent, Giovanna Venditti, Director of Finance and Operations, Barbara Lavoine, Director of Technology and Mary Beth Rodman, Principal

REORGANIZATION: Superintendent Conrad called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and requested nominations for Chair of the Wellfleet School Committee. On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to appoint Jan Plaue as Chair of the Wellfleet School Committee.

Chair Plaue requested nominations for Vice Chair. On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted unanimously to appoint Betsy Pontius as Vice Chair of the Wellfleet School Committee.

Ann Tefft was appointed secretary for the Wellfleet School Committee.

Subcommittee appointments were as follows:

Policy Subcommittee – Betsy Pontius

Central Office Budget Subcommittee – Jan Plaue

Negotiations Subcommittee – Mort Inger

Transportation Subcommittee – Martha Gordon

Health and Wellness Subcommittee – Martha Gordon

Renewable Energy Subcommittee – Mort Inger

Substance Abuse Task Force – Martha Gordon

Cape Cod Collaborative Representative – Jill Putnam

PTA Representative – Betsy Pontius

Union 54 Voting Members: Jan Plaue, Mort Inger, and Jill Putnam

Alternates: Martha Gordon and Betsy Pontius

AGENDA CHANGE – Remove from agenda, Town Meeting Review

CHAIR'S REPORT – Chair Plaue distributed the MIAA (athletics) annual report.

Superintendent Conrad indicated that MIAA is a State Association for High School Principals. They also offer some professional development opportunities.

MASC Conference – Jill Putnam and Chair Plaue will attend the MASC Conference in Hyannis which takes place November 2nd through November 5th.

CITIZENS SPEAKS – none

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Technology Blueprint

Keith Gauley and Barbara Lavoine reviewed the K-5 Technology Blueprint for the Committee. Benchmark goals, achievement indicators and the action plan were reviewed. Benchmarks included a Clear Vision and Implementation Strategy, Technology integration and literacy, Professional Development, and Accessibility of Technology. The Nauset Summer Professional Development listing was distributed to members. It was noted that Wellfleet will meet

two significant benchmarks as all teaching staff have iPads. Wellfleet has met their maximum ratio of students and iPads. (K& Gr. 1 = 1-3 ratios, Grs. 2-3 – 1-2 ratio and Grs. 4-5 1-1 devices) Ms. Lavoine indicated that Wellfleet is also part of Open Cape and that internet access in the building is robust. Martha Gordon asked about student accessibility and Ms. Lavoine indicated that any student needs should be forwarded to her or to Dr. Caretti's office. Ms. Lavoine wants to make sure that all students have access to the equipment they need.

Superintendent Conrad indicated that when he first became Superintendent, everything was ongoing. Some big initiatives have taken place and he thanked Ms. Lavoine and Mr. Gauley for all their efforts. He suggested giving this information to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in the fall and the spring. Principal Rodman also indicated that they receive refurbished equipment from the Masonic Angels and distribute them to students who need equipment. Ms. Gordon suggested a presentation relative to technology for taxpayers.

Chair Plaue inquired if the District had something to help parents use the technology.

Administrators' Reports

Principal Rodman's Report

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She indicated that two Namequoit sailing scholarships were offered to students and CPR training and restraint training is being well-attended by eight staff members. Enrollment is presently at 100 students. Chair Plaue inquired about Music Memory field trip and the time and distance it took to go to Falmouth. Principal Rodman agreed and indicated that it was unusual not to have this in Barnstable.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Gauley's report was included in the packet. He highlighted the fact that Meghan Swanson from Wellfleet is a representative on the Curriculum Assessment Committee. He also reported that the District is working with Monomoy to form a Consortium in order to apply for possible Title III funding. Monomoy has 75 students and Nauset has 30-35 students.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Conrad reported on his trip to the Amigos School in Cambridge to see their Spanish Immersion Program. He traveled with Joanne Irish, Eastham School Committee member and Ann Leighton, Spanish Teacher at NRMS. Parents enter into a lottery for their child to get a seat in the school. The Principal was outstanding and could be a resource for Nauset. She shared that you could start with just one class in a building and do not have to have an entire immersion school. The Amigos Immersion Program goes both ways from English to Spanish and Spanish to English. The students have a half day with their language. They score 90% in State testing and take the regular MCAS test. They would like to test their kids in the state standards for languages. Their goal is to have students bilingual. He will sit down with the Team and sort out the Pros and Cons of the visit. For him it was more attractive than Millis as high school students can pick up a third language if they wish. Amigos students take Spanish IV as freshmen, AP Literature and Grammar and then can take another language. The Principal indicated she could come to a Union 54 meeting and speak to the program.

The Superintendent asked the Committee if they would think about moving to iPads at their meeting instead of paper agendas. Brewster is already doing this and Eastham has agreed to do it beginning in August. iPads are available at the Central Office for School Committee members to use at meetings. If you would like to think about it, then perhaps a training could be scheduled with Barbara Lavoine.

He also reported that he shared a letter from the MSBA to the Brewster School Committee regarding the use of the Eddy School. They have indicated that now that the mortgage is paid off, the Town could use the school as something other than a school. He stated that it is the School Committee's role to focus on the educational benefits for our students. All stakeholders will be involved in any discussion regarding merging the two schools, if the Town heads in that direction.

The Town of Eastham is dealing with the wells. Their most productive well is on the High School property. The Town is hoping to have water go to some areas by October. The High School has given rights to the Town to take water off the premises as well as produce water for the High School. The Town will also maintain the system.

He reported that the Senate is anxious to relax the responsibility on school districts relative to DDM's. It is now in negotiations. Teachers are making lots of phone call to their representatives. The Superintendent's Association is trying to get some common language. As far as Chapter 70 funding, the numbers are up slightly across the board.

FY16 Budget Review

Giovanna Venditti, Director of Operations and Finance, reviewed the expenditure report noting a balance of \$87,343.59. She reviewed the variances and un-encumbrances in various accounts.

The End-of-Year Spending Plan was reviewed by the Committee. Principal Rodman indicated that she could not prepay quite a few items for the special needs student. Dr. Ann Caretti and Principal Rodman visited the school and obtained good information relative to the student's needs. Dr. Caretti spoke with Eastham Elementary School and got information from Dennis Yarmouth and the Cape Cod Collaborative. The parents indicated they may live in Wellfleet for a year and then relocate to Eastham. They determined that Eastham was the best placement for the child. The cost to educate the student at Eastham Elementary School is \$54,728.68. The Eastham staff and Principal Crosby will attend a meeting with the parents. The end-of-year spending plan includes tuition and transportation for the summer for this student. Principal Rodman is researching if Wellfleet can hire a person to work at Eastham Elementary School.

Principal Rodman reported on a leak in the wall of the student bathrooms. The pipe replacement will not be covered by insurance and will cost \$7,700; mold will cost \$3,000 to remediate, totaling \$10,700. She noted that the SN transportation for the new student is not covered in the FY17 budget. She would like to prepay transportation and next year use the transportation to cover tuition. It was noted if the student was to go to the Cape Cod Collaborative the cost would be in the mid to upper 90's.

On a motion by Martha Gordon, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to approve the Amended 2016 End-Of-Year Spending Plan.

Superintendent Conrad reported that the Committees' choices for strategic planning were in line with the Nauset Administrative Team. The first choice was regarding homework and the second choice was the effectiveness of academic assistance for students who have fallen behind. The Superintendent will look at an action plan for those two topics.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Cape Cod Collaborative - Jill Putnam reported that Michele Griffin from the Department of Education attended the meeting. The Executive Director's evaluation was reviewed. The Collaborative hired a new business manager, who

accepted the position, and then declined the job. He was not ready to leave Sturgis and this left the Collaborative in a tough place. The current Business Manager will stay on until a new person is hired. They had three candidates that they were interested in with varying experience and backgrounds. Invoices, Personnel and other changes were reviewed by the Board. The Articles of Agreement are in place and there is an important piece stating, if you miss two meetings, your vote is suspended. It was mentioned that the Collaborative provides transportation for Nantucket, Mashpee and Truro. Ms. Putnam also indicated that the Board is looking at the handbooks, employee manuals, and transportation procedures. She also reported that Paul Hilton visited China during April vacation hoping to establish an international collaboration. A number of Cape schools are interested in hosting teachers and students.

PTA – Principal Rodman indicated that the PTA has a new board. Charity Robison is President, Sara Smith is Vice President, Angel Rosen is Secretary and Rich is still the Treasurer. The WES Fest raised \$6,685.

School Council – Principal Rodman indicated that the Council met on May 24th and they are updating the handbook and the School Improvement Plan.

Transportation Subcommittee – Ms. Gordon reported that the subcommittee is moving forward with exploring the use of the Cape Cod Collaborative for bus transportation. The Collaborative is doing everything they can to assist the district by working on routes and ridership. The Cape Cod Collaborative would buy different size buses for Nauset. Ms. Gordon stated that Nauset is presently at the end of the first year of their contract with First Student. The Subcommittee will work more on this in the fall.

Substance Abuse Task Force – Superintendent Conrad indicated that the Task Force finished their work but the group wanted to stay together to continue to work on this issue. Ms. Gordon indicated that they want to collaborate with other groups doing the same kinds of things, as well as with town officials and organizations. The Superintendent reported that he was on a panel and they viewed, “Heroin Cape Cod.” Ms. Gordon noted that Gosnold does not have anyone working at the Cape Cod Hospital at this time.

Summer Union 54 Meeting

Chair Plaue indicated that Gail Briere is working on scheduling a Union 54 meeting. She asked the Committee what topic they felt was important for Wellfleet to discuss at the Union 54 meeting. She asked if the Committee felt WES was good the way it is or should they build on what they have? Chair Plaue asked the Committee to think about funding a public preschool. Ms. Putnam felt early childhood education was important but noted there are accredited preschools already in place and parents are able to choose where to send their child with the voucher system. She reiterated that everyone is in agreement that early childhood education is important. Chair Plaue stated that transportation could be an issue for some parents and having it at a public school would eliminate that problem. She would like preschool to be required. Ms. Pontius indicated that it cannot be mandated. Principal Rodman indicated the law states that children have to be in school by five years old. Ms. Pontius understood what Chair Plaue was saying, that if preschool was at WES and accessible by bus, more students would come. She could also see Ms. Putnam’s view point that there are many opportunities and choices for children enrolled in other preschools. Wellfleet would have to decide if they want preschool in their school or as a community resource.

Ms. Pontius stated she was uncomfortable brainstorming for the school. The Superintendent came up with some strategic ideas and received input from Principal Rodman. She would like to see those ideas on the table.

Ms. Pontius also indicated that she was not comfortable at the Joint School Committee meeting. She would like a conversation to take place about what it means to sit around the table and listen to other people's thoughts and ideas. Ms. Gordon and Mr. Inger agreed that members do not show respect for one another's ideas. Members felt the setting of the meeting was terrible and there is no real conversation. A circle formation may be better for hearing and conversation. Mr. Inger thought that people who sit closest to the Chair are involved in the discussion, otherwise you are not. The Committee would like to let the Chair of Union 54 know they would like to talk about decorum and how to treat one another and collaborate at group meetings. Chair Plaue also expressed her frustration with the hard work of the Subcommittees and disagreements with the Subcommittees when reporting out at the Joint meeting. Ms. Pontius agreed and used the Policy Subcommittee for example. Committees have two meetings to review the policies and should do it at their individual school committee meetings. Protocol should be followed. Ms. Pontius suggested team-building exercises. Chair Plaue suggested that it is good to attend the Union 54 meetings to see what other school committees are thinking about.

Superintendent Conrad indicated that the Region is going to have a self-evaluation by an outside person in August. He also indicated that Union 54 talked about having a July meeting. Chair Plaue indicated that Wellfleet's next regular meeting is August 9th.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Betsy Pontius, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted 4 yeas and 1 abstention (Martha Gordon) to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2016 meeting.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously (4-0) of April 12, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. Tefft

Included in packet: Administrative Reports, Expense Report, and Strategic Objectives, Cost to Educate Incoming SN Student at Eastham Elementary School, End of Year Spending Plan, Technology Blueprint, PreK enrollment and minutes.