

Joint School Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 26, 2017
Nauset Regional Middle School, Cafeteria

Present for the Committees:

Region: John O'Reilly, Ed Brookshire, Ed Lewis, Jim O'Leary, Chris Easely, Tracey Vanderschmidt, Deborah Beal, Robert Sinclair and Chris Galazzi (absent: Sara Blackwell)

Brewster: Claire Gradone, Dave Telman, Marie Enochty, Jessica Larsen

Eastham: Joanne Irish, Judy Lindahl, Moira Noonan-Kerry

Orleans: Gail Briere, Josh Stewart (7:17 p.m.), Ginger Marks (absent: Hank Schumacher and David Abel)

Wellfleet: Jill Putnam, Mort Inger, Betsy Pontius, Jan Plaue, Martha Gordon

Present for the Administration:

Thomas Conrad, Superintendent, Giovanna Venditti, Director of Finance and Operations and Dr. Ann Caretti

Call to Order

Chair John O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Citizens Speak – None

Mid-Cycle Superintendent's Evaluation

Superintendent Conrad gave a presentation to members regarding his goals, action steps he has taken toward achieving his goals, and evidence he has collected to support his research.

Goal: Examine the effectiveness and success of the academic assistance provided to students who have fallen behind, missed school work or needed re-teaching of learning materials. The Superintendent reviewed his action steps and evidence to support his goal. He is analyzing support staff and how they are used, is interested in knowing how NTSS is used, and wonders if there is flex time opportunity within the contract to create additional homework support after school.

Goal: Research and develop thematic programs starting in Kindergarten. Focus will be on Bilingual Education, STEM/STEAM, Applied Fine Arts, and International Baccalaureate Program. The Superintendent reviewed his action steps and evidence to support his goal. The Superintendent has completed visits to bilingual elementary schools, has a core group developing a STEAM program for the elementary schools and is working on a visual and performing arts school. He is researching elementary IB schools. He has asked the Principals to identify what they would be interested in as instructional leaders in their building.

Goal: To develop a plan to enhance communication with parents, staff and students. The Superintendent reviewed his action steps and evidence to support his goal. The Superintendent has completed his parent/community forums in each town and hopes to hold another before the year is over. He is talking with people in the technology field about examining search words on approaches to explore problem-postings on various sites. He continues to tape his "Superintendent's Spotlight" television show.

Standard 1: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment –

“Promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff by cultivating a shared vision that makes effective teaching and learning the central focus of schooling.”

The Superintendent has visited several classrooms conversing with teachers and administrators. His monthly Superintendent Chats enable him to get to know the staff and have meaningful discussion about programming and assessments. He has a 6-7 year history of working on the IB program, is researching the impact the program will have on the AP program, is working on technology integration for all our teachers, and has reviewed the MCAS results at all schools and understands what the information indicates about how Nauset can improve learning for students. He mentioned a Marine Science School at the High School and how it would tie in with a STEAM Program throughout the entire district.

Standard 2: Management and Operations –

“Promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff by ensuring a safe, efficient, and effective learning environment, using resources to implement appropriate curriculum, staffing, and scheduling.”

The Superintendent indicated he is guiding five negotiations deliberations that started at the same time which is challenging. He figures his school board work is about 40% of his time as he spends a good deal of time with the school committees. He suggested that members have the opportunity to collect evidence and make observations. He is working on several budgets, meeting with Principals and town officials. He attended numerous planning meetings on the water systems at Nauset Regional High School and was happy to announce that the High School is hooked into the new water system, at no cost to the district. He reported on the tour of the High School with state officials from the Massachusetts School Building Authority and is awaiting a February announcement from them as to whether Nauset will be included in their program. He indicated that 89 districts applied and 15 will be chosen to receive funding. He indicated that he keeps abreast of the changing laws and procedures in municipal funding. He also took part in an active shooter exercise with Police, FBI, and various other law enforcement agencies.

Standard 3: Family and Community Engagement

“Promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff through effective partnerships with families, community organizations, and other stakeholders that support the mission of the school district.”

The Superintendent reported that at Parent Forums there was good discussion and talking points. He plans on holding another forum in the spring. He visits schools each day to keep balanced and witness students who are engaged and learning. He attended numerous school events that support programs which enabled him to see and talk with many parents. He reported that “Community Week” was a great experience for the community and he will continue to invite citizens into the schools.

Standard 4: Professional Culture Standard

“Promotes success for all students by nurturing and sustaining a district culture of professional practice, high expectations, and continuous learning for staff.” The Superintendent reported that Administrators are visiting schools off-Cape, report back on their impressions and what they think might help student learning. He continually meets with Principals to discuss how to improve student learning. He will be attending the American Association of School Administrators National Conference. He attended the Massachusetts

Association of School Committees conference in Hyannis. He reported that he is researching a Spanish Immersion Program and is intrigued by having a bilingual program going both ways.

The Superintendent commented that he is working very hard and thanked the school committee for their support. He also stated he could not do all of this without the assistance of the building principals. He continues to ask the Principals to work with him and seeks out a variety of approaches. He is focused on improving student learning.

School Committee members expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the work the Superintendent is doing.

2017-2018 School Calendar

Assistant Superintendent Keith Gauley provided a summary of the school calendar survey to the committee. He indicated major changes would not happen until after next year and after there is discussion with all stakeholders. He reviewed the calendar month-by-month with the committee highlighting the changes, noting early dismissal days and staff development days.

Gail Briere inquired as to how the District would balance the needs of the school system and childcare. She also inquired who would be providing the childcare at the elementary level. Mr. Gauley indicated that childcare will be provided; free of charge to parents on November 9th as it is a Report Card Prep Day for elementary teachers. He indicated Educational Assistants who chose to sign up will help with the childcare. He indicated it will be handled within the school at no cost.

WELLFLEET

Motion:

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar as presented.

EASTHAM

Motion:

On a motion by Joanne Irish, seconded by Moira Noonan-Kerry, it was voted unanimously to approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar as presented.

ORLEANS

Motion:

On a motion by Gail Briere, seconded by Ginger Marks, it was voted unanimously to approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar as presented.

REGON

Motion:

On a motion by Chris Galazzi, seconded by Ed Lewis, it was voted unanimously to approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar as presented.

BREWSTER

Motion:

On a motion by David Telman, seconded by Marie Enotchy, it was voted unanimously to approve the 2017-2018 as presented.

Mr. Gauley indicated he will follow up with wider discussion 5-9 months from now. He will create draft calendars to show major changes. Mr. Lewis asked that research be included as to what other districts, states and even internationally, what a school year looks like for students.

Chair O'Reilly indicated that the calendar survey was not on the calendar and could not be discussed at the meeting. He looks forward to more input from Mr. Gauley and delving into the surveys in the future.

Jan Plaué thanked Mr. Gauley for the excellent survey.

Priority Business

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Ed Lewis, seconded by Judy Lindahl, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 7, 2017.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Marie Enotchy, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann M. Tefft

Included in the packet: Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation Presentation, 2017-2018 School Calendar and School Calendar Survey.