

WELLFLEET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Present for the School Committee: Betsy Pontius Jill Putnam, Martha Gordon, Mort Inger
Present for the Administration: Thomas Conrad, Superintendent, Giovanna Venditti, Director of Finance and Operations, Keith Gauley, Assistant Superintendent, and Mary Beth Rodman, Principal

CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES – Vice Chair Betsy Pontius called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

CHAIR’S REPORT – None

The Superintendent indicated that he met with Chair Jan Plaué and she asked him to inform members that she attend two or three board meetings surrounding the issue of painting the water tower. She was convinced there were no issues with the painting project. Vice Chair Pontius thanked Principal Rodman for keeping the Committee informed about the project via email.

MEMBERS SPEAK – None

CITIZENS SPEAKS – None

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Fundraising Activities

Principal Rodman’s reviewed the PTA Proposed Fundraisers for 2016-2017 with the Committee. The Amazon fundraiser was eliminated from the list. She also explained the T-shirt fundraiser that is partnering with Artichoke, a local merchant, for the design for the first year. The following year a student design will be printed on the T-Shirts. The Amerigas fundraiser was also explained.

Motion:

On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted unanimously (4-0) to approve with gratitude, the fundraising activities from the PTA.

Administrators’ Reports

Principal Rodman’s Report

Principal Rodman’s report was included in the packet. Highlights included a review of staffing updates, interviews scheduled, and the security drill.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report:

MCAS/PARCC results.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Conrad informed the committee that he is working to understand what is happening with DDM's, District Determined Measures. The Superintendents were assured that there is a good chance they will go away. This is as a result of work from all the teachers' associations. They may revert to teachers using data that they use to measure progress for kids. He is waiting for official word from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

He attended Wellfleet's Open House which was excellent and very well attended. He was pleased to see families and staff. He thanked Principal Rodman and the staff for a great event.

He also reported that he and his team will make their final visit to a dual-immersion school in Framingham. (Barbieri School) He will keep the committee posted on findings.

The Superintendent reported that the High School submitted a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for building renovations. The High School has been contacted and MSBA personnel will visit the High School November 3rd. He also indicated that he is not sure that Nauset will be accepted but is hopeful. This could be a \$55-70 million dollar project. He will keep the committee posted.

PARCC/MCAS Results

Principal Rodman was pleased to announce that Wellfleet remains a Level 1 school. She reviewed her PowerPoint presentation slides with the Committee. She highlighted the accomplishments of WES that included: WES remains a Level I highest performing school and district; WES met target for all students in progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps; WES received extra credit points in ELA for decreasing Warning/Failing by 10% or more; WES received Extra Credit points in ELA and Math for increasing Advanced by 10% or more; All grade levels showed improvement in PARCC scores and met expectations; and Some students exceeded expectations in ELA and Math. She also reviewed the PARCC School Summary and MCAS Grade 5 Science Technology/Engineering scores. Principal Rodman indicated that the District has established a Curriculum & Assessment Committee and will look at the Impact of Trauma on Student Learning to name a few of the steps WES is taking to improve student achievement.

Assistant Superintendent, Keith Gauley, explained terminology used like; CPI (Composite Performance Index), the PPI (Progress Performance Index) and the Annual PPI.

School Committee members expressed how fantastic the scores are and how proud they are of the staff and students at WES.

October 1 Enrollment

Superintendent Conrad announced that the official October 1 enrollment for WES is 101 students. This is the figure that will be used in future reports.

FY17 Budget

Giovanna Venditti reviewed the FY17 monthly expenditure report with the Committee indicating there is a negative balance at this time of -\$51,303.40. She reported the multiple variances that have resulted in the deficit. She also reported the initial Circuit Breaker report from the state indicates that WES will receive \$10,854 which will be short \$16,000. The bottom line will ultimately have a positive balance of \$37,761. Ms. Venditti indicated the reason for the shortfall is the extraordinary expenses in maintenance to the facility, mold remediation, plumbing and reconstruction costs to the Boys' and Girls' bathrooms.

The Superintendent indicated that the budget is tight and the maintenance was an unforeseen expense. Administration will continue to monitor it closely.

Policy Update

Policy JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students, was presented for a second reading. Martha Gordon asked for clarification on the wording, when administering Narcan, where it says “trained medical personnel” is this referring to the nurses or emergency medical personnel. The Superintendent indicated that it will be school nurses and training of staff as well.

Motion:

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously (4-0), to approve Policy JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students, for a second reading.

MASC Resolutions

Jill Putnam asked for feedback from committee members so she can represent them when she votes the resolutions as their delegate.

1. Foundation Budget – The Superintendent indicated that this issue has been talked about and his Association feels districts should get more money. He would like to see this resolution move forward favorably. The consensus of the committee was to vote in favor of Resolution 1.
2. Resolution 2 – Tax Reform Ballot Question – Jill Putnam indicated that some delegates felt this was not the responsibility of the School Committee. Martha Gordon stated that it is the responsibility of the school committee and everyone's responsibility to try to have fair taxation. Mort felt this was vaguely written and not specific. The Superintendent indicated that the whole taxation system needs an overhaul as schools are asked to do many things that we did not do many years ago, like social emotional pieces.
3. Resolution 3 – Charter School Reform – Mort Inger indicated he was in favor of this resolution. Betsy Pontius indicated that she liked the wording in the resolution that spoke to equity and accurate reporting.
4. Resolution 4 – Social and Emotional Well-Being of Students – The Committee unanimously endorsed this resolution.

Vice Chair Betsy Pontius thanked Jill Putnam for taking on the responsibility of being the delegate for the Wellfleet SC.

Preschool Program

Superintendent Conrad reported that he had numerous meetings and conversations with Dr. Caretti and Principal Rodman looking at the community partners' piece for Nauset Integrated Preschool. They are looking at the Children's Place and the Montessori School students attending in the afternoon. Transportation is a big issue and they are working with the Collaborative on this. There could be one student coming and perhaps two more that will join the program at some level. Nancy O'Connell is working with Beth Foerester from the Montessori School relative to a plan for students to come into the program for two hours. A letter will be going out to parents on October 18th. Principal Rodman stated it was wonderful to see the Children's Place and the Montessori School collaborate to help the Nauset Preschool. The Montessori School's parents may be interested in learning about Tools of the Mind curriculum. The Montessori School also has rest time and parents feel they do not need it which could be a time to continue with academics. They are inviting parents to a meeting to learn more about the program.

Comprehensive Plan

The Superintendent and the Committee reviewed the plan. The Superintendent indicated he is planning on meeting with the legislative team (Tim Whelan, Sara Peake and our Senator) and WES could have a statement from the Committee. Administration could draft something that is understandable, what the issues are and how they affect WES.

Betsy Pontius suggested that the committee keep communicating the greatness of the school that it remains a Level 1 school and has been for quite some time. Mort Inger expressed his concern about what happens when the present grade four leaves WES. Principal Rodman indicated that the Substantially Separate Program will need two classrooms. (K.1.2 students and 3.4.5 students) WES might have the same number of classrooms and same number of teachers. Jill Putnam spoke about the school committees adherence to Prop 2 ½ and their dedication to the community and the school. The school committee is also dedicated to the school being a neighborhood school serving the needs of children in the Wellfleet community. She stated the community values the arts and it is part of the character of the community. Martha stated that Wellfleet is all about community. Mort suggested that parents feel community but others do not feel that way and he is concerned about future enrollment. Jill Putnam suggested the school committee keep repeating what WES does and why. Betsy Pontius suggested the committee think about their values and work to engage parents to keep kids at WES. She stated Wellfleet Elementary was a model building.

Principal Rodman mentioned that Community Week will be held in October. The Superintendent stated that Wellfleet held community week last year and is the model he uses for the entire District. He would like to see this take place at all other schools. He also stated that being a Level 1 school consistently is a very good thing. He shared his vision of an Art Academy at WES or some type magnet school and STEAM and IB at other elementary schools. Vice Chair Betsy Pontius stated that Wellfleet never opened seats for school choice because they were reluctant to pull students from other Nauset schools. Betsy Pontius suggested

developing the idea of a model / magnet school. Mort Inger asked if something could be worked out with Truro Elementary School. The Superintendent indicated he would meet with Supt. Gradone and will update the Committee in November. This will be on the next agenda.

Town Budget Guidelines – Not available yet.

PTA President, Charity Robinson introduced herself to the Committee and thanked them for approving the fundraisers for 2016-17.

Reports and Information

Cape Cod Collaborative – Jill Putnam reported the Collaborative held a lengthy meeting and highlighted the following: Reorganization, introduction of new Business Manager, meeting held in new conference room, mentoring program, staff changes and the upcoming professional development day.

School Council – Martha Gordon reported that the School Council met and is working on the School Improvement Plan with three focus areas in mind; Academics, School Climate and Community Partnerships. She indicated that the theme this year is *Animals*. The School Council discussed *Crisis Go*. The Masonic Angels donated 15 Back to School Kits to WES students. Community week is in October. The Elder Services is doing some enrichment classes for students. The One Book, One School project will take place every 2-3 years. The School Council is entertaining considerations for the School Improvement Plan. Martha Gordon had to leave at 5:50 p.m.

PTA – Betsy Pontius indicated they met last week and was pleased to announce that they had a good turnout. She also indicated they had lots of energy and ideas. They discussed the budget and fundraisers.

Nauset Preschool – Enrollment in packet.

Negotiations Subcommittee – Mort Inger reported that the Committee met and discussed ground rules. He indicated that the members of the Committee are: Tom Conrad, Ed Lewis, Bob Sinclair, Jessica Larsen, Joanne Irish, Gail Briere, Mort Inger, Keith Gauley, Mary Beth Rodman, and Mike Embury. He also noted that Lee Miller and Claudia Cope are on the negotiating team. The Superintendent indicated that Mike Embury is the Town Administrator from Brewster.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously, 3 yeas, to approve the minutes of September 1, 2016 as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously, 3 yeas, to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. Tefft

Included in packet: Administrative Reports, PTA fundraisers, MCAS/PARCC presentation, Policy JLCD, Expense Reports, MASC Resolutions, Minutes