

## WELLFLEET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

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

**Present for the Administration:** Thomas 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 4:33 p.m.

**CHAIR’S REPORT** – Chair Plaue reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals sent the School Committee a letter notifying them of a new subdivision (2 houses) on Long Pond Road. The School was notified as an abutter. She also let the Committee know that in their packet was included a list of School Committee meeting dates for 2016-17, noting that it is not always the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. She also indicated that she thought there was interest by the Chair of Union 54 to meet in the summer but that never came to fruition. The Superintendent will let the Committee know what other committees are thinking about relating to Union 54 discussions.

**MEMBERS SPEAK** – none

**CITIZENS SPEAKS** – none

### **PRIORITY BUSINESS**

#### **Administrators’ Reports**

##### **Principal Rodman’s Report**

Principal Rodman’s report was included in the packet. She highlighted several topics in her report that included: new carpeting, Shop with a Cop Program, and the hiring of a part-time recess/lunch monitor. She reported enrollment is currently 100 students. She indicated that the gymnasium floor was being re-done and the pickle ball court painting will be completed. The insurance company sent a check in the amount of \$3,215.89 for the plumbing repairs. The Town Administrator put it in a fund. Mr. Inger inquired about new staff members and Principal Rodman updated the Committee relative to new personnel. (A list of new staffing and funding sources will be emailed to the Committee by Principal Rodman.)

##### **Assistant Superintendent’s Report:**

Mr. Gauley’s report was included in the packet. There were no questions or comments.

##### **Superintendent’s Report:**

The Superintendent reported on projects he has been working on over the summer months. He has spent a great deal of time looking at the possible merger of the two Brewster Schools. He indicated that the debt on the Eddy School has been paid off and the MSBA sent a letter indicating the town can do what it wants with the building, with School Committee approval. He also reported that he sits on the board of the Nauset

Education Foundation NEF. They are looking to service all schools in the region, PreK-12, and fund projects that cannot be funded through the budget. They are setting up fundraising activities.

The Superintendent reported that numerous summer building projects are being completed throughout the District. There was a window project at Orleans Elementary School that has been difficult but will be completed on time.

The Administrators' Summer Leadership workshop took place at the Central Office. Staff evaluations were discussed and the Administrators will encourage more reflection and dialog with teachers, and less evidence. The theme he will be working on this year is, *how we improve student learning*, that should always be at the forefront of discussions.

In Eastham, he is working on a well water issue. The town will be hooking up the High School in the near future, at no cost to the District.

He also reported it is a contract negotiations year. The Negotiations Team will meet on October 1<sup>st</sup> and he hopes to meet with NEA on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. He is considering holding all negotiations at the same time.

He distributed the budget timetable noting the general feedback from the Towns is that they liked the accelerated process. Building Principals are working on their Accomplishments over the summer and Wellfleet's has been submitted.

The strategic objective that was decided by Committees and Administrative Team is to research academic assistance for students who have fallen behind. The Superintendent will develop an action plan after gathering information and examining staffing/services. He would like to know the backgrounds of the Educational Assistants, as well as their strengths and weaknesses. He liked the model he witnessed at Wellfleet Elementary School when he observed Nancy Porteus's classroom. Educational Assistants' in the classroom were very well-organized and assistance well-planned. He told the Committee he is thinking about flexible scheduling going into negotiations. He would like to improve student learning for all kids. He also indicated he would like to continue discussion about the IB Program. A number of students from Wellfleet, (8), chose to go to Provincetown. The High School will have an IB Program in less than two years.

### **FY16 Final Expense Review**

Giovanna Venditti, Director of Operations and Finance, reviewed the end of year spending indicating a balance of \$3,807 that was returned to the town. The Committee asked that the Business Office give the Town Accountant a list of the salaries and accounts payable.

### **Transportation Update**

Giovanna Venditti reported that the District is in year two of the bus contract with First Student. The bus routes are posted on the website. The Subcommittee will meet in October to look at the transportation

options and will report to the Joint School Committee in December. The Superintendent indicated they are meeting with new personnel at First Student and stated the District needs to focus on what is best for Nauset.

### **Capital Project Update**

Principal Rodman reported that the carpeting in the building has been completed. She also reported that the milk cooler in the kitchen was not getting to the appropriate cold temperature. The cooler needs to be declared surplus. Susan Murray, Director of Nutrition and Food Services, will contact Garelick Farms who will provide WES with a new cooler, since we purchase milk from them. Organic milk will also be an option available for students in the coming year.

### **Technology Update**

Superintendent Conrad reported that Wellfleet has reached the five-year mark in the K-5 Technology Plan for equipment. An integration teacher will work with classroom teachers to enhance technology for teaching and learning. Starting in grade six, students will be in a 1-1 model with iPads. In grade six and seven the iPad will remain at school and in grade eight, students will take them home. He reminded members that this is a tool in the toolbox and not the sole answer to how students learn.

Discussion ensued regarding the School Committee members using iPads at meetings for agendas and back-up materials. The Superintendent indicated that Brewster and Eastham School Committees are doing this. Not all members wanted to make the switch and individuals shared their thoughts on the topic. It was decided that the Committee will wait and see how the other committees like the iPads for meeting purposes.

### **Policy Updates**

Betsy Pontius reviewed the changes in the policies.

In policy JLCD, Administration of Medication to Students, Martha Gordon noted that the language in the document was not transcribed correctly, so the policy was tabled until the next meeting.

On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to accept, for a first reading, policy GBEC, Drug Free Workplace.

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to accept, for a first reading, policy IHAMB, Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco.

On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted unanimously to accept, for a first reading, policy JICH, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students.

## **REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

Cape Cod Collaborative - Jill Putnam indicated that there was no July meeting. Chair Plaue noted that she received a financial report from the Collaborative if any members wish to read it.

PTA – Principal Rodman indicated there is a meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

School Council – no report.

PreSchool – no report.

MASC Conference – Jill Putnam and Jan Plaue registered.

### **Approval of Minutes –**

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes for June 14, 2016, as amended.

### **Adjournment**

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann M. Tefft

Included in packet: Administrative Reports, Expense Report, policies and minutes