

## WELLFLEET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 13, 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 4:30 p.m.

**CHAIR’S REPORT** – Chair Plaue indicated that she will be away for the next meeting and asked Betsy Pontius to chair the meeting. She also reported that Principal Rodman received notice from the town that the water tower is going to be painted. Discussion relative to containment during the painting process and safety of the children ensued. The Superintendent asked that Principal Rodman get further information relative to the water tower and report back to the Committee with any updates.

**MEMBERS SPEAK** – Jill Putnam requested that the MASC Resolutions and choice of a Delegate for the November Conference be included on the October agenda. It was the consensus of the committee that Jill be the delegate from Wellfleet.

**CITIZENS SPEAKS** – Sue Deschamps, PE Teacher, inquired if the workers at the water tower would be on the field. She indicated that the PE classes are outside all the time.

### **PRIORITY BUSINESS**

#### **Police Inquiry in the Use of School Property**

Lt. Mike Hurley addressed the Committee relative to the Police Department’s renovation/addition project and the location of three trailers that will house the Police behind the ballfield during construction. He indicated that they hope to begin in January and the project will probably be a 10-month project. He wanted the Committee to know that no detainees will be housed on the site and the Police will limit traffic as best that they can. The Superintendent stated that the Police, the Principal and the Superintendent will work on a letter together to be distributed to staff and parents. Principal Rodman will prepare a draft.

#### **Administrators’ Reports**

##### **Principal Rodman’s Report**

Principal Rodman’s report was included in the packet. Chair Plaue indicated that she attended the opening day ceremony and 102 children were welcomed to Wellfleet Elementary School. Principal Rodman indicated that she is taking the Trauma Course that is being offered. Principal Rodman held a meet and greet for parents to meet the new special education teachers. She also met with the new staff members in the Special Needs Program to review protocols, roles, etc. Superintendent Conrad attended the 1<sup>st</sup> day ceremony and shared that it was fabulous.

**Assistant Superintendent's Report:**

Mr. Gauley's report was included in the packet. Mort Inger inquired about the Sheltered English Immersion courses. Dr. Ann Caretti explained that ELL is for English Language Learners and SEI refers to the program. She also indicated that all educators must go through SEI endorsement. He also asked what MTEL stood for and it was indicated that it is a state test for teachers. Principal Rodman reviewed Mr. Gauley's chart relative to professional development. Principal Rodman indicated the collaboration day was so worthwhile as there was an opportunity for teachers to collaborate with their peers. Superintendent Conrad indicated that teachers had expressed their concerns about lack of collaboration time. This day was set up for teachers to make decisions on who they need to collaborate with before the start of school. Teachers set up their own schedules. He shared that there was calmness on opening day and felt the two professional days for staff prepared them for a great start.

The Superintendent also reported that bus transportation had minimal problems. Routes were provided by First Student much earlier this year and put on the website to address issues prior to the start of school. Drivers' having a trial run was also very helpful.

Habits of Learning Standards were distributed to the Committee.

**Superintendent's Report:**

The Superintendent thanked the staff and Principal Rodman for hosting open houses in the summer for Kindergarten and for providing many opportunities for people to visit the building. He indicated that the teachers are very giving of their time and took a moment to recognize and thank them.

He also reported that he is attending a meeting on MCAS 2.0 with other Superintendent's and will have information to share at the next meeting. He is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of his Superintendent's 3 year mentoring program and will attend an all-day meeting in Marlboro on Thursday. He is scheduled for 5 meetings this year and he reported that he gets a lot of information from it.

He also reported that he and Dr. Ann Caretti attended a meeting with the Board at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Orleans relative to the opiate crisis and developing prevention. They received a \$2,000 grant from the Church of the Holy Spirit to help with parent involvement, namely, food and childcare. The Church indicated they would put this out in their church network for the District. The Superintendent thanked Dr. Caretti for all her efforts on this initiative.

The Superintendent reported that negotiations will begin in the very near future and that Mary Beth Rodman and Mort Inger are on the negotiating team. He hopes to start negotiations on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and is waiting to hear from the NEA.

Chair Plau asked about the possible Brewster school consolidation. Superintendent Conrad indicated that the Brewster School Committee met on Saturday and toured both facilities. They are looking to offer weekend tours and virtual tours through Channel 22. The School Committee is in the process of developing

an action plan and believes it will take a couple years to make any determination. They want to be very transparent as they go through the process and want to involve all stakeholders. He also shared that he will meet with the staffs of both schools after every school committee meeting.

**FY17 Final Expense Review** - No report until October.

### **Policy Updates**

Betsy Pontius reviewed the changes in the policies.

JLCD, Administration of Medication to Students, was amended as suggested. Discussion ensued regarding prescription medication for students at school. It was noted that the School Physician, Dr. Eastman, services the District at no cost and that the state requires the school to have a school physician. Dr. Caretti explained that the job of the school physician is to do standing orders and if a nurse has a question, she can get an answer.

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to accept for a first reading, policy JLCD, with an added coma.

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to accept policy, for a second reading, GBEC, Drug Free Workplace, as written.

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to accept, for a second reading, policy IHAMB, Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco, as written.

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

The Superintendent indicated that there is a potentially a new Wellness Policy to be reviewed in the near future.

### **REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

Cape Cod Collaborative – no report

PTA – Principal Rodman reported that she attended the August meeting. The PTA has \$20,909 and plans to give \$10,000 to the school. The PTA fundraising list will be presented in October.

School Council – no report.

Preschool – Dr. Ann Caretti reviewed the enrollment chart with the committee indicating that the preschool is in need of community friends in the afternoon program. Presently there are none. Dr. Caretti indicated she is trying to work out a plan with the Children's' Place to get some community friends into the program.

She has also reached out to the Montessori School. Dr. Caretti indicated that a solution to the problem has to happen quickly. Dr. Caretti stated she realizes that the ½ day program is hard on families and that other programs have the child the entire day. She did not believe cost was a factor because Nauset offers a sliding scale for tuition. Joanna Stevens, Director of the Nauset Preschool indicated the Children's' Place in Eastham offers the full day and goes to 5:00 p.m. Presently, they have a one year waiting list. She also stated that families need a longer day.

The Committee and the Administration brainstormed ideas of how to take care of the immediate situation and how to address this issue in the future. It was suggested that Preschool come up with a marketing plan to get the word out to families, including advertising in the local newspaper listing the advantages of attending the Nauset Preschool program.

Superintendent Conrad told the Committee that Brewster has a preschool but also has the YMCA where students can go before or after the preschool session. Chair Plaue stressed the need for 4 year olds in the public school. Adding an additional teacher was mentioned.

Dr. Caretti would like to come back to the Committee next month with an update.

Martha Gordon would like this item put on the agenda for October. She would like to discuss funding another teacher and classroom. Chair Plaue asked Dr. Caretti to let the Committee know if there is any movement from either the Children's' Place or the Wellfleet Montessori School. Principal Rodman suggested the Children's' Place comes to WES.

Mort Inger asked how long the program could exist without the community friends. Dr. Caretti indicated that she would have to ask the state for a waiver and notify parents. Joanna Stevens stated that as long as you show you have tried to get students and document it, the state will grant a waiver.

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 August 9, 2016, as amended.

#### **Adjournment**

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann M. Tefft

Included in packet: Administrative Reports, Policies, Minutes