

Wellfleet School Committee  
Wellfleet Elementary School Conference Room  
January 8, 2019

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

Present for the Administration: Thomas Conrad, Giovanna Venditti, and Mary Beth Rodman

**Call to Order**

Chair Plaue called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Agenda Change**

Add Wellness Committee under Reports and Information

**Chair's Report**

Chair Plaue indicated that she received a memo from Dan Hoort regarding the land across the street from the school. Dan Hoort indicated that whenever land is going to change use, every committee has the right to pass judgement on it. He would like the Wellfleet School Committee to make comment by January 31<sup>st</sup> about transferring land across the street from town owned land to housing authority land.

The Town Administrator also indicated that he is creating and distributing a newsletter. He indicated it is a good way for committees to update the community about the work they are doing.

**Members Speak** - No member wished to speak.

**Citizens Speak** - None

**Priority Business**

**Information on potential housing site** - A member of the Housing Authority and a member of the Housing Partnership addressed the committee relative to the land across the street (9.25 acres) from the school being transferred from town owned land to Housing Authority land for the purpose of constructing affordable housing. This excludes the water tower and the ballfield which leaves about 5 acres for use. Once the land is transferred to the Housing Authority, there is a very long process in developing an RFP as to what the affordable housing will look like. They indicated this is in the very early stages. There would be a warrant article at Spring Town meeting to transfer the property if other committees/boards were agreeable. They indicated there will be 90 bedrooms at the maximum with a mixture of 1, 2, 3 bedroom units. The number of families will be determined. If there are 27 units or more, a site manager is there 3 days per week and a custodian. They are relying on the Massachusetts Housing Partnership to guide them through the process.

The Chair asked that people be considerate of the children, like when the water tower was constructed. A fence between the ball park and the project is necessary. They indicated all of that will be included in the RFP. There is no time frame at the moment and it could take years.

It was the consensus of the committee that the school committee support this land transferring to the Housing Authority with concerns that it will be done well and protect the children. School Committee concerns included: truck traffic, use of ballfield and a fence, safety issues, and the timeline.

## **Administrators' Reports**

### **Principal's Report**

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She informed the committee that a Kindergarten and Grade 4 student have moved leaving the total number of students at 89. She also indicated that there were not enough students to run the Yoga program as it conflicted with the basketball schedule. It will be offered again. She indicated that the Social-Emotional Learning Parent Informational meeting will be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. with a snow date of February 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Conrad reported that he had a wonderful experience playing math dice games with students from WES in Margie Wallace's class. He also reported that Dan Hoort was supportive of the school and education in general and is on board with funding the school's needs to continue the placement for the WES student at the Cape Cod Collaborate this year. He attended an evening parent meeting at WES relative to homework. He will be finishing up his work on the homework and submit a policy to the Policy Subcommittee. He distributed an invitation to an educational forum regarding THE NEW CIVIC LAW that will take place on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Central Office from 4-6 p.m. The Superintendent also indicated he is working on budgets throughout the District.

### **Capital Improvement Plan**

Fire Suppression System added to the plan. He also indicated he has had some discussion relative to the fire suppression system and will bring people in to make recommendations. Jill Putnam asked if the company involved was culpable or has the Superintendent written to our attorney for their opinion.

The Superintendent indicated that he would like to vote the Capital Budget and the FY20 Budget at the same time. The Chair indicated that the Town requires the School Committee to have their Capital Plan in the fall. The Superintendent indicated he will ask the attorney and will speak with Dan Hoort, Town Administrator.

### **FY19 Budget Review**

Giovanna Venditti reviewed the expenditure report noting a balance of \$45,954. She reviewed line items with significant movement. She updated the committee on the costs for the placement of the special needs child at the Cape Cod Collaborative and indicated that tuition costs of \$25,818 and transportation costs of \$25,855 have been encumbered.

The Chair asked what will happen if the school exhausts its funds and the Superintendent indicated that the Town Administrator said he would cover it.

### **FY20 Budget**

Chair Plaué indicated the budget books had been received and reviewed. She asked about line items for the special needs out of district placement. Ms. Venditti indicated that line items 4035 and 4098 include the costs for tuition and transportation for a full year. Savings in line item 4045, Transportation was mentioned. Ms. Venditti indicated that savings were taken in the FY19 budget and that any additional savings will be known at the end of the school year. Martha Gordon indicated that the District saved between \$200,000-\$250,000 in transportation costs. It was noted that when the leases are paid off, there will be a greater savings.

Principal Rodman distributed her Budget Presentation. She also informed the Committee that the notation in the staffing report regarding Andrew Stalker should read 45% Art and 55% Educational Assistant.

Principal Rodman informed the committee that Laura Baghetti has joined the After School Program.

Chair Plau indicated that the Public Hearing on the budget will be held at the February 12<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting and the legal ad will be placed in the newspaper.

### **Public Forum Update**

It was determined that the Public Forum will be held in the Wellfleet Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with a snow date of March 9<sup>th</sup>. Martha Gordon and Betsy Pontius will meet on Saturday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Wellfleet Library. The Superintendent will work with the NHS art department to come up with art for the flyer.

### **Reports and Information**

**Cape Cod Collaborative** – Jill Putnam reported the Board is working on the Executive Director’s evaluation document. The Board discussed more training for the bus drivers along with incentives. She reported on the meeting with Peter Franeesi relative to lack of housing on Cape. They also discussed having more training for people going into the hospitality industry and the home health care industry. She also reported that the Legislative Breakfast is Friday, February 8, 11:00 a.m., at the Cape Cod Collaborative. Way Point Academy is looking at three different locations.

**Preschool Enrollment** in packet.

**Policy Subcommittee** – No report. Still waiting for the Technology Use Policy. NEA is looking at the policy.

**Substance Abuse Subcommittee** - Martha Gordon reported that the committee continues to revise the Middle School questionnaire. Meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Wellness Subcommittee** – Jan Plau reported that the subcommittee met and talked about the number of children vaping beginning in Grade 4 and 5. The subcommittee is prioritizing goals which may include vaping and self-regulation.

### **Approval of Minutes –**

On a motion by Mort Inger seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted 5 yeas to approve the minutes of December 11, 2018.

Betsy Pontius volunteered to handle the newsletter article with the Town Administrator.

### **Adjournment**

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Submitted by  
Ann M. Tefft

Included in the Packet: Principal’s Report, Expenditure Report, and Minutes.