

Wellfleet School Committee  
Wellfleet Elementary School Conference Room  
February 12, 2019

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

Present for the Administration: Thomas Conrad, Giovanna Venditti, Mary Beth Rodman, Ann Caretti and Joanna Stevens

**Call to Order**

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

**Chair's Report**

Chair Plaue shared that she will not be at the March meeting and that Betsy Pontius will Chair the meeting. She also reported that she and Martha Gordon attended the NRHS Building Project Forum at the Council on Aging that was very interesting.

**Members Speak** – Martha Gordon shared the format of the forum, some ideas that were shared both realistic and “pie in the sky” and setting priorities at the meeting.

Mort Inger shared that he went to the presentation on “The New Civics Law” presented by the Department of Education at the Central Office. The state has mandated that the teaching of civics should be throughout the curriculum and that students should know about our government and how it works. Teachers were very receptive. He indicated the presenter was exceptional. The educational seminar was well attended.

**Citizens Speak** – None

**Priority Business**

**Cable Television** – Mia Baumgarten is the acting media operations manager and works in Orleans. She is trying to get all the Board and Committee meetings taped. She is an advocate for public community TV. She would like to start taping the Wellfleet School Committee meetings in March. Her goal is to have someone videotaping. She indicated if the program grows, she would like to expand and do public service announcements and special events throughout the town.

**Montessori Preschool**

Beth Forester, Director of the Montessori Preschool addressed the committee relative to classroom space for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion: On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously to give the Montessori Preschool use of a classroom for 2019 – 2020 school year.

**Nauset Preschool Update**

Joanna Stevens, Director of the Nauset Integrated Preschool and Dr. Ann Caretti addressed the committee about the possibility of moving the Wellfleet Integrated Preschool to Eastham Elementary School. They reviewed the pros and cons of the idea.

It was indicated that not all students attending the Wellfleet Integrated Preschool come from Wellfleet. The committee requested an estimate for transportation costs and requested some time to think about

this move. Members shared concerns about transitions for the children. Ordinarily they begin their school career at Wellfleet Elementary and stay at Wellfleet Elementary. Dr. Caretti indicated that the same situation happens in Orleans where their preschool students attend Eastham Elementary. Chair Plaue wanted to see what comes out of the public forum in March as there will be suggestions from the community. Chair Plaue is still waiting to receive the preschool/kindergarten numbers from the Town.

## **Administrators' Reports**

### **Principal's Report**

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She reported that she sent letters to families regarding attendance. At Wellfleet there are 16 students who have or will be going on extended vacations between 2 weeks or more. She indicated that Wellfleet might become a school "in need of assistance" by the state because of attendance. The Superintendent indicated that we will be found in non-compliance and this is a common area the District struggles with because we are a seasonal community. At some point you need to make up for the work that takes place. Principal Rodman indicated that families are risking promotion when they miss 12 days of school or more.

Principal Rodman indicated that there are 90 students enrolled at WES.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Conrad reported that he attended the Cape Cod Collaborative for the Legislative Breakfast. There was a lot of discussion about budgets and demographics on Cape Cod. He indicated that forums on the High School Building project are taking place. The educational vision piece is being created by staff, students and Administration. The building committee has approximately 50 groups they would like to reach out to for informational purposes about the project.

He also reported that there are 15 students from WES going to other schools through the school choice program. Principal Rodman will research this for the committee. The Chair asked that committee members think about school choice.

### **FY19 Budget Review**

Giovanna Venditti reviewed the expenditure report noting a balance of \$42,387.32. She reviewed line items with significant movement. The Superintendent met with Dan Hoort about the special needs costs for an out of district placement student and he indicated the town would help if needed.

### **Surplus Equipment**

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius it was voted unanimously to declare 3 iPads surplus.

### **Public Hearing on the FY20 Budget**

On a roll call vote, it was voted unanimously to go into the Public Hearing on the FY20 budget at 5:37 p.m. On a roll call the vote was as follows: Jill Putnam-yea, Martha Gordon-yea, Betsy Pontius-yea, Mort Inger-yea, and Chair Plaue-yea.

Principal Rodman presented the FY20 budget. The regular day portion of the Wellfleet Elementary FY20 budget increases by \$47,453 or 2.5%. The Special Education portion increases by \$18,336 or 2.5%. The total increase from FY19 to FY20 is \$65,679 or 2.5%. The total operating budget is \$2,697,582. The Capital budget for 2019-20 is \$45,000.

## **Budget Vote**

On a motion by Martha Gordon, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously, 5-0, to approve the operating budget in the amount of \$2,697,582.

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted, unanimously, 5-0, to approve the capital budget for 2019-20 in the amount of \$45,000.

On a roll call vote, the committee adjourned the public hearing on the FY20 budget at 5:42 p.m.

On a roll call the vote was as follows: Jill Putnam-yea, Martha Gordon-yea, Betsy Pontius-yea, Mort Inger-yea and Chair Plaue-yea

## **Public Forum Update**

Martha Gordon shared the Wellfleet Forum flyer that was designed by a student, Shannon Wanamaker, Gr. 11, in the Art Department at NHS. The subcommittee finalized table discussion topics.

1. How can we work together to create a solid foundation for all preschool students in Wellfleet?
2. How can we work together to create a collaborative learning environment for the entire community?
3. How can we work together to increase enrollment?
4. How can we work together to further advance meaningful, child-centered learning at WES?
5. How can we work together to support families in our community?

Refreshment will be provided and donations will be accepted. It was determined they would get their supplies from the Wellfleet Elementary School. It was suggested that early childhood centers in town receive a flyer.

The Public Forum will be held in the Wellfleet Elementary School Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with a snow date of March 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Reports and Information**

**Cape Cod Collaborative** – Jill Putnam reported that she attended the Breakfast with Legislators that was well attended. Room excise tax will be implemented after July 1<sup>st</sup> and schools are entitled to 46% of that revenue. Town Administrators, Finance Committee and Selectmen should be aware of this. A presentation about Cape Cod demographics was discussed.

The Superintendent suggested renting empty homes and servicing them by Cape Tech.

**Preschool Enrollment** in packet.

**PTA**- Betsy Pontius reported that they met on January 8<sup>th</sup> and have a balance in their account of \$7,337.86. They have given a \$10,000 gift to Wellfleet Elementary School. The Book Fair at Christmastime raised more money than ever before. They are seeking to find ways to connect with the community. The Spaghetti Supper is scheduled in April.

**Policy Subcommittee** – No report.

**Substance Abuse Subcommittee** - Martha Gordon reported that the committee met on January 14<sup>th</sup>. They are near finishing the revisions on the High School Survey. They have had a lot of questions about vaping. She shared her appreciation for the Union 54 meeting and the learning about the agencies that are helping families. On January 23<sup>rd</sup> there was a meeting on Second Step and Bullying and no one was in attendance from Wellfleet.

**Wellness Subcommittee** – Jan Plaue reported that the subcommittee met and talked vaping and self-regulation. It was thought that the Wellness Committee and the Substance Abuse Committee may get together on the vaping issue.

Betsy Pontius volunteered to send an article to the Town Administrator on the budget and the forum.

Principal Rodman distributed the book for the “One School, One Book” initiative. She also invited the committee to see the photographs in the lobby by Stephen SetteDucati, licensed architect and photographer.

**Approval of Minutes –**

On a motion by Mort Inger seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted 5 yeas to approve the minutes of January 8, 2019.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Submitted by  
Ann M. Tefft

Included in the Packet: Principal’s Report, Expenditure Report, Public Hearing Information, Surplus List, Capital Plan, Forum Flyer, and Minutes. Information distributed at the meeting about Nauset Integrated Preschool.