

Wellfleet School Committee  
Wellfleet Elementary School Conference Room  
April 9, 2019

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

Absent: Jill Putnam

Present for the Administration: Thomas Conrad, Ann Caretti and Mary Beth Rodman

**Call to Order** - Chair Plaue called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

**Agenda Change** - None

**Chair's Report** - None

**Members Speak** - Mort Inger reported that the memorial service for Norma Simon took place at Wellfleet Elementary School and was very well attended. He also stated the impact she had on the school was amazing and this memorial service was a great testament to her.

**Citizens Speak** - None

**Priority Business - Administrators' Reports**

**Principal's Report**

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She informed the committee that she will be bringing names of students receiving scholarships for the summer, one from each grade level to the June Meeting. Chair Plaue inquired about the flexible scheduling piece that was negotiated in the contract. Principal Rodman indicated that specialist can do it but not classroom teachers. She also indicated that the WES teachers voted against the flex day/work day option and that this is decided at each school.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Conrad reported he met with the Select Board who was very pleased with the elementary budget. He spoke to them about the building project at the High School. They voted the budget and were very comfortable with it. He commended Giovanna Venditti for a good job on the seven budgets. The hot topic is OPEB funding that is in the Region budget. This would be \$450,000 a year for the next twenty years. Brewster has had a tough financial year. He indicated that all budgets are going forward with warrants in place. Town meetings will begin right after vacation. He also indicated that he finished work with Patti Grenier on the educational vision for Brewster Elementary Schools for the next ten years. He has also been working diligently on the situation in Eastham.

Chair Plaue referred to the previous month's minutes about a document indicating the uniqueness of WES and how people may not know what the school offers and the special things that it does.

Principal Rodman sent a letter to families that got very positive responses.

**FY19 Budget Review**

Giovanna Venditti reviewed the expenditure report noting a balance of \$25,944. She reviewed line items with significant movement. It was noted that the town has it on the warrant to give funding for the Special Needs costs.

**Policy - First Reading**

Betsy Pontius reviewed the policies with the committee. She indicated that the Wellness Committee consolidated this policy and there were no substantial changes.

Motion:

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted 4 yeas to approve the Wellness Policy (ADF) for a first reading.

Betsy Pontius explained the changes to the Tobacco Use Policy by Students and Staff to include more specific language on the use of tobacco or tobacco products and the ways it can be ingested.

Motion:

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted 4-0 to approve the Tobacco Use by Students Policy, JICG, for a first reading.

Betsy Pontius indicated that the Teacher Tobacco Use Policy mimics the students with the inclusion of the more specific language.

Motion:

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously to approve the Tobacco Use by Staff Policy, GBED, for a first reading.

### **Public Forum Update**

Chair Plaue thanked Betsy and Martha for all their hard work on the forum. She suggested the School Committee work on this now. There have been suggestions and a body of work so that the School Committee can move forward and do what is best for the school. Martha Gordon concurred and indicated that they are still getting information as some of the community and school personnel could not make it to the forum. They talked about how they could get more feedback from the public. It was suggested that they might distribute a questionnaire at town meeting.

Betsy Pontius and Martha Gordon will meet one more time to gather more information and collate it. They will come back to the School Committee with some sort of proposal of how to look at the information. They would prefer to put this item back on the June meeting for discussion.

### **Superintendent's Evaluation**

Chair Plaue reminded the committee that on May 1<sup>st</sup> Gail Briere is holding a meeting to review the evaluation document and discuss the process.

Superintendent Conrad explained the process, the four state standards and suggested samples of evidence. He also explained his three goals. He also reminded the committees that they have been together long enough to understand that so many issues take a lot of his time. He indicated that eventually he will look at the job descriptions at the Central Office.

### **Town Meeting Preparation**

Chair Plaue received an email asking the School Committee to endorse Article 34 - \$100,000 for vouchers for 3 year olds. The Finance Committee voted 7-0 and the Select Board 5-0 to approve this article.

Chair Plaue indicated that this may hinder the future of a public preschool at Wellfleet Elementary. Martha Gordon felt it was an opportunity to service all the children. Mort Inger stated that other school committee members in other towns are pleased Wellfleet has preschool because of the vouchers. Betsy

Pontius reminded the committee that this is how Wellfleet solved the problem years ago. The town went ahead and solved the problem to help parents in the community.

**Motion:**

The School Committee voted 4-0 to endorse the Article for \$100,000 for a voucher system for three-year olds.

**Reports and Information**

**Preschool Enrollment** - Superintendent Conrad indicated that they are waiting to have a meeting with Eastham Elementary School to see if they have adequate space to house the preschool classroom. He indicated he will know within the month.

**Cape Cod Collaborative** – no report

**PTA** – Betsy Pontius reported that the PTA reviewed their financial report with an ending balance of \$7,953. This figure does not include funds received from the Spaghetti Supper. The next meeting is April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. All members agreed the Spaghetti Supper was very well run and was a great event.

**Policy Subcommittee** – No report

**Substance Abuse Subcommittee** – No report

**Strategic Plan Committee** – Martha Gordon reported that they are moving forward and there is so much to discuss in education. They are presently working on the Core Values. The next meeting they will work toward the new Mission Statement. There is a lot of research, reading and information being shared electronically with the committee. The overall view is to prepare our kids for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They are looking at best practices, community, global, SEL and sustainability. The Superintendent indicated that this is a great committee doing good work for the District. Chair Plaue indicated that this will come to the Joint School Committee for feedback eventually. The Superintendent concluded that this information will go to the Boards and Administration perhaps in November. The School Committee will have input during the process. This will be a Strategic Plan for 3-5 years with 3-5 themes that everyone will know. Martha Gordon indicated that they would like to keep the Core Value statement simple and want this to be a living document. This will define what is done in the classroom, in the schools, etc. It will link everything; School Improvement Plans, Professional Development, and goals for staff members.

**Approval of Minutes –**

On a motion by Betsy Pontius seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted 4 yeas to approve the minutes of March 12, 2019 as amended.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by  
Ann M. Tefft

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