

Wellfleet School Committee
Wellfleet Elementary School Conference Room
January 14, 2020

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

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

Call to Order – Chair Pontius called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Agenda Change – No agenda changes.

Members Speak –

Jill Putnam let members know that she will be having surgery and will not be at the next few meetings.

Mort Inger inquired if people living at the Lawrence Road Affordable Housing Project will be able to use the school. Jan Plaue answered affirmatively. The town wants WES to be a neighborhood school. Having the Recreation Director's office at WES, makes it more of a community center. She indicated that people might want to come into the school and use the facility while school is not in session. Principal Rodman indicated she is coordinating this with the Recreation Department.

Citizens Speak - None

Priority Business –

Administrators' Reports

Principal's Report

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She also reported that WES is expanding community partnerships. SPAT, Shellfish Promotion and Tasting, is funding the fourth and fifth Grade trips to the Wellfleet Audubon. They will also provide a class presentation in those grades. They are planning a tour of the oyster farms in Wellfleet. She also reported that there is potential for a new student coming into WES in Grade 1.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Conrad reported that he has had 6-8 meetings with Dr. Minkoff who is heading up the Strategic Plan. He indicated he is participating on the 21st century work group. The Strategic Planning Committee will report on the format and timeline for the document. He is hoping to bring closure to this in the spring and anticipates working with the Administrative Team over the summer with one tenant for each year. This will become a part of school improvement plans, coursework, etc. The entire system should know the strategic plan. He thanked the subcommittees for working so hard on this important work. He also reported that he and Giovanna Venditti have been working on 7 budgets in the District, noting that most budgets are coming in at 2.5%. He informed them of the feasibility study that will be conducted at the Brewster Schools with funding from the community. They are working on the scope of work and the town is doing the same with the senior citizens facility. The Town of Brewster will be putting out the Request for Proposals. There are tours being given in Brewster at Stony Brook, Eddy and the Council on Aging. The Middle School just received a grant for \$100,000 to expand after school and summer programming. (Kids staying from 3-6 p.m.) This money will enable them to focus on some of the work that we have been doing with MIT. He also indicated that the Union's negotiating teams and the Administrative Negotiation team had a joint meeting to review ground rules. Mort Inger is on the

Negotiating Committee. The Administrative Team will have two subcommittees, 1 to review and update the evaluation process and one to review on stipends. All five units will be negotiating in the same time frame.

He reminded the committee that the Building Project is 12-13 weeks from the first vote in Wellfleet. The process is very time consuming and takes a great deal of the Superintendent's time with meetings and scheduled visits to the MSBA in Boston. Orleans Citizens is holding a forum on Thursday, January 16 at 3:30 p.m. He indicated that the Building Committee has eliminated an estimated \$9,000,000, still keeping the integrity of the program and facility. Keith Gauley has been charged to lead the political action committee. The Superintendent would like to see 4 teams in the 4 Districts. The elementary parents are very excited to work on this and see good value for their children. They are working on a flyer to give parents more information. The Superintendent indicated they are still working on the bonding issue. The Building Committee won't know the cost until mid-February when the MSBA to makes the final decision on how much money the state will give to the project. The Superintendent thinks it will be around \$40,000,000. The project is estimated at \$90,000,000 range that the District towns will have to pay. It needs to get 8 out of 8 votes at town meetings and at the ballot box.

FY20 Budget Review

Giovanna Venditti presented the expense report showing a balance of -\$77,107. She reclassified some expenses and distributed a new expense report showing a balance of \$19,097. \$68,307 was put back into the budget. Tuition from Eastham must be reclassified. \$17,000 will be put back into the budget as well. She reviewed the line items with significant movement. It was reported that the student that was attending the Collaborative is going to be homeschooled. Principal Rodman indicated that she and Dr. Caretti met on this and there are therapeutic services that can be provided within a school setting. The child will do academics in the morning and therapies in the afternoon. This is based on recommendation from the doctors. Giovanna Venditti indicated that WES will receive an estimated \$38,000 in extraordinary relief that will be put back into the budget.

Bus Parking at WES in summer

Discussion was held regarding the bus parking at WES in the summer. Committee members thought the contract was with two bus companies who would be paying \$5,000. The Chair indicated that the committee is going into a partnership with the town to park buses at WES and WES is the recipient of the funds. Initially, 2 regular buses were discussed but there are other vendors to consider as well. She further clarified that there are two regular bus companies that will be contracted and set up in advance. Other vehicles wishing to park at WES must call the town and set it up. The town will give them a day permit and be under the same rules as the contracted buses. Vehicles parked that do not have a pass will get ticketed. Signage and passes that change color weekly will be distributed to the other vehicles. Some members expressed concerns that they were not told about the other 10% or other buses coming in. They expressed concerns about the oversight and were not comfortable about it. Safety issues were expressed for children playing in the ball park. It was indicated that the beach people drive around and monitor parking.

Chair Pontius suggested that the committee wants to partner with the community and that they did commit to a one year pilot for the town. She felt it would go a long way for the committee to help the town with this situation as they have been good partners to WES. She indicated that she will invite Suzanne to another meeting and would like the committee to consider accepting the partnership.

Jill Putnam indicated that they did agree to a pilot for the 2 bus companies. The committee was on the fence about the 10% others parking. She would like the committee to have more information about the

10% others. She voiced concerns about safety and the parking lot. She asked if there would be an agreement that the bus drivers will read. Chair Pontius indicated the committee will revisit this in February. She will get clarification on the 10%.

Jan Plaue had questions on the contract and how it would be written for the other 10%. The other bus companies have liability insurance. She wondered how to regulate the unknown and felt there are too many loopholes. Chair Pontius indicated that the 10% are not going to have a contract. She suggested the committee formulate questions for Suzanne at the next meeting.

Homelessness Policy

Chair Pontius explained the policy that is required and sent to the District through MASC. Jan Plaue questioned the addition of "living in a winter rental." She suggested adding, "a winter rental that is less than the school year." Discussion ensued about winter rentals.

Motion: On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to approve the Homelessness Policy for a first reading.

Public Hearing on the FY21 Budget

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Jan Plaue, it was voted unanimously to go into a Public Hearing on the FY21 Budget. The Superintendent distributed version 2 of the WES budget that included changes in a couple of line items. Principal Rodman gave an overview of the FY21 budget noting a 3.47% increase. The Librarian position has been reduced from 40% to 10%, the technology (integration) position has been reduced from 80% to 60%, the School Guidance position has been reduced from 100% to 80% and the Speech & Language Pathologist position has been reduced from 100% to 80%. In FY21, WES will no longer receive tuition (\$29,143) from Eastham Elementary School. She reviewed Circuit Breaker funds and how they will be applied to the FY21 budget to prepay SN Contracted OT/PT services and SN Preschool tuition. She also indicated that four school choice students will be applied to Contracted services Non-Instructional Technology and \$7,000 will be used from the Building Use Funds that will be applied to Contracted Services Building.

She indicated that the FY21 draft Budget maintains all current academic programs, interventions, and the free After School Child Care program. She reported the Regular Day portion of the Wellfleet Elementary FY21 draft Budget increases by \$30,516 or 1.57% & and the Special Education portion increases by \$63,106 or 8.43%. The total increase from FY20 to FY21 is \$93,622 or 3.47%.

Members shared thoughts on the budget including special needs mandates and the loss of the Librarian. Principal Rodman indicated that content area minutes are required and that all schools in the District have reduced library to 25 minutes. She must be in line with other schools. She indicated she would consider using volunteer Librarians. The Superintendent indicated that the Library position and the Technology Integration position are two areas they are focusing on going forward. He suggested at some point we have had a Technology Coordinator, Technology Teachers, Technology Integration Teachers and moving toward a media center. He indicated students are reading as much as ever, just reading differently.

Questions were asked about the transportation line item and savings. The Superintendent stated there has been a savings in cost because the prices are not rising. He reminded everyone that the District got out of a contract that was up 45% in three years. The lease agreement with the Cape Cod Collaborative and the life expectancy of the busses is 12 years. In 7 years the District will have paid off the lease. He also indicated that they are watching the healthcare costs. Principal Rodman indicated that the School

Psychologist and Speech & Language Pathologist requested not to work full time. This will not impact service delivery to kids.

Jan Plaue stated that student population is up by 16 children. There are 107 students in Grades K-5 at the elementary school. This should be shared with other boards.

Chair Pontius thanked Principal Rodman, Superintendent Conrad and Ms. Venditti for presenting a clear and definitive budget that is something the committee can stand behind.

On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Marth a Gordon, it was voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

Motion:

On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted 5-0 to approve the FY21 budget in the amount of \$2,791,204 which is a \$93,622 increase of FY20 or a 3.47% increase.

Reports and Information Cape Cod Collaborative

Jill Putnam reported that the Cape Cod Collaborative is dealing with transportation for several towns and working hard trying to use incentives to hire bus drivers. The All-Cape Professional Development is being planned for November 2020, Election Day. The budget was reviewed. The Annual Report of the Cape Cod Collaborative was distributed for her to share with committee members if they wish to read it. The outcome of the recent audit was very good. Bridgewater State College and Cape Cod Collaborative are working together to have programs for licensure needs for Cape teachers. There are 19 attendees in the program which is a big cost savings. They will also be working on a leadership course for themselves as it is a Mass requirement. She indicated that the Legislative Breakfast is Friday, January 31st at 10:00 a.m. If you wish to attend make a reservation at 508-420-6950 to let them know you are attending the breakfast. The event has a great showing of our public officials, Senators and Representatives. She indicated that Legislators on the Cape, Senator Cyr and Representative Peake are so motivated and really want to help.

Preschool Enrollment - Included in packet

PTA - No report

Strategic Plan Advisory

Martha Gordon reported the working groups are ready to talk about the tech links in each of the committees. The 21st Century Skills group is still working. She indicated that Dr. Maxine Minkoff is doing an amazing job. They are hoping that all the groups work will be done by the beginning of February. There will be a presentation at the Joint meeting regarding the format of the Strategic Plan. The Committee is talking about creating a brief version that will go to families and on the website.

Substance Abuse Task Force

Martha Gordon reported that the Mental Health Task Force met on January 8th and both the Principal of the High School and Middle School attended to talk about their programs in SEL. One of the biggest problems they have is scheduling things. The Principals mentioned Restorative Practices which they will present at the Joint meeting. This is a program with less punishment and more talking. The High School and Middle School are looking at how to bridge a readmission to school after a student has been hospitalized.

Policy Subcommittee -

Chair Pontius reported that the subcommittee met and reviewed the Homelessness Policy and will continue to review the Fundraising policy.

Wellness Committee – No report

Future Agenda Items -

For February meeting – Contract with the buses and Capital Budget (Playground)

Approval of Minutes -

On a motion by Jan Plaue seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted 5 yeas to approve the minutes of December 10, 2019 as amended.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mort Inger seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Submitted by
Ann M. Tefft

Included in the Packet: Principal's Report, Expense Report, revised Expense Report, and minutes.
Distributed at the meeting revised FY21 budget, Public Hearing document and page showing possible reductions and sources of revenue.