

Wellfleet School Committee
Wellfleet Elementary School Conference Room
March 10, 2020

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

Present for the Administration: Principal Mary Beth Rodman

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

Chair's Report – None

Member's Report – Martha Gordon indicated there is no one running for Mort Inger's seat on the School Committee. Martha Gordon is the only person running for Wellfleet School Committee. She also indicated the WHAT Theatre is offering two special shows with community talent on 3/28 for family and friends and 4/4 for adults.

Citizens Speak - None

Priority Business –

Bus Parking at Wellfleet Elementary School in the summer

Suzanne Thomas distributed a copy of the agreement to the committee. She asked that the committee authorize the Chair to sign the contract ones the two bus company's sign their contracts. They will be piloting this with just the two contractors this summer. The police and beach patrol will monitor. Signs will be in place.

Motion: On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Jan Plaue it was voted unanimously, 4-0, to accept the contract for the bus parking and authorize the Chair to sign for the committee.

A letter was received by the Chair relative to the opposition to the beach parking indicating concerns of alcohol use by those using the buses. The Chair indicated they are partnering with the Town to make it a safer place. Suzanne Thomas indicated that there is a Parking Task Force in town and they have looked into this. The Wellfleet Police Department has offered dedicated personnel to the Cahoon Hollow area.

Suzanne Thomas was thanked for all her efforts and time spent on this contract. Ms. Thomas indicated she will email the Chair when it is time to sign the contract.

Administrators' Reports

Principal's Report

Principal Rodman's report was included in the packet. She reported that 11 guests from the community participated in the Read Aloud program.

Grants – Principal Rodman explained the grants to the committee.

Motion: On a motion by Martha Gordon, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously, 4-0, to approve the grants as listed. (Art Supplies – Heidi Filmer-Gallagher)

Sunburst Video

Principal Rodman presented the video of the summer program being offered at the Middle School to the committee. She indicated they are accepting applications for the program at the Middle School. Sunburst students will design creative solutions to Cape Cod challenges. Transportation is also available.

School Choice

Principal Rodman would like to see two additional Kindergarten students enrolled through the school choice program in the fall. Presently they are expecting 14 Kindergarten students from Wellfleet. She also indicated that the two school choice students that enrolled in Grade 1 this past year are a wonderful addition to the community.

Motion: On a motion by Martha Gordon, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously, 4-0, to open 2 school choice seats to Kindergarten students in the fall of 2020.

be a fantastic facility for the next fifty years for the future of our kids.

Policies

Policy JBB – Educational Equity was tabled.

Motion: On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to approve JFABF Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care, for a second reading and adoption.

On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to approve JFABE Educational Opportunities for Military Children for a second reading and adoption.

FY20 Budget Review

It was indicated the balance in the budget is \$9,242.11. They are waiting to hear about extraordinary relief money for special needs.

Jan Plaue asked about the status of the building project for the high school. Principal Rodman indicated there is a forum on the project scheduled for April 25th at the Wellfleet Council on Aging. Principal Rodman suggested that everyone take a tour of the high school, noting parents want better security and a better learning environment for children.

Playground Forum

Principal Rodman indicated that a survey went out to staff and stakeholders to be returned by April 10. They had a small group meet and a subcommittee was formed. They are researching the value and importance of play. The forum had five attendees that met for 2.5 hours. They brainstormed ideas of what a playground concept was for each individual and came up with words like; social, fun, exploration, creative, imagination, movement, team, friendship, cooperation, friendly, release of energy, to name a few. The subcommittee has scheduled its first meeting on April 13 at 2:15 p.m. Giovanna Venditti and Jim Nowack will be in attendance.

Chair Pontius inquired as to how they will get the community involved. Jill Putnam suggested partnerships with the tech school and AmeriCorps. Jill Putnam stated she has seen many playgrounds and would like to see STEM incorporated into the playground. Nancy White sent regulations for sand that she recommends. She also sent a list of equipment that is not recommended for public playgrounds as well as for children under 4 and 5 years old. Principal Rodman shared that the WES students are excited about the ideas for a new playground.

Reports and Information

Cape Cod Collaborative - Jill Putnam reported that she has not been attending the meetings due to her surgery. She indicated that Cape Cod Collaborative board members must take a training course, which she did, and get a certificate of completion. The Annual Report was shared as well as the spending plan for the budget. She indicated that she did not attend the Legislative Breakfast but understood it was well attended. They are working on the strategic plan and the evaluation for the Executive Director.

Preschool Enrollment - Included in packet

PTA – Chair Pontius indicated there is a new Treasurer, Lauren Hill. Sarah will be the Vice President and they now have a full board. They recently held a dance in the cafeteria and hired a DJ. The event was very well attended. They are presently working on WEST FEST. They are also working on getting some more LIVE WELLFLEET merchandise out. They are also thinking about a family movie night. They would like to do things as a community and not ask for money so that people can just come together for fun.

Strategic Plan Advisory

Martha Gordon reported that the Strategic Plan Draft is ready. They are meeting as a group and everyone is reviewing the document.

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Task Force

Martha Gordon reported that they did not meet this month. She also announced that Dr. Caretti is retiring.

Policy Subcommittee – No report

Wellness Committee – Principal Rodman reported that the Hoop House has been in place for ten years and they are going to take the structure down. The garden will remain intact.

Future Agenda Items –

Town Meeting

Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Jan Plaue seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted 4 yeas to approve the minutes of February 11, 2020.

Adjournment

On a motion by Jan Plaue seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Submitted by

Ann M. Tefft

Included in the Packet: Principal's Report, Expense Report, Grants, and minutes. Distributed at meeting
Equipment not recommended for public playgrounds.