

UNION 54 School Committee
Thursday, October 27, 2016

Present for the Committees:

Brewster: Dave Telman, Bob Miller, Marie Enochty, Jessica Larson, Claire Gradone
Eastham: Mary Lou Sette, Ann Crozier, Joanne Irish, Judy Lindahl, Moira Noonan-Kerry
Orleans: Gail Briere, Hank Schumacher, Ginger Marks, Josh Stewart
Wellfleet: Jill Putnam, Mort Inger, Jan Plaua

Call to Order

Chair Briere called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Citizen Speak

None

After School Program Services in Our Communities

Chair Gail Briere expressed the important service the afterschool programs provide for our parents and wondered if all families are being serviced right now. She contacted Chairs of other committees to see what the afterschool program looks like in each town.

Orleans –

Orleans Afterschool Activities Program, OASAP, is a licensed childcare program that runs from 2:00 – 5:30 p.m. daily. During vacation the program runs 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Tuesday – Friday. The program uses the cafeteria, the gym, and the library. On early release days, the program runs 11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. In the summer, the program runs 12:00 noon to 5:30 p.m. The program services 75 students during the school year and 80-90 in the summer. The program is licensed for 52 children per day and cannot exceed that number on any given day. The adult to children ration is 1 – 10 or 11. The state requirement is 1-13. The program needs 6 full time employees to meet the goal ratio. Right now they have 4.25 full time employees. The total enrollment at OES is 217. The criteria for enrollment in the program – 85% slots go to parents who are working or seeking employment. The remaining 15% of the slots go to students with needs. Working parents get priority and it is on a first come, first-served basis. Homework is a big part of the program and parents are asked to share I.E.P.'s and 504 plans. Teachers send homework folders and the after school staff assists with assignments. The OASAP staff talks to parents and OES staff, regarding specific needs of a child. Professional development is needed in Math and the best time for this to take place is in the morning or after 5:30 p.m. OASAP offered to fund professional development. They accept vouchers from the childcare network. They also offer some scholarships. The cost for care is \$18.00 per day for the first child and \$16.00 per day for the second and third child. Next year it will be \$20.00 per day for the first child and \$16.00 for the second and third child. If you pay the full amount at the beginning of the school year, parents receive a discount. The program also receives \$20,000 from the Human Services line item of the town budget. She also reported that some children who need a 1-1 educational assistant come into the program without this assistance. If the behavior escalates, there is a strong likelihood that the child can no longer continue at OASAP.

Challenges –

Ms. Briere indicated that the challenges for the program are dedicated space. Sometimes the cafeteria needs to be used for another event and then they have to find a space or spaces to accommodate 52 students. Finding qualified staff is also a challenge. When concerns arise, the concern should be channeled through their board and not through the school principal or school committee. When the start time for the schools switched, the High School students were no longer available to volunteer. Presently there are kids on a waiting list. They are currently trying to fill positions and are in the process of interviewing.

Eastham -

Joanne Irish reported on the Eastham after school care program, ECEC. Presently they have an interim director, until June 17, 2017. They are located in the cafeteria, gym and outside playground. The hours are from 1:55 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. They have 25 students in the program with a cap of 30 students. Their license allows for 33. They keep some slots open for the flex plan that allows parents, in a pinch, to use the after school childcare services. The ratio is 8-1. Enrollment in Eastham is 170 students. The only criteria to get into the program are that you must be a resident of Eastham. There is no wait list and it is on a first-come, first-served basis. The children receive homework assistance. Classroom teachers connect with the staff.

They would welcome any kind of Professional Development in the area of Math. She did not know about childcare vouchers. The cost is \$50 registration fee, \$11 supplies fee, \$19 per day for first child and \$17 for the second child. Half days of school the fee is \$40 per day per child. The town operating budget supplements the after school program by giving them \$15,000. Additional money is received through fundraisers and grants. If a parent has a student with special needs, they work with the parents and teachers to find out the needs of the child. They have not had a situation where this is a problem. There has not been a need for 1-1 educational assistant. One of the staff members is a former teacher. The other staff members are working toward a degree in teaching. They do receive some training.

Challenges –

Space for the director is a challenge as presently the director sits in a closet. Otherwise there are no issues. They are a non-profit, run by a board of directors. They share a summer program with the Wellfleet Recreation Program.

Marie Enochty indicated that all programs pay their own liability. They do not pay rent. They are a licensed program.

Joanne Irish indicated that Kaboom, Eastham's after school enrichment program cannot find a coordinator. People who teach the classes must be Cori'd and fingerprinted for \$35 which is presenting a problem for some of them. Gail Briere indicated that Orleans has an after school enrichment program in the fall/spring which takes place 1 hour after school. There are two staff members, a director and a coordinator. The director and the coordinator work 32 hours per week. The group leaders work 20 hours per week.

Brewster –

Dave Telman reported that the Nauset Youth Alliance runs both after school programs at Eddy and Stony Brook. The program uses the cafeteria, gym, library and outside playground. The hours are from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The program serves 45-50 students at Eddy School and 60-70 students at Stony Brook. Eddy School employs 4 Adults and there are 12 students per an adult. Stony Brook employees 6-7 adults and there is 10 students per adult. Total enrollment at the schools is 250/247. The program accepts vouchers. They do stipulate that both parents have to be working or seeking employment. They try to accommodate every family that wants to be in the program. They are never full. The program is designated as a large group program and is allotted a certain amount of kids based on square footage. Ms. Enochty indicated that the license is for 55 students. Jessica Larsen indicated that within the past five years the program has been at capacity. The staff helps students with homework assignments. They have a 15 minute wind down time, a sharing time, and time to do homework together. He indicated it was mandatory for their teachers to have professional development, 20 hours per year, paid out of pocket. They are always looking for free opportunities to get this professional development. The cost is \$18-\$24 per day per child. The director wants to look at it on an individual basis. The program received \$7,000 from the Human Services last year at town meeting. They have students requiring a 1-1 educational assistant at both schools and the parents indicated that their insurance covered the whole cost for the child at the program while they are working.

Challenges –

The challenge is staff turn-over. The position is from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. daily and is a high stress job where the adult is in charge of 10 or so students. It is not a high-paying job. The director is new this year. Pick up is a problem when you have one child at Stony and one child at Eddy. Jessica Larsen indicated that some students in Grade 6 attend the program and go from the Middle School to the Eddy School site.

Marie Enochty indicated that all programs have to have 20 hours of training for staff and it is at their cost.

Jill Putnam asked about the flexibility within the structure and if something like a webinar or study group on a particular subject would do. Marie Enochty indicated that all professional development is documented within the state.

Wellfleet –

Jan Plaue thought that the information that was relative to the after school enrichment program. Wellfleet has 3 – six week sessions and a four week session. This happens all year and quite a few kids are involved. There are a lot of teachers who work at the after school enrichment program and receive a stipend.

The after school childcare program runs from 1:45 – 5:00 p.m. 13-1 ratio inside and 8-1 ratio outside. The program is compliant with EEC regulations. Wellfleet enrollment is 102 students. Twenty-two students are registered in the program. 10-12 students attend on a regular basis. They would like professional development in behavior modification and organizational skills. They receive vouchers from Community Action and Bailey-Boyd Association for \$15 per day. The cost is \$15 for first child and \$11 for siblings. There are presently 3 staff members. Jill Putnam indicated that the license is for 26 school age children. She did not believe they received a supplement from the town. They use the gym, cafeteria and outdoor playground.

Challenges-

They always need funding for teacher salaries, snacks and consumables. The staff is consistent.

Jessica Larsen stated that feeding a healthy snack is very costly and is a substantial amount. The amount the staff is paid ranges from \$12.50-14.50 per hour.

Gail Briere asked if the schools should provide professional development for the programs. Marie Enochty indicated that these are licensed afterschool, independent programs with a board of directors.

Jill Putnam indicated that the Cape Cod Collaborative does Professional Development. (First Aid and CPR)

Gail Briere felt that the four communities could take advantage of professional development. She also suggested that the committee think of ways to support the success of after school programs in all our communities. She indicated that she will put it on the next agenda for people to bring back any ideas they might have to support the programs and the children in our communities.

Dave Telman asked that the focus be on critical question for all for towns together and make the discussion more targeted.

Gail Briere stated the next agenda would have grants, professional development, directors' meeting, space and space challenges. She suggested if anyone had any thoughts, to email her.

On a motion by Josh Stewart, seconded by Marie Enochty, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. Tefft