

Wellfleet School Committee
Wellfleet Town Hall Virtual Meeting
July 14, 2020

Present for the Committee: Jan Plaue, Jill Putnam, Betsy Pontius, Martha Gordon, and Laura Baghetti

Present for the Administration: Superintendent Tom Conrad, Giovanna Venditti, Director of Finances and Principal Mary Beth Rodman

REORGANIZATION – Superintendent Conrad called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and took nominations for the Chair. On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Betsy Pontius as Chair for the Wellfleet School Committee.

Betsy Pontius then asked for nominations for Vice Chair. On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Jan Plaue, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Martha Gordon as Vice Chair of the Wellfleet School committee.

Secretary – On a motion by Betsy Pontius, second by Jan Plaue, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Ann Tefft as recording secretary to the Wellfleet School Committee.

Warrant Authorizer: On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Jan Plaue, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Betsy Pontius as Warrant Authorizer.

Alternate Warrant Authorizer: On a motion by Betsy Pontius, seconded by Jan Plaue, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Martha Gordon as Alternate Warrant Authorizer.

On a motion by Martha Gordon, seconded by Jan Plaue, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Betsy Pontius to the Policy Subcommittee.

On a motion by Betsy Pontius, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Jan Plaue to the Central Office Budget Subcommittee.

On a motion by Betsy Pontius, seconded by Jan Plaue, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint (for continuity and consistency) Mort Inger to Negotiations Subcommittee.

On a motion by Betsy Pontius, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Laura Baghetti to the Transportation Subcommittee.

On a motion by Betsy Pontius, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Laura Baghetti to the Health & Wellness Subcommittee.

On a motion by Betsy Pontius, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Martha Gordon to the Substance Abuse Task Force.

On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Jill Putnam as the representative to the Cape Cod Collaborative.

On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously to appoint Betsy Pontius as PTA Liaison.

On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Martha Gordon as School Council Liaison.

The following Members were appointed voting members of Union #54: Betsy Pontius, Martha Gordon, and Jill Putnam. The Alternates for Union #54 are Jan Plaue and Laura Baghetti.

Agenda Changes – None

Chair's Report – None

Member's Speak – Jill Putnam shared information regarding the MASC course, "Charting the Course" for the new member. Martha Gordon shared her 3' distancing concerns.

Citizens Speak – None

**Priority Business –
Administrators' Reports
Principal's Report**

Principal Rodman indicated that she received 29 responses to the parent survey and 28 narrative responses. She indicated parents were pleased with WES staff and remote learning. She indicated that some parents would like more face-to-face time for learning. She also reported that she will be meeting with the Wellfleet Task Force made up of staff members. She met with Mary Buchanan, Director of Student Services, to plan for the special needs population. She reported the summer reading program developed in conjunction with the public library, "Imagine Your Story." She reported summer school, ESY, is taking place from July 6 – August 13. Summer school for regular education students and special needs students is taking place. There are 21 students enrolled, 9 are in the facility and 12 are working remotely. Eight staff members are leading that work. She informed the Committee that Nauset is offering tiered levels of remote learning for staff professional development. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education required PPE training for people working in person this summer. Claudia Crosen, School Nurse, provided this for staff. She reported there is a balance of \$445 in the USDA grant and Mrs. Crosen is using that for composting supplies.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Conrad reported he is in regular meetings with the Commissioner of Education, Cape Superintendents, Tom Scott of the Superintendent's Association. He is sending out communications to school committee members, staff and parents each week through his TV production, Superintendent's Spotlight. People are anxious to understand the plans for the fall. He created a Task Force made up of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Mary Ellen Reed, Nurse Coordinator for the District, Carol Forgione, Giovanna Venditti, Mary Buchanan and the new Technology Director, Eileen Belastock. He indicated the work of the Task Force is focused on PPE which has been ordered for three months. They are working on a parent survey, staff survey and transportation survey. He indicated the data is needed to come back into school in all the buildings. Principals have been charged to create a Building Task Force to develop three options for returning to school – in buildings, remote, and a hybrid version. His expectation is to pull all the plans together and have a conversation with the Task Force. The Task Force is working on protocol that are essential going forward for students parents and staff. Mary Ellen Reed,

Nurse Coordinator, is working on a health protocol for the District. They are also working on a cleaning protocol with the Head Custodians. There might be a training program for staff as proposed by the Commissioner. Instead of 180 days of school there will be 177 days. He has not approved this yet. He is working with a Parent Task Force with parents from all four towns and various grade levels participating. The Task Force is working on the busing plan. They are concerned about the drivers and the students. They are waiting for further information on buses. He indicated that the Commissioner wants schools to announce their plan the first week in August. Thursday, August 6th at 6:30 there will be a Joint School Committee meeting to share the plan with the committees. He also indicated if they go back into the buildings and parents do not want to send their child to school, we are responsible to educate all students. He is concerned about staffing and teachers not coming back due to medical reasons. He has met with the Union leadership for much of the summer and they have a very good relationship. The Union leadership is working with other Union Presidents across the state and has given Superintendents a five-page document on how to move forward. They understand that we want safety for all staff, students and families.

Martha Gordon expressed her concern about rising numbers of COVID 19 and the influx of summer visitors. This could change as we get close to the school year. The Superintendent indicated that Mary Ellen Reed is communication with health agents who meet on a regular basis. Principal Rodman is getting inquiries for families who have summer homes and are considering moving to Wellfleet from the larger cities.

Jill Putnam applauded the Superintendent and his communication with the committee and families. Betsy Pontius inquired about non-English speakers and if they were getting information. She also felt the communication by the Superintendent has been outstanding. Laura Baghetti inquired about the plan in the event someone is ill. The Superintendent indicated that it is within the plan. Schools are designating and isolation room where students or staff will be sent, cleaning and disinfecting are paramount. He would like to see continuity and consistency in cleaning and disinfecting in all our schools.

MASC Resolutions

On a motion by Jill Putnam, seconded by Jan Plaue, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote that the Resolution from MASC on COVID 19 Expenses be adopted.

On a motion by Martha Gordon, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote that the MASC Anti-Racism Resolution be adopted with the last sentence amended to read:

We must ensure our own school culture and that of every district in the commonwealth is anti-racist that acknowledges that until black lives matter, we cannot say that all lives matter.

Reports and Information

Cape Cod Collaborative - Jill Putnam reported that the Cape Cod Collaborative met remotely on June 10th. They appointed offices, had a budget discussion and spending plan and voted a 2.8% increase in tuition rates. The Star Program has 47 students committed for the fall and Way Point has 56 students. The Collaborative is dealing with Special Education and Regular Education buses. The Collaborative is working on the protocols. Plymouth Public Schools will be an adjunct member and has been very active. Cape Cod Collaborative handbooks re being review and updated. They voted on personnel changes. She also indicated that the Osterville Elementary School just finished a ten year lease and it looks lie that lease will be renewed for another ten years. There is some maintenance that needs to be done by the town.

PTA - no report

Strategic Plan – no report

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Task Force – The Superintendent indicated that the new Director of Student Services will be reaching out to Task Force members.

Policy Subcommittee – no report

Wellness Committee –no report

Future Agenda Items –

Jan Plaue would like as a future agenda item an understanding of how the budget will work this year, the 1/12 budget that is in place until town meeting. The Superintendent indicated that the schools and towns need the state number. The state needs money from the federal government. Giovanna Venditti is monitoring this very closely. There will be a conversation about the budget at the next meeting.

Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Jan Plaue seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the minutes of June 9, 2020 as amended.

Adjournment

On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Submitted by
Ann M. Tefft