

Wellfleet School Committee
Wellfleet Town Hall Virtual Meeting
September 8, 2020

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

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

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

Agenda Changes – None

Chair's Report – Chair Pontius expressed her thanks to everyone who has worked so hard in the planning for the re-opening of school.

Member's Speak – Martha Gordon asked that at a future meeting the committee talk about communication. She was concerned about the fact that she was told the high school was going remotely by a neighbor. She had not heard this as a school committee member.

Citizens Speak – Lee Miller invited school committee members to tour the building and see what the new WES looks like as it is quite different. Principal Rodman indicated she would send out a sign-up sheet for members to visit between 9/9 – 9/15.

Martha Gordon congratulated Principal Rodman for doing such a phenomenal job keeping the committee informed.

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

Principal Rodman reported that 89 students will be attending in-person, 13 students will be using the remote model for learning, and 6 students are homeschooling. She also indicated that 10 new students have registered. She indicated that there have been changes with the Wellfleet Elem. and Eastham Elem. remote teachers. She reviewed staffing with the Committee and the partnership with Eastham Elementary. She also informed them that the District Nurses did a 3-part webinar on health and safety procedures and protocols for staff with Dr. David Pombo, infectious disease specialist from Cape Cod Hospital. She reported that she received a generous grant from the Cape Light Compact for \$122,000. She reported that the HVAC system is being looked at and ventilators are being cleaned.

Jan Plaue shared that Principals Rodman's presentations were outstanding and should be shared throughout the district with other Principals. (*Creating a Positive Working and Learning Environment (Self Care included) Fall School Reopening Guidance and the Nauset Blueprint, The Science of Active Learning & Student Engagement*)

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported that he has been working with ventilation and air flow experts and will receive reports in the very near future for buildings in the district. He was told the all buildings in the district, with the exception of the High School are in good shape. The High School is starting remotely as they work to complete repairs. The plan going forward at the High School is to get back into a hybrid model as soon as everything is up and running. He reported he had a conversation with Fred Magee

about the fire suppression system at WES. He report the Finance Committee is in favor of the article. The Superintendent explained some of the staffing challenges the district is experiencing with multiple people retiring and some requiring medical accommodations. He indicated that Carol Forgione, HR Director has done a fantastic job to make sure we have everyone in place. Principals are working with their staffs on safety protocols and other things relative to getting off to a strong start this school year. He indicated that the Union is prepared to start negotiating. He reported a continued excellent relationship with the Union. He recognized Principal Roman and personally thanked her for all her hard work.

2020-2021 Revised School Calendar

Assistant Superintendent Keith Gauley presented the revised school calendar showing 175 student days and included some half days for professional development.

Motion: On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Laura Baghetti, it was voted by roll call vote to approve the revised 2020-2021 school calendar. On a roll call the vote was as follows: Betsy Pontius – yea, Laura Baghetti – yea, Jill Putnam – yea, Jan Plaue – yea and Martha Gordon – yea.

FY20 Final Budget

Giovanna Venditti presented the final expenditure report noting a balance of \$32,491 that was returned to the Town of Wellfleet. Prepayment was made for Preschool and Cape Cod Collaborative in the amount of \$56,374.

Policies for a Second Reading

Motion:

On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the policy EBC Supplemental Policies for the Pandemic for a second reading. On a roll call the vote was as follows: Laura Baghetti, - yes, Jill Putnam – yes, Jan Plaue – yes, Marth Gordon – yes and Chair Pontius – yes

Motion:

On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted to approve the policy for Remote Learning, IHBHE, for a second reading. On a roll call the vote was as follows: Laura Baghetti, - yes, Jill Putnam – yes, Jan Plaue – yes, Marth Gordon – yes and Chair Pontius – yes

Motion:

On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Martha Gordon, it was voted to approve the policy for Face Coverings, EBCFA for a second reading. On a roll call the vote was as follows: Laura Baghetti, - yes, Jill Putnam – yes, Jan Plaue – yes, Marth Gordon – yes and Chair Pontius – yes

Fire Suppression System

Jim Nowack walked the building with the Fire Chief and Engineers in May and obtained cost estimates. He estimated construction costs of just over \$1,000,000. He indicated engineering services were \$105,000. He explained the timeline for the bidding process. Fall 2020 it will go out to bid and construction will take place in December 2021. He also reported that there are no grants or funding available for the project. He indicated that Chief Pauley made the recommendation for the fire suppression system 3 years ago. He indicated that Wellfleet Elementary will be required to install the sprinkler system.

Power went out in Wellfleet and members got kicked out of the Zoom meeting. The Chair continued with the meeting in the hopes they would get back into the meeting.

Town Meeting Discussion

Chair Pontius indicated that Wellfleet voters were voting today. Concerned members wanted to discuss town meeting strategy. Chair Pontius indicated that the fire suppression system is something they are required to do and must follow the code. The Superintendent indicated that he had a conversation with Fred Magee, Chair of the Finance Committee, and he said his board voted in favor of it. Mr. Nowack indicated that this was discussed at the town forum last week with Chief Pauley.

Members started to come back into the meeting and the Chair recapped the conversation for them.

Reports and Information

Cape Cod Collaborative – no report

PTA – no report

Strategic Plan – no report

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Task Force –no report

Policy Subcommittee –no report

Wellness Committee –no report

Future Agenda Items – Communication with School Committee members relative to District issues
Communication –Plan around town meeting, vimeo about the importance of Article 10.

Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Laura Baghetti, seconded by Betsy Pontius, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020 as amended. On a roll call the vote was as follows: Martha Gordon – yea, Laura Baghetti – yea, and Betsy Pontius – yea

On a motion by Laura Baghetti, seconded by Martha Gordon there was a motion made to adjourn. No vote was taken.

Chair Pontius recapped the meeting again. She indicated that Jim Nowack will present the fire suppression system at town meeting and answer questions.

Jill Putnam wanted to talk about town meeting and what to do if there was a question on the school budget. She wondered who was going to be there to have a concise response to it. The Superintendent indicated that Giovanna Venditti and Jim Nowack will figure that out. Chair Pontius indicated she could speak to increases in enrollment if the topic comes up.

Future Agenda Items

Choose a Delegate and review MASC Resolutions

Delegate meeting is Saturday, November 7 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

It was voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:27p.m.

Submitted by, Ann M. Tefft