

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2018

Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Tim Lepore, Pauline Proch, Steve Sortevik & School Council New Representative, Henry Dupont

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Tim Lepore, at 6:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction room at NHS. A motion was made to approve the agenda, by Pauline Proch, seconded by Jennifer Iller and was approved by the Committee. Superintendent Cozort welcomed the new Director of Technology, Jenn Erichsen and Henry Dupont was welcomed as the new School Council representative.

Comments from Public

The Chairman recognized a large group of attendees at the meeting and asked to move Public Comment until after the Rotary Conversation, deferring to open with Mike Burns from the Town of Nantucket, and his presentation. The Chair would allow for Q&A after the presentation.

Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee

Rotary Conversation – T. Michael Burns, Town of Nantucket

Mike Burns shared a Power Point that depicted the three main rotary intersections currently being reviewed and discussed in public forums in the community: the Four Corners, Surfside Road at Bartlett Road and Old South Road at Fairgrounds. The information he offered were concept designs and because two of the rotaries would impact the school and traffic flows, he determined to focus this presentation on Surfside and Four Corners. The projects are funded largely by the Town. The idea behind these traffic/road modifications is to address areas of concern resulting from ongoing traffic studies done since 2003. These studies have been a part of the Master Plan and take into consideration population and traffic increase, existing conditions, improvement options and the way to reduce risk and increase safety. The rotaries are designed to incorporate Town's "*Complete Streets*" policy while providing ADA compliant facilities through the intersections, offering pedestrian crossing locations, bicycle accommodations, separation for vehicle traffic from other roadway users, reduce the conflict points and improve aesthetics of the intersections. Mr. Burns offered many renderings, maps, and statistics, and rotary shape concept designs to support the determination that the rotaries are a good idea. At the Surfside/Bartlett rotary that impacts the school crossing for mostly NES and NIS, he reviewed with multiple reasons how this will be beneficial to the school. At the Four Corners rotary, where there is the pool parking lot and a school crossing for mostly CPS & NHS, he reviewed how this will also be beneficial for the school and the hospital. He mentioned the purchase(s) of properties that border these two areas to accommodate the land spaces needed for construction of the rotaries. Mr. Burns shared with the Committee that the Safe Routes to School organization endorses the rotary projects and the projects will be staggered in their timing and funded by different Town sources. Dr. Lepore jumped in to say he is very concerned about the cars moving, not stopping, and feels strongly that this is not a pedestrian friendly solution. He suggested that we may be "fixing something that isn't broken." He maintained that a three-way stop sign is a better alternative at Surfside/Bartlett. Mr. Burns emphasized that, according to the Safe Routes to Schools information, roundabouts reduce risk, especially where there are lots of delays and cues. While stop signs have been considered, they are not good for First Responders. Audience members asked questions. Steve Sortevik asked for the names of the organizations that are cited as resources regarding these concept plans and he also asked about finding information on the Town website, as well as a time line for the projects. Mr. Sortevik also added that he is not convinced of the ideas - while rotaries are a good solution to the numbers and congestion issues, moving vehicles are not safer. Zona Butler stated that she also feels moving objects stay in motion and this is not safe for children, bicycles, and pedestrians. She reminded everyone about the school crossing guard getting hit this past year and asked if this crossing guard was present at the meeting. Mr. Joe Tormay, Building Supervisor at NIS, was indeed present and he one of the crossing guards for NIS and NES. He is of the opinion that sight lines for cars and pedestrians are a problem and remedying this issue would be paramount to helping the situation. CPS teacher, Tracy Mailloux, stated that school children often come to school earlier than the crossing guards start their crossings, and the areas are busy at many other times of the day and year when crossing guards are not present, therefore this is not going to alleviate the safety concerns.

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More information was disseminated and discussed regarding the Four Corners rotary, and the shape options for this rotary (an avocado, a peanut, or a circle) to best fit into the existing area, the preservation of an Elm Tree and not interfering with the Pool Parking lot space. Mrs. Butler asked which rotary would be under construction first and Mr. Burns replied the Bartlett roundabout has already had the real estate transactions completed and that would be the first construction project. Mrs. Butler asked if this presentation was simply just that, a presentation on a project that is already “in the works”. She feels as though this is just for show and the School Committee’s input is not going to make a difference at this stage. Pauline Proch had specific questions about the renderings and she was curious about sidewalks and bike paths to help circle around and Mr. Burns was quick to answer, if the Committee thinks these (sidewalks) are beneficial it is helpful for them to state exactly that to the Board of Selectman. Jennifer Iller then echoed the main thoughts of the Committee - that while the rotary is helpful for traffic issues it is not safe for children and it promotes a scary situation, as they (children) do not have the instincts that an adult might have to cross in a busy area. There was further discussion about the cost and Mr. Christopher Maury, Athletic Director, asked for the total cost including land acquisition, plans, construction. Mr. Burns gave a rough figure of two million dollars not factoring in the ancillary costs. He emphasized that these numbers, the safety factors, and support documents in favor of the roundabouts, come with a lot of research and a lot of studies and he wanted to reiterate he would be remiss in doing his job if he had not done extremely thorough research in provision of these projects. From the audience, retired Chief of Police, Jack McGrady, spoke to say he has studied roundabouts. He has done a great deal of research (citing PEDSAFE and others) and rotaries are not pedestrian friendly. He and Dr. Lepore went back and forth in conversation remembering certain vehicular and pedestrian accidents and agreed there is no good fix to this issue. Dr. Lepore asked about trying out a three-way stop at Bartlett to see how that works and that it would be less expensive and perhaps a way to test the operations of that busy area. Questions peppered from many audience members regarding the next steps of process in approving these rotaries and would there be ballot votes or articles called at Annual Town Meeting and where the Board of Selectmen stand on these projects. Mr. Burns wrapped up by asking the School Committee to submit any comments or suggestions they felt prudent to the BOS. The general consensus of the Committee was that they are not in favor of the Surfside rotary. In closing, Dr. Lepore thanked Mr. Burns for his presentation and added he felt this was a “fait accompli” and sounded as if regardless of comment, they were already moving forward.

Technology Update – Director of Technology, Karen McGonigle

Karen McGonigle began her presentation by thanking everyone for a great eleven years and this was her last presentation as the Director of Technology with NPS. She is taking a position with the Town and was sure she would return to future meetings, but as a representative for the Town instead of the school. She offered her power point presentation reviewing the many accomplishments for the district and broke down some specifics for each school. Just a few in the list: Aspen Family Connection portal; the EL tracking system; successful mitigation from Ransomware attack and security solutions; the phone system/voicemail upgrade; replacing aged out switches and firewall to improve infrastructure; expanding the virtual server configurations; and increased internet bandwidth. There was also moving the Community School, the opening of the Intermediate School, upgrading Chromebooks and offering those in NIS, upgrading the Art Lab in NHS and installing multiple smartboards in all the schools. With the vast number of accomplishments, this had led to improvements to classroom support for hardware, software, the use of applications as well as expanding use for teachers, students and administration. These upgrades have helped with Professional Development, MCAS support, and the balancing of multimedia and social media student safety, security and legal compliance. The demand for technology and bandwidth is always increasing and it is difficult to keep up with these demands and the trends. NPS works hard to balance all of these needs while staying current with educational systems and functionality.

Mrs. McGonigle reviewed her hardware inventory and gave her annual five year snapshot of what the district uses for traditional desktops, laptops, iPads, Chromebooks, SmartBoards and Interactive Projector, commenting on the increase of the number of our Chromebooks as we are a 1:1 district. The Committee had questions about what devices are recycled and when are Chromebooks upgraded. The current cycle is a three year use by a student.

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Mrs. Iller asked about providing parent support in navigating the Chromebook devices at home, as she feels there is a large gap between how students use the devices in 5th grade versus 6th grade and she feels we (the schools) need to pay more attention to the homework demands on the computers, and how much time students are actually spending on the devices. She was curious about the access students have to websites that are not for school necessarily such as YouTube or Netflix and can the school monitor this use. Mrs. McGonigle responded that the district does have software called *Go Guardian* that can actually track usage, but we don't do this every day for every student. We have the capability should the need to check the history of a student's use. Mr. Sortevik asked about more stringent access outside of the school and is it possible to limit function in or out of school for certain sites. Mrs. Butler added that health risks are a concern and she has heard of more headaches in our student population. She feels there is most probably a direct tie to lengthy computer use and the headaches or anxiety and stress related issues and we need to support this area of concern. Superintendent Cozort stated that he believes strongly that parent responsibility is paramount to the outside of school access. In finalizing her presentation, Mrs. McGonigle wanted to thank everyone and also wanted to warmly welcome Mrs. Jenn Erichsen, new to the position and that the district was in terrific hands as the baton handed over. Committee members thanked Ms. McGonigle for all that she has done over the years.

Annual Athletics Update – Director of Athletics, Christopher Maury

Chris Maury began his presentation offering three handouts: participation and records for the past year; statistics of records and accomplishments; and a narrative with some 'points of interest'. He noted that participation continues to grow and he is enthusiastic about the numbers. For the year, 386 NHS students and 178 CPS students participated in at least one interscholastic athletic team. Collectively, 561 games were played in regular season and 23 state tournament games were completed from a program offering 21 Varsity sport teams. The Fall is the largest season, versus Winter and Spring. He noted the weather related challenges for the Winter and especially the Spring. Mr. Maury talked a bit about how far some of our teams could go (or did) in the season and he is confident Boys Soccer could go all the way to a State Tournament. He also noted Volleyball doing very well for a new Varsity Sport. Swimming has been a consistently high achieving sport for both boys and girls and Boys Lacrosse has ventured deep into state level tournament play for the last four years. He highlighted the new sports, Cross Country and Tennis, both with good numbers and both doing very well. A few personal student highlights were Phadra Plank winning the League MVP for Girls Cross Country, Tyler Roethke making school history to be the first Whaler to be recognized as a State Champion, winning the 100 yard freestyle swim at the State Finals meet, and Kalik Liburd becoming the 9th Whaler basketball player to reach 1,000 points. With focus always being on academics first, Mr. Maury proudly stated the best news of all was the stellar academic numbers – 202 students obtained honor roll status, 64 students obtained high honor roll and the overall GPA for participating student's athletes was an impressive 3.59. A few other notable positives: Jim Pignato recognized as Bay Colony & MIAA Coach of the Year for Girls Swimming, Natalie Thompson named EMSCA Assistant Coach of the Year, the hiring of the new Football Coach Joe Perry, former Whaler player and Assistant Coach under Brian Ryder, and the return of the Island Cup for next season, to be played in Nantucket and assured by returning coach Dick Herman from Martha's Vineyard. One other notable is the expansion of the Cape & Island's League, an ongoing project starting in 2010, now adding five more schools – Barnstable, Dennis Yarmouth, Falmouth, Nauset and Sandwich and Martha's Vineyard which will increase the level of play for our teams. Mr. Maury reviewed three Varsity coach positions that are vacant due to coaches relocating and the hope is to fill these with good prospects, but the shoes are not easy to fill. Finally, Mr. Maury wanted to mention the passing of Vito Capizzo, an iconic figure in Whaler athletic history. The funeral was almost a reunion with so many people coming from near and far to pay their respects. Steve Sortevik thanked Mr. Maury for all the weekly updates. Henry Dupont asked about the track and if the cross country team is performing so well, will the track be upgraded. Mr. Maury stated that Cross Country focus' more on the trail running and he is looking for a course that is more rural with Sanford Farm and other conservation land being looked at as possibilities.

Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Appoint the School Committee Clerk for re-appointment for 2018-2019

Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Iller, with none opposed, the appointment was agreed.

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Vote to Approve Donation from the Nantucket Fund/Community Foundation for Nantucket to Nantucket Community School for Summer Boost Program for incoming Kindergarten students, \$10,600.00

Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion for the donation was approved.

Vote to Approve Calendar Changes for 2018-2019

Superintendent Cozort pointed out two changes to add a ½ day Professional Development, one in September and one in October. This will enhance PD we currently offer to our staff. Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve, Pauline Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the June 5, 2018, Meeting Minutes. Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve, Jenn Iller seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices Jennifer Iller made a motion to approve, Pauline Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.

**Superintendent's Report–W. Michael Cozort
Hiring Update**

Mr. Cozort reviewed the current hiring status. We have filled Kindergarten, First, Fifth, ELL at NIS, PE and SPED at CPS and PE, Guidance, and SPED in NHS. We have also filled an Assistant SPED Director, a Speech & Language Therapist and a Bilingual Support position. While there have been a few last minute resignations, a 1st grade teacher, Library TA and a SPED Leave of Absence, we are encouraged with the hiring so far. Jenn Iller asked about the .4 Spanish at CPS and the .2 AP History at NHS and Mr. Cozort said these are hopefully going to be filled, but less than a full time position is a difficult hire when living on an island because our pool of potential teachers is limited to those living here already and most teachers want a full time job.

On the Horizon

The Committee discussed and agreed they would prefer to have the July meeting on July 10. Additionally, the School Committee will hold a retreat and a date was discussed for July, but a venue needs to be found to confirm both date and location. Mike Horton offered he would like to present an update on the 2nd annual Mini-Medical day that will be in the summer for students. As far as the traditional Horizon, the ELL PAC Update and the Wellness Committee Update will be presented at the July meeting.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Sub-Committees

Safety & Security: First Responders are working on numbering the doors throughout the district

Policies: the committee continues to meet and wrap up a large project

Negotiations: Facilities NTA continue in negotiations

A few final shoutouts from Steve Sortevik complimenting the *We Are Nantucket* show and a worthwhile viewing if you did not see it live, see it online. Also, he was very impressed with the PBL Unique Libraries that are now scattered about Town and he was impressed at the work and planning that needed to be put into this project, not just in school, but in maneuvering the process of town rules and regulations. Finally, he enjoyed CPS Field Day.

Mrs. Proch said it was important to mention the Superintendent's contract was ending next year, and a Sub Committee would be welcomed to review the next steps. Dr. Lepore stated he has been on the search and hiring committee over the past many years for the Superintendent position and would like to continue in this capacity. It was decided he and Mrs. Proch would take on this Sub Committee. Mrs. Proch also wanted to mention the High School Graduation and thanked NHS Principal Dr. John Buckey and Superintendent Michael Cozort for their personal and reflective speeches.

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206 At 8:03 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Jennifer Iller and seconded by Steve Sortevik, and
207 unanimously approved.
208
209 Respectfully submitted,
210 Logan O'Connor
211 School Committee Clerk