

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2018

1
2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Pauline Proch, Steve Sortevik & Henry Dupont
3

4 The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Jennifer Iller, at 6:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction room at
5 NHS. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Steve Sortevik, seconded by Pauline Proch and was approved by
6 the Committee. Mrs. Iller welcomed new Administrators, Jaime Bailey, AP in Cyrus Peirce Middle School and
7 Robin Altman Sherman, Assistant SPED Director. Both newcomers are from off island and joining the district.
8

9 **Comments from Public**

10 None
11

12 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

13 **ELL PAC Update – Director of ELL, Kelly Ann Cooney**

14 The Nantucket Public Schools EL population has exploded over the years. The LOOK Act (Language Opportunities
15 for Our Kids) is new legislation which is designed to improve the education of English learners. The Act outlines
16 four key components: English Learner Parent Advisory Councils, English Learner Programs, Bilingual Education
17 Endorsement and the State Seal of Bi-literacy. Ms. Cooney, Director of EL Services hopes to increase participation
18 in our PAC, offer more proactive workshops and provide the EL’s with a heavier dose of support groups and learning
19 possibilities. In a district such as ours, if there are more than 100 or more English Learners the state now requires an
20 ELL Director to teach parents their rights and to empower them to make educated decisions when it comes to the
21 livelihood of their families. Ms. Cooney noted the recent hire of a Bilingual Support Specialist, who will help in all
22 facets of EL and is someone with connections to the EL community.
23

24 Ms. Cooney feels the PAC on Nantucket can grow – as it stands now, it is very informal with approximately 30
25 parents. The PAC will now be required to establish by-laws and have officers and operational procedures. It will
26 meet regularly with schools and district leaders and will also advise the school district, the School Committee and
27 other key groups to participate in the planning and development of programs related to the English learners.
28 Another regulatory component is the creation of benchmarks and guidelines regarding English proficiency. The
29 DESE will now require certain timeframes to be met to monitor the success of each individual and the district will be
30 required to report the Opt out and FEL students. An additional reporting requirement will be the SIMS “census”
31 reporting, which districts will need to screen, identify and notify Pre-K English learners in a 10 day window (instead
32 of 30 days) for entry to an ELE program. Finally, the State Seal of Bi-literacy, a proposed regulation, will provide at
33 graduation a diploma with a seal denoting a high level of proficiency in a foreign language by attaining a minimum
34 score on a nationally recognized and readily available assessment, as an evidence of proficiency. Mrs. Proch asked
35 about the PAC being all encompassing in the district and if Ms. Cooney is concerned about hitting all the targets now
36 established by the state. Ms. Cooney talked about Title III funding and resources available to help achieve these
37 goals. She also stated the state will recognize effort and progress on the part of the district, so if we are moving
38 forward in the right direction, but have not necessarily hit every target, there will not be problems with “dinging” a
39 district such as ours. Mrs. Proch was happy to hear about all the work being done and asked to have Ms. Cooney
40 back in six months for an update. Mrs. Butler was also very pleased to hear of all the new outlines and offered the
41 full support of the School Committee. She did wish to establish that one of the Committee members is assigned to
42 the PAC task force. She also asked how many students comprise the ELL population. Superintendent Cozort offered
43 over 300. There was some further discussion regarding the Community School offering a translator class which has
44 approximately 15 people enrolled. There is some financial assistance available for those who qualify and the
45 Superintendent said some of the tuition arrangements made include in-kind services, to pay for the class.
46

47 **4th Quarter Budget Update – Director of Finance, Martin Anguelov**

48 Mr. Anguelov offered the budget update for the 4th quarter, spanning April 1 – June 30. 100% of the budget has been
49 expended with the appropriation for FY 2018 \$1,400,000 higher than FY2017 and with payroll comprising 79% of
50 the total number of \$27,486,325. We are on track and Mr. Anguelov stated these readings were “typical”. He
51 reviewed a few key pieces to the budget, and any monies available at the end of the year and how the district utilized

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2018

52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102

them. One specific was the establishment of the Special Education Reserve fund, which transfers \$250,000 from the EOY appropriation into this fund to act as a safeguard against unexpected SPED expenses. There were some questions from the School Committee wanted to know if this crosses fiscal years. Mr. Anguelov responded it does carry forward. Superintendent Cozort reminded the Committee that if a student moves in from another district and requires a residential education and care, we would be responsible, but we might have not have had that money in the budget. It is difficult to estimate these costs and this fund can act as a reserve, alleviating the need to slash another budgeted area to cover that student(s). This fund is approved now by MGL.

Further year-end funds subsidized the Mac Lab in the NHS, replacement of lighting and audio equipment in the NHS Auditorium, textbook purchases, some smaller maintenance and repair projects as well as technology equipment purchases to further support our growing network infrastructure. Mrs. Butler asked if the numbers for savings with National Grid could be added to the report here. Closing out the year end, the Director was happy to share a report showing the large number of donations during the year.

Next, Mr. Anguelov reviewed the Community School year-end which concluded at a surplus of \$76,423, and which represents a turnaround of \$168,864, offsetting the deficit of last year of \$92,441. Mr. Anguelov was very happy to report the increase in revenues of \$159,005 and a decreases in expenses of 49,859. There were large jumps in Extended Day, Summer Camps and the Pool programming. He praised the new Director, Tracy Roberts, as well as her staff for a job well done – with the transition of personnel, the team is working well and focusing on important areas of interest, which facilitates the upward swing. Mrs. Proch was very happy to see the significant increases.

The third portion of the Budget update was the review of the School Lunch Program, which operated in a deficit of \$54,037 versus \$4,565 in 2017. This increase was primarily due to the increase of personnel costs with the opening of a new (NIS) kitchen and also product cost increases with stocking the new kitchen. The decreases were offset by an increase in total revenues of \$605,887 for 2017 as compared to \$560,995 the year before. The daily average sales were very close, only increasing by \$181 dollars with the exact number of operating days (180) for both years. The Free & Reduced meals percentage total was 38% in FY2017 compared to 34% in FY2017. The program receives various levels of state reimbursement funds based on volume and type of subsidized meals taken. The F&R participation increased in FY2018 to \$186,295 up from \$181,777 the year prior and which represents 70,923 versus 61,066 meals served. There was some Committee discussion about the outstanding balances of lunch debt and while it is substantially smaller than in years past, they wanted to consider the threshold of \$50 for charging in the Elementary grades. They determined to review in the Policy subcommittee. Mr. Anguelov thanked both Linda Peterson, Food Services Director, and Sarah Erichsen with the F&R outreach, both doing a terrific job.

School Handbooks - Principals of NHS, CPS, NIS, NES

Principal Kim Kubisch reviewed her school handbook and said there were small changes highlighted in yellow. The main changes in the handbook were: times for PreK, extending the day to 12:30, keeping students longer and partnering with NCS for Extended Day; changing the parent conferences to December, to offer more details and data on how we educate; and, Security Procedures for drop off and pick up which was implemented last year and will be the same for this year. Mr. Sortevik asked about early drop off for NES, and wondered if this a problem with the security protocols, but Mrs. Kubsich reminded him about Breakfast Buddies, a program that has been successfully in place for many years.

Mrs. EveMarie McNeil, Principal of NIS reviewed her handbook stating there were no sweeping changes, that School Council had some good ideas so the bigger conversation will happen over the year. The Food Services area for ‘Collection of Money’ changed its dollar value for charging, but Mrs. Butler added this should be for policy review and should be consistent with all handbooks and reflective of policy.

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2018

103
104 CPS Principal, Peter Cohen, stated the School Council intends to do a complete review of the handbook, but in the
105 interim, they did surveys which led to some small changes, most having to do with school dress. The idea of some
106 kind of school uniforms still lingers as an option and the decision was to form a committee to review this idea.
107 While Dr. Cohen realizes this is a hot topic he feels letters from students about having some kind of school uniforms
108 offers enough support to consider the conversations. Steve Sortevik agreed with Dr. Cohen this could be a good
109 solution to eliminating any anxiety about fashion and trends.

110
111 Ms. Jennifer Psaradelis, Assistant Principal of the Nantucket High School, offered a similar set of changes, and
112 handed just the sections that show highlights of the modifications. In June the School Council reviewed eight areas
113 and these areas included: smart phones and watches, computers and electronic devices, dress code, emergency
114 contacts, headphones, tardiness and tobacco/vaping use. Mrs. Psaradelis reviewed the changes and was queried with
115 quite a bit of back and forth from the Committee on wording, and the age of 18 offering some different options of
116 rules. Mrs. Butler wished to reinforce the policies in the handbooks should align with the overall district policies.

117
118 **Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

119 Vote to Approve the MOU with Cape Cod Child Development The MOU has not yet been sent to the
120 Superintendent therefore, vote will wait until we receive the documents.

121
122 Vote to Approve Policies: *JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Children in Military Families & JFABF –*
123 *Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care.* Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve, seconded by
124 Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was carried.

125
126 Vote to Establish the Maximums in Checking Accounts. Already agreed in a previous meeting of the cap in each
127 account, the committee voted by motion on Steve Sortevik and second of Pauline Proch, to agree to \$10,000 in the
128 NHS account and \$5,000 in each CPS NIS, and NES accounts.

129
130 Vote to Authorize Student Activity Accounts. NPS requests the activities accounts be added to each respective
131 school: Class of 2022, NHS moved from CPS, Class of 2025, CPS moved from NIS, Class of 2028, NIS moved
132 from NES and Class of 2031, NES the new PreK class. A motion was made to approve by Steve Sortevik, seconded
133 by Pauline Proch and approved by the committee.

134
135 Vote to Approve Donation from Nantucket Land Council to NIS for 5th Grade students for Water, Water
136 Everywhere: Designing Water Filters, \$2,240.00 Zona Butler made a motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none
137 opposed, the motion for the donation was approved.

138
139 Vote to Approve Donation from Nantucket Land Council to NIS for 5th Natures' Classroom trip (help supplement
140 remaining balance of trip in 2018, \$4,000.00 Zona Butler made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none
141 opposed, the motion for the donation was approved.

142
143 Vote to Approve Donation from Community Foundation for NCS Summer Boost program, \$10,000.00. Zona Butler
144 made a motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion for the donation was approved.

145
146 Vote to Approve the July 24, 2018 Workshop Meeting Minutes Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the
147 minutes, Pauline Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.

148
149 Vote to Approve the August 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the minutes, Pauline
150 Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.

151
152 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices Zona Butler made a motion to approve, Pauline Proch seconded, and the
153 motion was approved.

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2018

154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185

Superintendent’s Report–W. Michael Cozort
On the Horizon

In September we will review the Superintendent Goals which should follow the District Goals. Also, the Technology Use (each principal will share how technology is used in their prospective building) with IT also offering information. Enrollment for the first day, although not a reliable number for data purposes which Superintendent Cozort reminded is why the October enrollment is important. The 18th of September will have the Student Resource Officers and the budget process will begin for Fiscal Year 2020, also the Community School and Summer School Updates. There was some discussion about which presentations would go where to be most effective and informational, therefore a handful of items might change placement. Zona Butler asked about the Tri Council (now Quad) with MASC and Mr. Cozort did agree that it has been awhile since Glenn Koocher from MASC has come to Nantucket, perhaps October would be good timing. Steve Sortevik asked about the student conduct review which was deliberated about in the Workshop. Mr. Cozort thought this would be well timed with the SRO report and important to the start of the school year. Mr. Sortevik also asked about the Minutes policy that was previewed in the prior meeting and the Superintendent said the sub-committee needs to meet on this item. Mrs. Proch asked about what students do who have no wifi at home, if homework largely is done in the Google Classroom and hoped to have this information with the Tech use report. Jennifer Iller asked about a hiring update and Superintendent Cozort stated we are close to filling all the positions, but completion is a moving target and there are always challenges.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Sub-Committees

Policies: Policy meeting will be in a week.

Mrs. Proch thanked Dr. Buckey, Principal of NHS for providing information she requested regarding the AP results and students with 504s and IEPs.

At 7:37pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Steve Sortevik and seconded by Pauline Proch, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Logan O’Connor
School Committee Clerk