

**Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2018**

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Tim Lepore, Pauline Proch, Steve Sortevik & Henry Dupont
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4 The meeting was called to order by Chair, Tim Lepore, at 6:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction room at NHS.
5 A motion was made to approve the agenda by Pauline Proch, seconded by Jennifer Iller and was approved by the
6 Committee.
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8 **Comments from Public**

9 Mrs. Kimberly Albertson, Pre School Teacher of over 20 years in the district, addressed the Committee wanting to
10 “continue the conversation” about how important early intervention is for addressing needs of children. Screening
11 and establishing education needs and IEP’s, and maintaining small ratios of teacher to student is paramount to the
12 children’s success. Mrs. Albertson feels the philosophical ideal is shifting and as she watches the long-term trend she
13 is nervous about being able to maintain the small ratios in order to provide the most nurturing learning environment.
14 She expressed concern and asked the School Committee for guidance. Steve Sortevik thought a PreSchool SPED
15 presentation would be a good thing to have on the Horizon. Her response was that it was critical for this year and
16 hoped to have this addressed sooner rather than later.
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18 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

19 **Certificate of Academic Excellence**

20 Superintendent W. Michael Cozort, requested through the Chair, an opportunity to present an annual award to a
21 student from Nantucket High School. Through MASS, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, a
22 Superintendent has the opportunity to award students a Certificate of Academic Excellence. This achievement
23 recognizes an individual in the top 5% of the class and the number of awards given out each year is based upon the
24 number of graduates in the district, a formula stipulated by MASS. This year, Superintendent Cozort could select
25 one student and with top GPA and high rank in class, he selected Jenna Grace Genthner. He stated she made an
26 impression on him on a trip last year to New York City with the *Accidentals & Naturals* and beamed she was a
27 “wonderful example of our students.” The School Committee was impressed and applauded Miss Genthner.
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29 **Summer School Update – NES Reading Teacher, Andrea Maher & Director of C&A STEM, Michael Horton**

30 Mr. Horton shared that Summer School is no longer remedial education, but rather an extension of the school year.
31 He reviewed how the programming is growing in numbers. He introduced Ms. Andrea Maher, who has held the
32 position of Summer School Coordinator, now in its 6th year. Ms. Maher gave a power point presentation loaded with
33 pictures of all ages and all kinds of projects and offered her summary for the program. Incorporating grades PreK-
34 12, this supported 202 students: 158 students at NES & NIS and 44 students at CPS & NHS. The staff included the
35 Coordinator, 25 teachers, 6 specialists, 1 Science Teacher, 15 Teaching Assistants, 3 Volunteers. Ms. Maher gave a
36 breakdown of who attended the program and specified grade levels, ELL and/or SPED and also included attendance
37 rates. She gave an overview of the academic schedule for a day and gave a synopsis of writing and math units and
38 reading resources. Summer School ran for five weeks, four days per week and three hours per day. In addition to
39 attention to Math and ELA, Science was added to the summer curriculum. There were many projects, use of
40 Smartboards, word challenges, and games all utilized to engage the students and there was also specialized reading
41 groups, physical therapy, speech and language and occupational therapies. Mrs. Proch had a number of questions
42 wondering about student goals and asked for a reminder of what qualifies students. Ms. Maher reviewed how the
43 invitations are sent to students and if you are on an IEP or reading below grade level and if you are an ELL student,
44 you would be extended an invite. There is follow-up discussion with staff and she feels the numbers work out well.
45 Mrs. Butler asked about those students who do not get an invite, and Ms Maher responded she felt very satisfied that
46 students who needed to be included, were. Ms. Maher said repeat attendees happen mostly with younger students and
47 also made a brief mention of the Summer Boost program (being presented with the Nantucket Community School).
48 Superintendent Cozort jumped in to offer that the students that attend are not always the neediest and sometimes it is
49 important to balance the need for formal education with the need for kids being kids and having a break from school,
50 likewise the staff as they need breathing spells too so as not to burnout. She thanked Gillean Myers for bringing her
51 BookMobile and also the Harvey Foundation for contributing so many books to the program.

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Community School Summer Update – Director of Community School, Tracy Roberts

Tracy Roberts, in her first presentation to the School Committee reported this would include only July & August programming and the overall NCS update would come later in the year as the traditional annual report. Mrs. Roberts reminded the Committee that Driver’s Ed, Fitness programs and Testing’s options happen year-round, but are also part of the summer numbers. Her first summer section was about Summer Boost, the readiness program offered to 4&5 year old children who have not accessed a formal preschool setting and are scheduled to enter into Kindergarten this Fall 2018. Over the last years, the Boost program has been generously funded by the Community Foundation and Nantucket Education Trust, and they continue with their supportive donations. Summer Boost 2018 ran for 5 weeks and consisted of 19 students and 3 peers (children who have had preschool experience and can model routines) and also included some parent programming. Mrs. Roberts noted that busing opportunities for these young students was key to attendance and it was also beneficial for children to ride with older students taking the bus for their summer school obligations. Mrs. Roberts reviewed Kindergarten numbers and, what NCS is doing for outreach and making connections with families. She listed a number of outreach: Spanish speaking playgroups, Welcome Baby visit increases, *Ready, Set, School*, collaborations with outside organizations, and an increase collaboration with NES to gain information about families and younger siblings. Finally, surveys and feedback will help offer more information about what families are truly looking for in a program. Mrs. Roberts showed numbers of participation of ACKVenture Day Camp, ACK Farming and Gardening Camp, Sports Camps for Basketball, Gymnastics, Football and Field Hockey, Youth Learn to Swim and Pool Memberships and Programming. The Jetties Tennis program saw a large upswing due to a resurfacing of the courts and the hiring of a professional tennis instructor. She broke down the Adult Education opportunities by percentages, thanked the many collaborators in the community that work with NCS. She also gave a huge thank you to her Community School Team who worked so well together in transition to the new hiring of the Community School Director as well as working to increase the revenue and participation of each and every program. The School Committee asked a few questions about some specific collaborators such as NISHA and HeadStart. Steve Sortevik thanked NCS for the enormous amount of work. Dr. Lepore asked about medical translators and a program for this growing need. Mrs. Roberts agreed that Interpreter training is a huge push now, and includes the needs for court rooms, medical offices, as well as schools.

District Draft Goals/Budget Calendar/Budget Directives – Superintendent W. Michael Cozort

Mr. Cozort had earlier sent the District Draft Goals to the Committee, requesting feedback to shape and drive the decisions. These Goals set the strategies for the year and ultimately frame and direct the Superintendent’s Goals as they align with each other. He asked the Committee to outline their thinking, such as the MCAS scores, and budgets and whether or not new goals should be added to build these directives. There was much discussion from all Committee members surrounding MCAS results and the conversation progressed about preliminary scores, embargoed scores, providing information to teachers for analysis and how the budget affects the needs in the schools. Eventually, Mrs. Proch asked to have an MCAS presentation and the opportunity to understand how we are supporting ALL students and then further as the dialogue evolved, Mrs. Iller asked to have a Workshop for the District Goals. Superintendent Cozort responded that he could edit the Horizon and accommodate what they are hoping to schedule.

Superintendent Cozort offered the FY20 Budget Development Calendar and showed the dates that were known and highlighted those that were tentative or not yet scheduled. Some of this calendar hinges on the Annual Town Meeting dates and Town’s decisions as the budget process unfolds. Mr. Sortevik asked about some dates from the Town side and their projection as it relates to our school budget and he felt this seemed a bit late for making choices and outlining our school numbers. Mr. Cozort shared that he understands that Town officials are often waiting for numbers to be released by state government and he believes that they try to share our appropriation as soon as they can. However, they want to provide the correct numbers the first time, rather than the “wrong” numbers quickly.

Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Approve the MOU with Cape Cod Child Development

Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Iller, with none opposed, the MOU was approved.

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104 Vote to Authorize Transfer from Nantucket Agency Account to NHS Student Activity Account for the Class of 2018
105 for the balance transfer request to their Class Savings account at Cape Cod Five, \$16,165.88

106 *“On motion, duly made and seconded, the Nantucket School Committee: approves the balance transfer of*
107 *\$16,165.99 from the NHS Agency Account to the Nantucket Student Activity Account.”*

108 Jessica Townsend, NHS Teacher and Senior Advisor shared that the Class of 2018 hoped to donate the balance of
109 their funds to the Library, the incoming Freshman class to help as a startup. The Committee thanked the Class, Steve
110 Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, approved the transfer and donation.

111
112 Vote to Approve Policy – BEDG – Minutes

113 The Policy Committee met earlier that day to review this policy. It was, amended, and now presented for a vote.
114 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

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116 Vote to Approve the August 21, 2018, Meeting Minutes (amended). Steve Sortevik asked to change in line 108 the
117 word “would” to “could”. Jennifer Iller made a motion to approve amended minutes, Pauline Proch seconded, and
118 the motion was approved.

119
120 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices There were no transfers for this week, payroll was the only dollar amount
121 to vote and approve. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.

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123 **Superintendent’s Report–W. Michael Cozort**

124 **First Day**

125 Superintendent Cozort was very enthusiastic about the start of school. He applauded the staff for their hard work in
126 preparation of the first day, “all hands on deck made for a great first day”. He talked about the Administrative staff
127 being all around at the campus doors welcoming students as they entered. He raved about the NHS opening in the
128 MPW Auditorium with the NHS Band playing various songs, one being a tribute to Aretha Franklin’s *RESPECT*
129 which he touched on in his staff welcome stating it is a very important component to the success of our district. He
130 commended the workaround of Election Day happening in NHS by State Mandate for the Primary Election and while
131 it added an extra layer to contend with, we moved through the day. The process of elections in the school took on its
132 own conversation about holding them there, and possibly moving them to the VFW. This is not a new discussion and
133 this has not been resolved by the School, Town, State, therefore it currently remains status quo. Mrs. Iller brought up
134 the Safety and Security aspect of having doors open with unscreened persons entering the school buildings for voting
135 purposes and something to be strongly considered. Mrs. Proch questioned the Committee about making a Board
136 recommendation to move venues and they agreed this will need further discussion (November).

137
138 **Enrollment Update**

139 The total number of students on the first day was 1,679, up from June at 1,645. Superintendent Cozort asked the
140 Committee to keep in mind these numbers are constantly changing and already, we know about five to seven more
141 students entering and a few who are exiting. October enrollment is the state reported number and a good one to use
142 for yearly comparisons.

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144 **On the Horizon**

145 Mr. Cozort reviewed the Horizon. With suggestions from the Committee to add some workshop(s) in October, and
146 with Mr. Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of MASC coming on October 16, it was determined and agreed by all
147 to make some significant moves of presentations to accommodate all the information. MCAS scores were a
148 significant part of discussion as it led to the debate on the impact that has on District Goals Mr. Cozort promised he
149 would revamp the Horizon, send it to the School Committee for review and put it forward for final determinations.

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151 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

152 Mrs. Proch said that on the heels of Aaron Fuller and identifying students who need connections, she shared her
153 sensitivity to students who are hiding in the wings and perhaps not feeling supported or comfortable in reaching out

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to staff and peers. She thought aloud perhaps there was a way to reach those “lone” students. Superintendent Cozort assured that we go to great lengths to ensure the social and emotional learning is intertwined in the fabric of the school day and cited a quote, “...we don’t need metal detectors, we need mental detectors...”. Zona Butler picked up on that again stating her wish for students to have more consistent meetings with their Guidance departments.

Finally, Steve Sortevik wanted to give a shout out about the Public Safety Day & Video. He was impressed by the number of people involved and the vast amount of children and families who attended the day in August.

At 7:52 pm the School Committee adjourned on an enthusiastic motion made by Steve Sortevik and seconded by Jennifer Iller, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Logan O’Connor
School Committee Clerk