

**Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2018**

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Tim Lepore, Pauline Proch, & Steve Sortevik
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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 Steve Sortevik, seconded by Jennifer Iller and was approved by the
6 Committee.
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8 **Comments from Public**

9 None
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11 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

12 **School Resource Officers – Officers Keith Mansfield & Cassandra Thompson**

13 Superintendent Cozort introduced our two School Resource Officers, Mansfield and Thompson. The Superintendent
14 publically thanked the Chief of Police, William Pittman, for continuing to support the district needs by supplying us
15 with two officers to best monitor the school campus. The officers presented a PowerPoint to show the ‘typical day’
16 in the life of an SRO, but acknowledged that no day is typical. Their hours are generally 7:00am-3:30 and the two
17 stagger their start and end times to cover the whole day as they move throughout all four schools. Days start with
18 morning drop-off. As the day progresses, there are consultations with staff, team meetings, meetings with social
19 workers and administrators, lunch with students, and general walkthroughs. Additionally, Officer Thompson teaches
20 the Criminal Justice class and noted this class follows the MASS Standards and provides a deep dive into the
21 functions and situations within the correctional system. It also provides opportunities for students glimpse a future
22 vocational prospect, and a few NHS students have done exactly this, now operating as Summer Special officers on
23 the island and/or heading into the Police Academy. The SROs also utilize K9 Moby at CPS & NHS, work with staff
24 on lockdown procedures, work with IDSC classrooms, meet with parents when needed, perform truancy visits,
25 handle reporting with the Department of Children and Family services, handle juvenile cases and deliver safety
26 protocols, i.e. Bike & Halloween safety. The officers also revamped the YELL program from Nantucket Community
27 School and have morphed this growing group into Leadership Explorers, functioning as an after-school program in
28 the Cyrus Peirce Middle School. This diverse group collaborates with NPD, the Community School and is student
29 run, allowing for exploration into ways they (students grades 6-8) can be leaders.
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31 **Student Conduct/Behavior– Superintendent Cozort & NES, NIS, CPS, NHS Principals**

32 Superintendent Cozort reminded the School Committee, the topic of Student Conduct was discussed at the Retreat.
33 He talked about the increase in enrollment and accompanying increase in academic, physical, social and emotional
34 needs. He shared that this increase is testing our ability to provide the appropriate services and address challenges.
35 He talked about the nationwide emphasis on social emotional learning and how we, as a district, are responding.
36 Mrs. Butler asked to hear from the individual Principals and added she feels this topic is about conduct not behavior.
37

38 Dr. John Buckey, NHS Principal, shared that Jenn Psaradelis is instilling a practice of restorative justice and prefers
39 to impose a consequence to poor choice behavior or conduct that provides a learning opportunity. The goal is to
40 lessen the out of school suspensions and keep students in school, holding them accountable for their actions. He
41 emphasized it is important for families to be involved, not just the school. In response to the Committee, Dr. Buckey
42 reported that it was a very good start with relatively few egregious behavior incidents.
43

44 Dr. Peter Cohen, CPS Principal, began with characteristic description of the ‘tricky years’ of this age student and that
45 with the addition of staff, Dean of Students, Fernando Jones, Assistant Principal, Jaime Bailey, and the resurrected
46 student success program now under teacher Mark Gonella, the leadership is strong and building of relationships are
47 more possible. He also noted that teachers are more visible in the hallways with changing classrooms at the bell, and
48 it is his opinion that it will take all staff to make the noticeable difference. Dr. Cohen did admit that he is not entirely
49 satisfied with the level of respect in school and expects it to improve.
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**Nantucket School Committee
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Mrs. EveMarie McNeil, NIS Principal reiterated that social emotional learning is very important. They also continue to take part in Responsive Classroom (an approach to teaching in a safe and engaging school community with the emphasis on developing academic, social, and emotional skills in a developmental way). Building relationships and modeling behavior when students are young is the key to making a difference. She noted Guidance and teaching staff are actively identifying students who may require interventions and help to get them ready to learn.

Fourth to respond, was NES Principal Kimberly Kubisch, who stated NES continues to follow Responsive Classroom and how the first six weeks in her school is the introduction to this type of learning environment. She described creating the environment where students learn to take responsibility for their actions and solve problems with learned strategies. She discussed social emotional assessments are done once per week and she and the Assistant Principal, Nina Slade, are involved. Progressive discipline is used throughout the school. There was some discussion of recess as a consequence and Mrs. Kubisch clarified that happens only when it is an infraction that occurred at recess, not as a punishment for incomplete work. Mrs. Proch asked about classrooms practicing Mindfulness and Mrs. Kubisch said some staff do, others have alternative ways of providing calming and mellow atmospheres in their classrooms. At the close of this presentation, Mrs. Butler posed a question to all the Principals, asking them for One Wish to implement in their school. She wanted each one to consider what they don't have in their school, and what they would like if this were a perfect world assuming the School Committee could provide the *whatever it is* for them. She hoped to have their answers soon. Michele Brady, SPED Director quickly answered a BCBA on staff instead of a consultant.

Technology Use Update – Director of Technology, Jennifer Erichsen, Technology Staff Member, Jamie McCoy and the Principals

Superintendent Michael Cozort provided a preamble, stressing three points: 1) Responsible Use of devices; 2) the equity provided through 1-to-1 initiative; and 3) the importance of supervision by educators and, equally, by parents.

For NES, Mrs. Kubisch broke down by percentage how much students spend on a device and talked about all the tech assessments that are done on computers and how students are learning in the computer labs, on interactive white boards, in the library, ELA and Math Centers, through interactive games, websites that support curriculum, many opportunities exist. Steve Sortevik brought up the Digital Literacy Standards and cited even though we will never match the amount of time outlined by those standards, he worries students are not getting enough typing skills and feels an increase of designated computer time is necessary.

Next, NIS Principal Mrs. McNeil, reviewed how the school uses Chromebook in a 1:1 environment, but students only use them in school and do not take these homes. She too outlined the number of hours each grade uses Chromebook per week and stated it is teacher dependent and usage can vary. She feels the amount of time using technology in the classrooms, in the specials, in the many academic areas is an appropriate amount of time. Mrs. McNeil described the whiteboards coming to life with vocabulary work and that this is especially helpful for EL students. She addressed Mr. Sortevik's typing concern assuring him that 3rd grade uses Nitrotype as a program for typing skills, but noted more time cannot be found in a day to do more typing work. She fears trying to carve out additional time for computing would conflict with reading and math time which are precious.

Dr. Cohen, a driving force for the 1:1 computing originally, stated 1:1 profoundly takes away the issue of access and equity, because every student is assigned a Chromebook for the whole year to come and go between home and school each day. Prior to the 1:1, teachers would have to sign out the computer labs and share time. He affirmed Chromebooks are utilized 100% for educational purposes and if at home, students are on the screens unrelated to school, he urges parents to limit the access. He reviewed the varied computer programs and websites the students have access to and how the staff at CPS uses technology to their advantage. He stated we (school) control the network and the school monitors what the students are gaining access to beyond Google Suite for Education access. He piggybacks about typing skills and did feel more typing would be beneficial in 6th grade. The School Committee

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2018

103 had many questions about the monitoring and access for grades 6-8. Zona Butler was curious if Dr. Cohen has had
104 conversations with parents about controlling and or limiting access. Dr. Cohen replied the digital literacy and
105 citizenship is taught in parent workshops and when the Chromebooks are handed out. There is a deep emphasis on
106 being responsible with internet safety. Mrs. Proch was worried about some households not having any technology
107 access or education and worried about students having access on their device to sites they should not. Mrs. Iller was
108 concerned about the jump from usage at 5th grade to 6th grade being a vast difference, feeling that the gap differential
109 is too great. Dr. Lepore interjected, thinking aloud that all students have had considerable exposure to devices and/or
110 the internet and in the middle school ages they are very knowledgeable about access, as well are the parents and
111 families, no matter diversity or social economics. Steve Sortevik responded we are ahead of the curve by being a 1:1
112 school and Google classroom is a terrific vehicle. He asked about the turnout of parents when the Chromebook are
113 handed out. Dr. Cohen said roughly 75% of parents were in attendance and he was pleased, but it would be better to
114 have more parents even still.
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117 Finally, Dr. Buckey reviewed, noting he asked each department to offer what they thought was average student use.
118 He offered a chart by department showing percentage of use for class time computer or device use which was
119 relatively low, often below 30%. He described NHS technology use is class and teacher specific and programs are
120 used to augment student learning. Mrs. Butler liked this presentation breakdown and asked Dr. Cohen to supply a
121 similar chart. Mr. Sortevik was surprised at the low percentage use in classrooms.
122

123 In addition to the Principals, the Directors of SPED and ELL brought their perspectives and how it was helpful in
124 adaptive learning environments and for communication whether language barriers or mental or physical difficulties.
125 They both agreed that technology provides unlimited opportunities making these groups more inclusive in the
126 learning environments.
127

128 Technology Director, Jennifer Erichsen, and technician Jamie McCoy talked about the controls of technology. They
129 offered a week at a glance graph to show activity timelines, sites that were visited, blocked attempts, flagged activity,
130 and YouTube views. Mrs. Erichsen supported the idea that students and families have access in some form or
131 another - If they don't have a smart phone or a computer, they have television or watches, and it is rare in today's
132 world that students/families are not well-versed in the internet or Wi-Fi in some capacity. She further talked about
133 how the district is very specific with the monitoring and care of access for students and staff. She described the way
134 teachers doing group work in class, can watch from their own devices what their students are doing on their own
135 Chromebook and they can keep students on task. Mr. McCoy confirmed that our Chromebooks can only be
136 accessed via the students NPSK ID and shared how we filter with Go Guardian and Barracuda, two dynamic
137 operating systems that allow him to monitor, analyze and follow what students are viewing and utilizing on the
138 Chromebook. He can track the devices in case of theft, he can open and close access. The School Committee had
139 many ideas and questions about how much access is too much or too little, can we close access down at certain times,
140 can we limit websites, do the Chromebook limit logon identity, and wanted clarification about what happens if a
141 Chromebook gets lost or stolen, how does access/lack of access work on the individual device. Mrs. Erichsen and
142 Mr. McCoy answered all the questions, affirming positive ways to handle all these items.
143

144 **Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

145 Vote to Approve Draft Calendar 2019-2020 - Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none
146 opposed, the calendar was approved.
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148 Vote to Approve Policy – GBEED – Crowd Funding - The Policy Committee met earlier to review this policy. It
149 was, amended, and now presented for a vote. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Iller, with none
150 opposed, the motion was approved.
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**Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
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152 Vote to Approve Budget & Planning Directives - Steve Sortevik asked to include in the second bullet point, "...based
153 upon curriculum needs and..." With the amended clause he made a motion to approve, Pauline Proch seconded, and
154 with none opposed, the motion was approved.
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156 Vote to Approve the September 4, 2018, Meeting Minutes Jennifer Iller made a motion to approve the minutes,
157 Pauline Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.
158

159 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices There were no transfers for this week, payroll was the only dollar amount
160 to vote and approve. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.
161

162 **Superintendent's Report—W. Michael Cozort**

163 Superintendent Cozort took this opportunity to make an announcement regarding his retirement at the end of this
164 academic year. He described his arrival and tenure on Nantucket and how so many people in the community helped
165 him as he transitioned to island life and the district. He said the following:

166 *It is with mixed emotions that I announced at this evening's School Committee my retirement as Superintendent of*
167 *Schools for the Nantucket Public Schools effective at the end of this school year. I have enjoyed my tenure as your*
168 *superintendent immensely and I have appreciated the support of the School Committee, the administration and staff,*
169 *as well as the community of Nantucket. When I first arrived in 2010, you embraced me and worked with me to help*
170 *our students and community rebound from some tough financial times and emotional struggles.*

171 *I am proud of what WE have accomplished, while recognizing that there is much still to do. By announcing now, I*
172 *hope to give the School Committee the time to conduct a proper search and find a superintendent who can take us to*
173 *a higher level. I believe that he or she will find great facilities, a stable and able administrative team and a staff that*
174 *works hard and cares deeply for all its students.*

175 *I am also proud of our district and amazed by our students who have shown that if you work hard, you can go*
176 *anywhere, do anything and achieve remarkable accomplishments. I am very proud of our graduates, from those who*
177 *have attended MIT, the Naval Academy and Stanford, to those who are the first in their families to go to any college*
178 *and those who go straight into the world of work. You should be proud to be Nantucketer's and Nantucket Whalers!*

179 *Thank you all for allowing me to be a Whaler and, perhaps, to play some small part in your academic, physical and*
180 *social development.*
181

182 Pauline Proch thank Superintendent Cozort profoundly, commenting everything starts with leadership and Jennifer
183 Iller added she has never known a Superintendent to be so involved with the students. Mrs. Butler and Mr. Sortevik
184 agreed and offered their sincere appreciation.

185 **On the Horizon**

186 Mr. Cozort reviewed the Horizon. There were many changes made to the Horizon calendar to correlate to the
187 upcoming meeting topics and the additional Workshop added in October. It was confirmed Mr. Glenn Koocher,
188 Executive Director of MASC coming on October 16. Mrs. Proch thought it would be good to add the Superintendent
189 search committee discussion to the Horizon. Mr. Cozort agreed this would be helpful as he will offer sound advice.
190

191 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

192 ESP Negotiations: The first meeting went well.
193

194 At 8:24 pm the School Committee adjourned on an enthusiastic motion made by Steve Sortevik and seconded by
195 Pauline Proch, and unanimously approved.
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197 Respectfully submitted,
198 Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk