

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2017

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Tim Lepore, Pauline Proch
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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. Tim Lepore made a motion, Pauline Proch seconded and it was approved unanimously.
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7 **Comments from the Public**

8 None.
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10 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

11 **Transportation Numbers - Superintendent W. Michael Cozort**

12 The Superintendent presented an email from Linda Bayard Barrett, who detailed the current ridership of students on
13 the buses and she also updated the Committee on the status of our bus drivers and the bus maintenance. The numbers
14 are in flux, because it takes a few weeks into the school year to establish any pattern of ridership and seats taken.
15 After school activities and weather are always a factor. We started the year down one bus driver and then in August,
16 another driver has gone out on a medical leave. We have also had some mechanical issues with a few of the buses.
17 The result is extra busing routes (duplicate runs of the same roads) to ensure students arrive to school. The
18 Superintendent shared around the country it appears a challenge to maintain bus drivers, perhaps due to a rising
19 economy. Mrs. Iller asked if students are late to school and/or are the younger students waiting a longer time at the
20 bus stops, which could be creating a safety issue. The Superintendent responded that the children are getting to
21 school on time, and their safety is not in question. We will continue to monitor the situation and have reached out to
22 the Cape Cod Collaborative to find another driver and expect this will iron itself out soon.
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24 **Open House Debriefing – Principals Kubisch, McNeil, Cohen & Buckey**

25 Principal Kim Kubisch was happy to share how terrific the NES Open House went. It was a packed house. Now that
26 the school has only grades Prek-2, she described that they took advantage of being their own version of new, with
27 uncrowded spaces and places to show off work. Teachers did all kinds of presentations, reviewed their classroom
28 expectations, homework and field trip information and even the SPED, ELL and Special classrooms were crowded.
29 The teachers could meet their parents in a more relaxed environment and attendance in general was over 75%.
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31 Principal EveMarie McNeil explained that families were very excited to see the new school building. Teachers
32 presented to parents, reviewed classroom expectations and students led tours of the building. NIS had well over 87%
33 in attendance in most classes. There was a sign up for parent/teacher conferences through a new electronic sign up
34 on a Chromebook. There was also ASPEN training offered in the library, Mr. Michael Horton led three sessions of
35 Eureka Math training for parents and there were a lot of tables from outside organizations offering information such
36 as FONPS and ASAP.
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38 Principal Peter Cohen also felt the turnout was respectable, as CPS repeated the same procedure from last year.
39 Parents had the opportunity to follow their child’s schedule and meet each teacher, go to an Encore (Arts, PE,
40 Languages) class, see the new wing in CPS and how bright and light the middle school looks now, with an inviting
41 interior paint job. Dr. Cohen stated he was considering a few options for next year as he likes the idea of having
42 students participate more in their own Open House. He added that he feels it is a very long evening for teachers and it
43 would be an advantage to figure out how to streamline some of the teachers’ presentations so that they don’t repeat
44 themselves so many times throughout the evening. Dr. Cohen mentioned that he is thinking about having student led
45 parent teacher conferences and he wants to find a way to set this up too.
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47 Zona Butler asked how long the evening went (she also posed the same question to the other schools). Dr. Cohen
48 said usually about 2 ¼ hours long, but important to complete all the information.
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50 For Nantucket High School, Assistant Principal Jenn Psaradelis provided the Committee with a very enthusiastic
51 report for Open House - over 250 families and the biggest turnout ever of ELL families. NHS used a lot of social

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September 19, 2017**

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media to remind and reach parents: they had a goal to increase the numbers and they succeeded. Ms. Psaradelis gave a thank you to NCS for letting the high school use their translation equipment, which she thinks helped the turnout numbers. Reaching so many of the Spanish speaking population, offering Powerpoint and video in Spanish and also having 50+ students on hand to guide and translate (Student Council and other students volunteered) definitely increased participation. Mrs. Iller said this was her first high school Open House and she left feeling very excited about the upcoming year, noting the energy was obvious. Mrs. Butler asked how long the night went and Ms. Psaradelis said it is two hours, but the time goes quickly. Parents and guardians are moving so quickly from class to class as they follow their students schedule, there is barely enough time to fit it all in. Making it shorter would be difficult in order to provide the same amount of information and give everyone ample time to visit the classrooms.

Draft Calendar #1 (Re-Presented) – Superintendent W. Michael Cozort

Superintendent Cozort produced the same calendar as the first draft, with no revisions as of yet. He discussed the possibility of moving one of the October Staff Development days into March, but will talk with Admin about this possible move. There has not been much other feedback about changing other dates. He reviewed the Christmas and New Year holiday falling as they do, which dictates the Holiday vacation time. Mrs. Proch offered she thought keeping the Staff Development days in October is beneficial to the staff as they can carry what they have learned through the year.

Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Approve Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Directives. Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Tim Lepore, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Calendar. Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Tim Lepore, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve NHS Field Trip for students in Chinese & Spanish Club, November 3 & 4, 2017 to Boston, MA. Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the September 19, 2017, Meeting Minutes:

Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the minutes, Pauline Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Pauline Proch seconded, the motion was approved.

Superintendent’s Report – W. Michael Cozort

Enrollment

October 1 is the official count for the state and the numbers are fewer than September, a 40 student decrease. In the beginning of the year we are anticipating children who are planning on attending, but the actuals are a challenge. This is why the Department of Education prefers the more definitive October counts. We will show the Enrollment and Withdrawals for the next month.

On the Horizon

– Tonight’s agenda is very light, but the next meeting has a very hefty amount of presentations. The Superintendent suggested pushing some of the updates and even thought it would be advantageous and his recommendation to consider moving the meeting date to the 24th of October. Doing this will allow for a reporting on the MCAS results which will drive other presentations such as the School Improvement and ELL report, because much is predicated on the MCAS information. The Superintendent will discuss with the Chair and determine to move the meeting date, or not.

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104 Also, Superintendent Cozort wanted to mention the moving of the NCS Open House date to October 17th from the
105 original date. This will allow for a joint open house with Headstart and a chance to see the new ECC space now
106 located in the Elementary School which is the proper place for that space as it offers progression for students to roll
107 into the first years of school. He invited people to come see the Red Cluster, the revised spaces with a District
108 Conference Room and more.

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110 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

111 Sub-Committees:

112 Zona Butler asked to have Strategic Plan on the Agenda as its own topic. Mr. Cozort gave a quick overview of his
113 Kickoff meeting from last Monday evening. Approximately 30 people in attendance, he reviewed the objectives and
114 approximate timeline and said he already has people interested in being part of the Steering Committee and Focus
115 Groups.

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117 Jenn Iller said there will be a Policy meeting and a Safety and Security meeting sometime next week.

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119 Dr. Lepore stated the Negotiations Sub Committee met with the NTA for the Teaching Assistant negotiations, is
120 continuing as scheduled.

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122 Before adjourning, the Superintendent reminded everyone about “Screenagers,” a documentary about technology use
123 and how to find balance. The film will be screened by 5-8 and 9-12 grades with a Community Presentation on
124 Wednesday night October 4, sponsored by the FONPS. He deferred to Logan O’Connor, Enrichment Chair for more
125 details. She explained a bit more about the film, thanked additional sponsors The Box and Nantucket Ozone and
126 shared the film will be in English with Spanish sub titles to reach out to the EL population.

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128 Superintendent will confirm the meeting reschedule to October 24th.

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130 6:41 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Tim Lepore and seconded by Pauline Proch, and
131 unanimously approved.

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133 Respectfully submitted,
134 Logan O’Connor, School Committee Clerk