

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2017

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Melissa Bonvini Murphy, Natalie Gammons
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4 The meeting was called to order by Chair, Melissa Murphy, at 6:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction room at NHS.
5 Two amendments to the agenda were requested: the first was to move the Superintendent's MASS Academic Awards
6 to the starting item on the agenda, and the second was to publicize this was Red Ribbon Week. Jenn Iller made the
7 motion, and Zona Butler seconded, and it was approved. The meeting was called to order. Mrs. Murphy publically
8 thanked FONPS for bringing Mike Smith to the district for three school assemblies and one community presentation
9 and for ASAP offering a calendar of events. RRW is an important week and she thanked everyone for
10 acknowledging and participating.
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12 **Comments from the Public**

13 None.
14

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

16 **MASS Academic Awards - Superintendent W. Michael Cozort**

17 This award is designed to recognize the academic excellence of students (the number of awardees is directly related
18 to the size of the district) who also excel in many areas of their career at NPS. The three selected by the
19 Superintendent for this year are in the top five of their class with GPA's ranging 4.7- 4.96. Lucille Bresette, Deana-
20 Rae Weatherly and Tessa Wheldon are involved in sports, music, Veritas, Quiz Bowl, National Honor Society,
21 Student Council, School Council, PAC, Student Government, Spanish Club, Drama Club and more. Mr. Cozort
22 asked them each to speak a little about what their interests are and where they think they would like to continue their
23 education. Some of the schools listed were Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Grinnell, Wellesley, Bowdoin and
24 Dartmouth, with study interests of Genetics, International Relations, and Music, Pre-Med. Congratulations were
25 extended to all.
26

27 **1st Quarter Budget Update – Director of Finance, Martin Anguelov**

28 Director Anguelov presented the 1st quarter budget which has ended as of September 30th. with a total expenditure
29 increase of \$608,475, which represents 28% of expenditures funding compared to 27% for 2016. Payroll has
30 increased slightly by \$314,716, which is 15% compared to 14% from last year. Both of these are considered well
31 within an appropriate range for a year to year comparison. There was anticipated growth due to the opening of
32 Nantucket Intermediate School.
33

34 The Nantucket Community School budget was presented by Director Anguelov, who offered a new report showing
35 three years on one sheet, broken out to more easily compare year-to-year. An additional aid on this report is the
36 breakout of medical insurance and payroll to show actual expenses and where they impact. The revenues are
37 \$33,201 over last year mostly due to an increase in the instruction income in the Adult Education revolver, an
38 increase in the Pool Revolver membership, Dolphins swim team revenues and Summer Camp revenues. We are
39 watching the program income of the Pool Revolver especially. The expenses decreased by \$57,438 from last year's
40 high of \$88,459, but the actuality is there is an increase of expenses still. This bears monitoring, so the goal will be
41 to attempt to sustain programming in a fiscally responsible way and have results that balance the expenses with the
42 revenues.
43

44 School Lunch for September 2017 showed a deficit of \$25,424 versus a deficit of only \$929 for 2016. Much of this
45 increase is product costs with stocking a new kitchen in NIS, but there was also a freezer malfunction in NHS in
46 August which lost \$6,000 in product. Additionally, personnel costs have increased with the NIS school kitchen.
47 Sales in dollars declined from \$65,947 in 2016 to \$61,630 in 2017. This is from overstated reimbursements in 2016,
48 an error that was found and rectified. The other thing to note is, although the total meals served has increased and
49 even with the same number of operating days, 1,393 of these meals were ala carte meals which are not eligible for
50 reimbursements. Free & Reduced Meals in September of 2017 was at an all-time high of 55.8% compared to 33.1%,
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which could be largely due to the continual good work of staff, but also direct results in Medicaid from the state. Overall, with improved product mix and higher participation rates, the program seems to be on track to remain within the \$56,704 subsidy and remain on a positive trend. Mrs. Iller asked about what is included in ala carte purchases, and examples were given of chips, snacks, an extra sandwich or piece of pizza. She also asked when the last time we increased the purchase price of a meal which was in 2006. Director Anguelov remarked the possibility of a price increase has been discussed a few times with no change to date, but they will continue to consider if this is a necessary thing to implement.

MCAS Results – Directors of Curriculum & STEM, Michael Horton & Jean Garen Witt

Director Michael Horton began by explaining that this year was extra challenging to put together a presentation. The changes in the state assessment over recent years (original MCAS, transitioning to PARCC and then to the Next Generation of MCAS) have frustrated educators, as the different assessments do not allow for an apples-to-apples comparison of the data and make any determination of trends difficult to make. The performance levels for grades 3-8 are different from before, as are the performance labels for achievement. Essentially, there is no way to use the current data for trend analysis at these levels. Mr. Horton empathizes with parents reviewing their children’s scores, asking ‘how will they understand what they are seeing?’ As parents look at their children’s scoring this year, what might have been proficient before, might only show a partially meeting expectations this year, because the Next Generation MCAS is more rigorous and the standards are higher. Massachusetts educators hope to make this 2017 the new baseline year, and scores will not be compared to previous years’ scores.

Mr. Horton and Mrs. Witt took turns going through the data, breaking out NES and CPS into English Language Arts, Math and Science. The goal is to have students’ ‘meeting expectations’ and ‘exceeding expectations’ scores total higher than 50% when comparing Nantucket to the State. In most cases, in the lower grades, we are not meeting 50% or higher which is a concern. He also shared looking deeper into the data allows us the ability to see the standards and content and this shows where the students are learning and how they are learning.

The high school is the only level of state assessment that has remained constant and, thus, we do have the ability to compare with past scores and examine trends in the scores. Mr. Horton shared data points: our Grade 10 CPI in ELA is 96.3 compared to the state average of 96.5%. The CPI in Math is 84.7 compared to the state average of 89.9. Our CPI in Science is 89 compared to the state average of 89.4. He reminded members that high school results are still the old MCAS scoring, but noted that we continue to see the upward trend as our students get to high school. Both Directors continued to give some examples and broke down student growth percentile. They also reviewed our NHS accountability level, pointing out that the Level (2) is determined by the participation and graduation rates of our students.

Mrs. Murphy wanted to add that she has been listening to these presentations for nine years and while she understands the frustration and the ever-changing task, she takes comfort in the fact that clearly the high school scores show improvement over time and that is the end result. She offered that the state assessment is only one measurement of student success, not our only guide. She appreciates the work the Administrators continue to do to elevate the rigor and the learning at our school.

Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Amend Policy ADC – Tobacco and Other Products Prohibited on School Premises. Jenn Iller made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Joseph L Viera Fund, Inc. to NPS Athletic Department, 14 pair of Champion Sweatpants and Training shorts as part of uniform for boys football practice. Jenn Iller made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

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104 Vote to Approve NHS Field Trip for students in Latin Club, to Rome & Pompeii, Italy, April Break 2019. Jenn Iller
105 made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
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107 Vote to Approve the October 3, 2017, Meeting Minutes:
108 Jenn Iller made a motion to approve the minutes, Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.
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110 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices
111 Zona Butler made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Jenn Iller seconded, the motion was approved.
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113 **Superintendent's Report–W. Michael Cozort**

114 **NIS Open House**

115 It was a small, but enthusiastic group for the Public Open House of NIS, with approximately 30 people attending.
116 Tours were led by excited NIS students. It was very well received and people seemed very happy with the whole
117 building and how it was configured.
118

119 **On the Horizon** – Superintendent Cozort made some suggestions to move a few items for the next agenda. There
120 will be the English Learners Presentation with data showing progress for those students. There will also be the
121 Homeschooling report, the School Improvement Plans and most likely the School Calendar for 2018-2019 which has
122 not had a lot of comments or questions, and might be ready for a vote.
123

124 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

125 Sub-Committees:

126 Jenn Iller stated the policy meeting got through almost all of Policy I.
127

128 Natalie Gammons of Student Council was excited that Homecoming weekend went so well and stated it was super
129 busy! A lot of students were involved, all the games were good, and were well attended. There is a meeting next
130 week so there will be new things to review.
131

132 At 7:16pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Jennifer Iller and seconded by Zona Butler, and
133 unanimously approved.
134

135 Respectfully submitted,
136 Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk