

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2019

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2 Present Members: Chair Jennifer Iller, Vice Chair Timothy Lepore, Zona Butler, Pauline Proch, and Steve Sortevik

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4 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Chair Jennifer Iller, in the Nantucket High School LGI. Steve Sortevik
5 made a motion to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Pauline Proch and 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 **MASC/MASS Report – Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett, School Committee Member Pauline Proch,**
12 **School Committee Clerk Logan O’Connor**

13 The Deputy Superintendent gave a brief overview of the Massachusetts Association of School Committee conference held
14 in early November in Hyannis MA. The plan was to ‘divide and conquer’; to participate in as many of the sessions as
15 possible and a list of the attended presentations was provided to the School Committee. Dr. Hallett, Mrs. Proch and Mrs.
16 O’Connor individually gave a brief synopsis of their choice sessions and their takeaways from each. The conference
17 offered very comprehensive gatherings and also a handful of additional inspiring keynote speakers. There was a
18 tremendous amount of content packed into a short time. They agreed every session was worthwhile and they looked
19 forward to attending again the following year.
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21 **Budget Development FY21: Nantucket Elementary School, Principal Kimberly Kubisch**

22 Mrs. Kubisch responded to an earlier query about reaching the many diverse cultures/languages in our district. She
23 informed the Committee that many in the district use the REMIND App, designed to provide messaging to families that
24 sign up through school, for information about a classroom item, need, or homework. This APP can be broadcast out from
25 English into multiple languages and received in multiple languages and converted into English. Mrs. Kubisch also talked
26 about Kindergarten registration and giving wordless books to new children registrants.
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28 Mrs. Kubisch noted the pictures on the front, giving praise to both staff and students before turning to offer her fiscal
29 information. Nantucket Elementary School is 17% of the budget, \$5,008,479, of which 98% covers payroll obligations at
30 \$4,886,699. She reviewed her requests and followed up with her narrative to support these needs. The total ask is an
31 increase of \$179,020, which includes an additional ELL teacher due to the continued increase in ELL students.
32 Additionally, another PreK teacher was requested, knowing our IEP student numbers have grown exponentially, even prior
33 to kindergarten registration. Along with the request for an additional PreK teacher, she is asking for two additional
34 Teaching Assistants in keeping with safe numbers and providing the most attentive and appropriate support, especially to
35 include small group instruction. Finally, she is asking for a Math Interventionist to zero in on the continual focus on math
36 improvement and to resurrect a position in place a few years ago in NES prior to the splitting into NES & NIS. Two line-
37 items area increases she also hopes to fill are small additions for technology for a typing resource for young children, and
38 more money for professional development as her current available money is almost depleted not half way through the year.
39 Mrs. Proch asked about having high school graduates come in to help in a teaching assistant or substitute capacity. Mrs.
40 Kubisch responded they have tried to tap into this “pool,” but it has not happened as of yet. Chair Iller asked about the pay
41 rate for a Teaching Assistant and lamented it is not possible for people to live on Nantucket at this range of salary. Mrs.
42 Kubisch agreed to an extent, but also said benefits are a very attractive part of the opportunity. Superintendent Cozort
43 concurred and felt the scale needed to be reviewed for the TA unit, but also reminded the TA positions have been
44 historically attractive because of the calendar lining up for families with children and the desire to have health benefits for
45 a family. Mr. Sortevik liked the request for a Math Interventionist and asked Mrs. Kubisch of her real wish list. She
46 responded the budget has been very kind to her school and she feels the support for their student numbers has always been
47 met in one way or another. She thanked the Town, the School Committee and the Superintendent.
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49 **Budget Development FY21: Nantucket Intermediate School**

50 Mrs. McNeil began by acknowledging that NIS is 15% or \$4,437,083 of the total budget, and 97% is payroll. She is
51 asking for a total increase of \$51,998 which is additional money for general technology instruction and professional
52 development, which she has also almost depleted already in December. For her staff requests, she is hoping to increase her
53 Spanish teacher .2 to make a total of .6 FTE, which will cover Spanish language instruction for all grades in NIS.

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She would also like to increase .5 for a Social Worker. Mr. Sortevik queried this increase because of the full time Social Worker established in last year’s budget. Mrs. McNeil responded in order to appropriately support the student’s social emotional health, the increase is warranted. Mr. Sortevik asked what did not make her list and did she have additional needs. Mrs. McNeil gladly shared her wants if budget was no object: an ELL SEI coach, another SPED teacher, more TA’s and more money in the budget for field trips.

Budget Development FY21: Nantucket High School, Principal John Buckey

Principal John Buckey stated high school is 20% of the total budget at \$6,163,109 and payroll obligations equate to 97% or \$5,990,630. Dr. Buckey provided narrative for his requests of \$85,710 and is also asking for an increase in technology general instruction and professional development, specifically for recurring expenses for licenses and for NEASC expenses in preparation for the decennial visit. He is asking for an additional Special Education Teacher in order to accommodate the number of Special Education students increasing by ten since last year. Coinciding with the SPED staff increase is also a small request for supplies to cover current and new IDSC programming.

Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Approve Donation from Kelly M. Williams & Andrew Forsyth to Adopt a Lunch Tray Program, \$2,500.00 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Anonymous through the Community Foundation for Nantucket to the Adopt a Lunch Tray Program, \$4,000.00 Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

None. T&I will be combined for the next meeting of December 17.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

None

On the Horizon

December 17 will have the Town Budget Presentation from Libby Gibson and Brian Turbitt. Budget Development will include SPED, ELL, CPS & Athletics. Also, the Annual Report.

Mrs. Proch asked to hear from the Innovation Pathways meeting conference that Michael Horton and Seanda Bartlett attended. She also noted the Rotary project at Bartlett and Surfside, sharing she understood Selectman Matt Fee asked to remove the Rotary off the Capital Request list because the School Committee was not in favor of the plan and he wants their approval before moving forward. She also asked about reminding the district staff of the EAP opportunity provided to anyone especially because she feels the Lockdown drill still resonates with many. Zona Butler asked about a Human Resources person on staff, and the idea of this already begin discussed at last year’s budget time. Mr. Sortevik asked how EAP information is provided. School Committee Clerk, Mrs. O’Connor, offered through the Chair, information is available on the website, staff are provided their own ability to login and monthly newsletters go to staff. She also assured the School Committee that Human Resources are continually provided by the Central Office and Town HR.

At 7:11pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Steve Sortevik and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Logan O’Connor, School Committee Clerk