

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2019

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Chair Jennifer Iller, Vice Chair Timothy Lepore, Pauline Proch, & 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. Tim Lepore
5 made a motion to amend and approve the agenda, it was seconded by Steve Sortevik and was approved unanimously.

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7 **Comments from the Public**

8 None

9
10 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

11 **NEASC – NHS English Teachers Page Martineau & Stacey Edzwald**

12 High School English Teachers Page Martineau & Stacey Edzwald are the lead Co-Chairs/Advisors for the
13 accreditation process through NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges). This represents a large
14 commitment in the year-long process for the two Co-Chairs and NHS Principal, Dr. John Buckley and NHS Assistant
15 Principal, Jennifer Psaradelis. The reason behind becoming accredited is to validate that the school offers a high
16 quality education, one committed to continual growth. It supports how NPS commits to philosophies of education
17 that are reflective by consistently assessing educational practices while simultaneously moving forward with positive
18 change. The entire cycle is based on a 10-year window that starts with a draft vision and self-reflection, a
19 collaboration conference, a school growth plan, a decennial visit and finally, implementation. The vital question to
20 answer is, “What is our vision of a graduate?” In the year 2020 a new set of standards will be required for all schools
21 seeking to become accredited and within these standards are Foundational Elements (the building blocks for the
22 Standards). These five core Standards promote effective learning strategies to meet the needs of ALL students
23 through reflection and growth:

- 24 ✓ Learning Culture – promotes shared values and responsibility for achieving the schools’ vision (is it safe and
25 inclusive)
- 26 ✓ Student Learning – practice maximizes the impact of learning for each student (nine elements within the
27 teaching and learning)
- 28 ✓ Professional Practices – ensures that practices and structures are in place to support and improve student
29 learning (professional development, collaboration, and School Improvement Plans)
- 30 ✓ Learning Support – ensures that the school has appropriate systems to support student learning and well-
31 being (Counselors, Nurses, Social Workers, Special Education support, etc...)
- 32 ✓ Learning Resources – ensures that the school has the resources necessary to meet the learning needs of all
33 students (‘Nuts & Bolts’ = Facilities, buildings, funding)

34 The ultimate goal of this entire process is to support every single student, no matter what kind of learner they are, and
35 in order to meet everyone’s needs, to guarantee each student has the skills necessary as they move to their next
36 chapter in life. Mr. Sortevik was very impressed by the amount of focus and work. Pauline Proch liked the idea of
37 bringing in students and community members, not just staff to implement this large undertaking – she thinks the ‘buy
38 in’ factor is palpable. Mrs. Martineau talked a bit about student-led conferences and how this is an example of
39 reflective practice. She proposed that all students should/will understand the outlined vision of a graduate and that
40 teachers will teach with this in mind. She added she feels this mechanism makes students accountable for their
41 leaning because it asks them to be honest and reflective of themselves.

42
43 **ILT Presentation: The Creation of the Instructional Leadership Team – Principals Kimberly Kubisch &**
44 **Evemarie McNeil, Assistant Principals Nina Slade & Elise Goegelein, ELA Coordinator Donna Johnson, and**
45 **Teachers Brianne Holdgate, Andrea Maher, Katie Mooney, Taylor Murphy, Kim Pignato & Grace Anne**
46 **Tornovich**

47 Led by Donna Johnson, the initiative of the ILT Program is tied directly to the new curriculum and collaborating for
48 Nantucket Elementary and Nantucket Intermediate Schools. This group is made up of administrators and teachers
49 from K-5. The Goals are: to grow leaders from within, support growth of teachers and students, differentiate
50 professional development to meet the needs of each grade level team while vertically supporting and sustaining
51 initiatives – “What is our focus?” Mrs. Johnson presented a Powerpoint (also complete with pictures and videos of

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2019

52
53 teachers and students) defining the cycle of analysis, assessment and action and how the group as a whole, worked
54 together and with their grade levels to better understand the challenges of the Elementary level of teaching due to
55 multiple subjects and different learners. The Team Leaders for each grade, who meet with their own grade levels,
56 then connected to vertically (K-5) collaborate. The idea behind this type of collaboration is to become better
57 educators which can directly impact the teaching and learning environment for students. Underlying this effort is the
58 foundation of reading which plays a very important role because the basis for all learning is reading. The current
59 practice Readers & Writers Workshop is therefore, instrumental in the program, helping to align the pedagogy of
60 “what we are doing, and what we are trying to achieve” and motivating students to take charge of their learning. The
61 team individually gave examples to the School Committee about their own experiences. One administrator shared it
62 helped them all to become better educators and to teach with intentionality and consistency. Another administrator
63 shared it helped them be a better observer and offers a place for them to go for resources grade specifically. One
64 teacher described how this has contributed in shaping their planning for units, and they can improve each year by
65 reflecting on current practice. Another teacher talked about how getting together vertically helped to set goals that
66 were then pre-determined and allowed for productive work because “diving in” was not overwhelming. A fourth
67 grade teacher added that planning ahead for the grade level team enabled them to get the most out of half day
68 professional development days.
69

70 Mrs. Johnson further explained the overarching theme behind this initiative is to establish a Professional Learning
71 Community (PLC) defined as a group of individuals within the school community who are committed to ensuring all
72 students learn, and who embrace a culture of collaboration and focus on results. The ILT supports the work of the
73 PLC by providing the backing to support Readers Workshop, as described above. She then offered her hopes and
74 dreams of the ILT’s work for next year. The School Committee collectively recognized the enthusiasm from the
75 group as a whole. Mrs. Proch commented on the enormous amount of work going into this program and how much
76 she liked the model and hoped it could infiltrate throughout the district in the future. Mrs. Butler reaffirmed how
77 important reading is in general and how it supports life-long learning.
78

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

80 Vote to Approve the Award of the Miriam Congdon-Altschul Scholarship & Evelyn Maglathlin Scholarship to NHS
81 Students, totaling \$11,000.00. Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the
82 motion was approved.
83

84 Vote to Approve NHS Field Trip to China, April 16, 2020 – April 25, 2020. Steve Sortevik made a motion,
85 seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
86

87 Vote to Approve the May 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the minutes, Pauline
88 Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.
89

90 Vote to Approve the April 23, 2019 Workshop Meeting Minutes. Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the
91 minutes, Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.
92

93 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

94 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Steve Sortevik seconded, the motion was
95 approved.
96

97 **Superintendent Report**

98 **Enrollment**

99 Superintendent Cozort stated we are up eight students for enrollment for the month of May with our total district
100 number at 1,692. He stated this is a mixed blessing as the increase offers ‘job security’ but challenges our facilities
101 and potentially the sizes of classes. He asked the Principals to offer their understanding for the number fluctuations
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Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2019

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104 as Mrs. Butler is always particularly interested. The answers are continually relocation either in or out of the district
105 and some are private school entries or withdrawals.
106

107 **Hiring Update**

108 Superintendent Cozort gave an update on the status of hiring at NPS. He talked about how much work the hiring
109 process takes and how it continues to be a challenge to fill some key positions. He individually reviewed the hires
110 for each building – NES is still seeking the replacement for Nina Slade, and have identified two candidates for the
111 slot) and are still searching for two kindergarten and two first grade teachers. Donna Johnson will move to Assistant
112 Principal at NIS. The previous AP, Elise Goeglein, will move to the Math Coach position, and Jeannie Critchley, 4th
113 grade teacher, will move to fill the Math Intervention position. Guidance in NIS is filled, and an open ESL position
114 remains and which we are waiting to hear where the Director of ELL thinks that person is most needed. In CPS, a
115 new music teacher, a social worker and the PE position have been filled and we are looking to fill 8th grade math and
116 Mandarin. At NHS, a counselor has been hired who has an Admissions background and who speaks Spanish, and we
117 are close to hiring a Math candidate. For the district, a BCBA has been recently hired and the Speech & Language
118 position. There are several Teaching Assistant positions available, some newly created within our budget and some
119 due to retirement. Housing is a critical piece and Superintendent publically shouted-out to the television viewer if
120 they have housing available to please let the school know.
121

122 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

123 Sub-Committees:

124 Nantucket Education Trust – Pauline Proch and Superintendent Cozort worked to coordinate the “across the pond”
125 college tour. Superintendent Cozort joined the group to travel on the UMASS college trip with nine chaperones and
126 85 sophomores. It was a “great day” and seemingly very successful, giving many an early preview to the college
127 process, and a way to better envision this opportunity. Mrs. Proch thanked the community at large for their year-end
128 giving/fundraising which helped this day to become reality.
129

130 **On the Horizon**

131 On the horizon is the Athletics Update, the ELL Update as well as Technology. Also, a draft of 2020/2021 calendar
132 and the Appointment of the School Committee Clerk. There was discussion about the Retreat and the location. The
133 date is June 25th.
134

135 Mr. Sortevik gave some shout-outs: The NHS awards ceremony was fun and well done displaying a broad range of
136 students. And, he was happy with the Teacher of the Year award.
137

138 At 7:17 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Steve Sortevik,
139 and unanimously approved.
140

141 Respectfully submitted,

142 Logan O’Connor, School Committee Clerk