

Nantucket School Committee Meeting Minutes March 8, 2022

Present Members: Chair Tim Lepore, Vice Chair Pauline Proch, Laura Gallagher Byrne, and Esmeralda Martinez. Also present from the Studio, a NCTV Representative. This meeting is an in-person participation meeting in compliance with Governor Charles Baker's statement allowing public bodies the ability to hold a meeting at a physical location that is open to the public, without requiring to provide alternative means of remote access. Chair Timothy Lepore asked to move the presentation of the Surplus Vote 10 & 24 Surfside Road first in the agenda to allow for guests Mr. Ken Beaugrand, Real Estate Specialist for Town of Nantucket, & Libby Gibson, Town Manager, to share any information concerning this transaction. A motion was made by Laura Gallagher Byrne, seconded by Pauline Proch, and approved unanimously, to open the Meeting, and which was called to order at 6:00 PM in the Nantucket High School LGI, by Chair Timothy Lepore.

Comments from the Public

None

Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee

Surplus Vote 10 & 24 Surfside Road, Article 99 – Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett, Director of Facilities Diane O'Neil, Town of Nantucket Real Estate Specialist, Ken Beaugrand & Town Administrator Elizabeth Gibson

Mr. Ken Beaugrand addressed the School Committee to offer some background as to how we are in this final stage of the land swap/transition. The School Committee was provided multiple documents to show the Plans of Land for 24 & 10 Surfside, and a letter from the previous Superintendent addressing the Select Board, Andrew Vorce, Libby Gibson and Ken Beaugrand discussing the development for strategy to evolve the School Wide Master Campus Plan. In 2018, the Town approached the Kaiser family regarding their property at 24 Surfside Road and asked if they had any interest in selling the property. Andrew Vorce, Dawn Holdgate, Ken Beaugrand, Mike Cozort, the Selectboard and the Town Manager came to an agreement to acquire the 24 Surfside Road property for the School in exchange for two things: 1) School would renovate the NPS School parking lot removing the driveway (curb cut) on Surfside Road and install a new driveway on Sparks Avenue (that work was completed last summer 2021); and 2) School would convey a small parcel of property to the Town for roadway purposes. This was officially part of the Annual Town Meeting in 2020, Article 99. With this vote, the schools obtained 24 Surfside Road, a 30,390 square foot parcel in exchange for the corner of Sparks Avenue & Surfside Road, a 9,998 square foot parcel. The 24 Surfside Road parcel is extremely important to the Campus Wide Master Plan for it is the area where a new school is planned for should the need arise.

This conversation and agreement predated the current Superintendent, Elizabeth Hallett. Vice Chair Pauline Proch recollected the previous School Committee meetings when Mike Burns, Planning & Economic Development Commission, reviewed rotary options for the corner of Surfside Road and also the intersection of Surfside Road & Bartlett Farm Road. Mrs. Proch reaffirmed the School Committee was not and is not in favor of roundabouts at these locations, and she now wanted to have confirmation from Mr. Beaugrand that a rotary would not be in the future plans should the School Committee agree to make a motion for approval of this land swap. Mr. Beaugrand assured Mrs. Proch that there is no funding and no existing plans to start construction on a rotary. Additionally, everything needs to go through the Town of Nantucket and Annual Town Meeting. Mrs. Proch also asked about needing to vote. Mr. Beaugrand responded no vote was necessary, he simply confirmed, he and Mrs. Gibson were in attendance to ask the School Committee for their authorization to make this land "swap" transition. It was unilaterally agreed (as had been proclaimed) this motion for transition is essential for the Master Campus Plan. Dr. Lepore added his continual disdain for rotaries in these locations, stating they are inappropriate for school areas. With agreement from the School Committee to make the transition, a motion was read into the minutes by the Chair:

"MOVED: The Town of Nantucket School Committee hereby determines pursuant to General Laws Chapter 40 Section 15A that a portion of the Town-owned land located at 10 Surfside Road shown as parcel 137 on Assessor's Map 55, shown as Parcel A containing 9,996± square feet on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land in Nantucket, MA Prepared for the Inhabitants of the Town of Nantucket, #10 Surfside Road, Map 55, Parcel 137" prepared by Braken Engineering, Inc. dated July 29, 2020, recorded with the Nantucket County Registry of Deeds as Plan No.2020-48 (the "Surplus Parcel") currently held by the School Committee for school purposes, is not longer needed b the Town for such purposes, being the portion of the land located at 10 Surfside Road transferred from the School Committee to the Select Board for roadway purposes pursuant to the vote of Article 77 of he 2018 Annual Town Meeting; And further that we authorize the Chairman to forthwith give notice of this determination to the Select Board."

Superintendents Report

AASA Conference Update – February 16 – 19, 2022 – Nashville, Tennessee

Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett thanked the Committee for allowing her to attend the American Association of School

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Administrators national conference. AASA is focused on designing opportunities to provide a leadership program that can help Superintendents and School Administrative leaders to find effective strategies and best practices in identifying areas of growth for continuous improvement and assist to create a roadmap for moving a district forward. Dr. Hallett said it was great to be together with Superintendents from all over the country, especially to discuss all that has happened in the last two years with the Pandemic impacting learning in ways never seen before. She talked about the theme of the conference: *Leading for Student Centered Equity with a Focus on Education*. Being student focused there were many offerings concerning Mental Health, DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion), Standard Based Grading, reading issues/support, and roundtables concerning equity and working through what has happened to overall learning as a whole because of the Pandemic. Dr. Hallett was delighted to hear the United States Education Secretary, Miguel Cardona, as the Keynote Speaker and also was happy to learn that while only 26% of Superintendents are women, they are faring quite well because of their nurturing ability in critical situations.

Enrollment

Enrollment for March 1 shows a total for the district at 1685, down slightly from the month before. Five students are the difference, with most coming from the high school. The School Committee asked why these students have left and asked to have the information as they had this before and would like to refer to the “why” of the numbers. The Superintendent did not have those details but will supply them moving forward.

Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee con’t.

Nantucket High School Program of Study–NHS Principal Mandy Vasil & Assistant Principal Jennifer Psaradelis

Mrs. Vasil and Ms. Psaradelis were very excited to offer the Program of Study and shared some new courses. The compilation of course selection process and how they determine the final selections are based upon needs and a wish list. There is collaboration with teachers for what is “liked or disliked” in terms of courses and a focus on what is needed/missing/beneficial, to provide informed choice options for students. NEASC, Vision of a Graduate is at the forefront of the student track. Ms. Psaradelis reviewed each core subject area and each elective and gave a brief synopsis of which remain constant, is added, or dropped. Chair Tim Lepore asked about School to Career, specifically wondering about the Hospital option. He talked about the traveling nurse program and how beneficial it would be to grow from our own community. Principal Vasil reviewed the Nursing programming and the new Nursing II course that will be more lab-driven. Ms. Psaradelis talked a bit more about vocational offerings and reiterated the School to Career options remain robust and NHS if adding more choices. Superintendent Hallett thanked NHS for rolling this out, adding one of her Superintendent Goals was to hone into student’s interest and to provide more course options.

Debrief & Discussion of the Master Campus Plan

Chairman Tim Lepore started the discussion with a public apology to the School Committee Clerk and the Superintendent’s Office regarding miscommunication concerning the Agenda and posting of the February 8 School Committee Workshop. He stated,

“...I would like to go on the record regarding some misinformation that has been shared out in the community around the February 8 School Committee Workshop: there was a miscommunication on my part regarding invitations of outside guests to the February 8 School Committee Workshop, as I did not share the names of the PFAS scientists with the School Committee Clerk prior to the posting of the workshop agenda...In no way did the School Committee Clerk or Superintendent’s Office intentionally omit the scientists from the agenda, and the issue was rectified”.

Following the Chair remarks, Superintendent Hallett stated the Master Campus Plan Committee met to discuss the recent ‘temperature’ of the Community regarding Phase 9 of the Plan, the Athletics Complex. Based upon a vote of the Master Campus Plan Committee, it was decided to pause on the current Plan pertinent to the turf fields and rework the next steps. The intention is not necessarily remove the plan for turf fields, but to pause on that portion of the plan and move forward with construction of the baseball and tennis as determined. Dr. Hallett read a Statement into the minutes on behalf of the MCP Committee:

At our most recent Campus Wide Master Plan Committee meeting, the difficult decision was made to put some of the proposed work for the high school / middle school athletic complex on hold. All work associated with the Backus Lane fields is still moving ahead as planned/designed. We have shared this information of this change in the scope of work with the Town of Nantucket, FinCom, and prospective bidders. As this point, the immediate goal is to focus on getting the natural grass baseball field and tennis courts at Backus Lane constructed, which is still an important part of Phase 9 of the Campus-Wide Master Plan.

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It is unclear whether community support for the portion of the project behind the high/middle school, which focuses on replacing the current natural grass athletic fields with a safer, more durable, and cost-effective option using turf instead of natural grass, is where it needs to be in order for a successful outcome at Town Meeting and Election. For that reason, the Committee decided to pause the project, not necessarily change the scope, in order to educate everyone by continuing to investigate the individual citizens' concerns, research and compile recent and relevant peer-reviewed scientific data in response to those concerns, and to present findings to the community. The Committee will also take this opportunity to continue sharing the huge benefits of Phase 9 as part of the overall Master Plan to the Nantucket Public Schools Athletic Program and the entire island community.

However, taking this pause does not help us solve the issue at hand: we must find a way to provide athletic fields that can sustain the amount of use by our Nantucket student-athletes. Therefore, the Committee will be seeking to create an Ad Hoc Committee tasked with investigating alternate locations on island that could be used in the interim or converted into athletic fields that are unsafe and out of MIAA compliance. We invite members of the community who are dedicated to the well-being of our Athletics Program to seek solutions to the predicament of athletic fields. We owe it to our Nantucket Whalers to give them a safe and usable area to play and compete.

Mrs. Proch thanked the MCP Committee for all their hard work over the last ten years, emphasizing the number of hours, commitment, and passion to the whole campus plan. She furthered she was thankful for the Committee's decision to reevaluate alternatives given the current community thinking. Dr. Lepore responded to the statement that the revaluation of still yet, injecting PFAS in not important, is something he wholeheartedly, disagrees.

Committee Discussion and Votes to be Taken

Vote to Declare Approval of Transfer of Property Pursuant to the vote of Article 99, authorizing said Portion of land at 10 Surfside Road to the Selected Board So moved by motion (see previous Motion under Presentations)

Vote to Approve payment to NCTV Services Outside Contractual Agreement between NPS & NCTV, for February 8, 2022 School Committee Workshop, \$1,085.00 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the calendar, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with no one opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from MIT Club of Cape Cod, STEM Mini Grant to NHS Math/Robotics Club, \$500.00 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with no one opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from the Nantucket Police Charitable Association, Misc Items to Nantucket Elementary & Intermediate Schools, approximate value, \$3,837.00 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with no one opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program to NPS, \$140.00 & \$220.00 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with no one opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Request Authorization to Transfer Money from Nantucket Agency Account to Nantucket High School Student Activities Account in order to Facilitate the Balance Transfer Request made by the Class Officers, Cameron Strojny and Katheryn Genther, on Behalf of the Class of 2021.

"On Motion, duly made and seconded the Nantucket School Committee: approves the balance transfer of \$8,759.20 from the NHS Agency Account to the Nantucket Student Activity Account."

Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with no one opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Amended Policy EBCFA – Face Masks

Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Esmeralda Martinez seconded, with no one opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve February 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Esmeralda Martinez seconded, with no one opposed, the motion was approved.

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Vote to Approve February 8, 2022 Workshop Meeting Minutes Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Esmeralda Martinez seconded, with no one opposed, the motion was approved

Vote to Approve February 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Esmeralda Martinez seconded, with no one opposed, the motion was approved

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Esmeralda Martinez seconded, with no one opposed, the motion was approved.

Subcommittee Work Group

Cape Cod Collaborative: Mrs. Byrne has a CCC remote meeting this week

Policy: Policy K is this week, the Superintendent is having a meeting with the Sub Committee

Negotiations: Dr. Lepore states the continuation for ESP negotiations.

Student Council

Kathryn Kyomitmaitee, School Council Representative, shared Winter Sports have wrapped up with the Boys Hockey team headed into Playoffs. She reported the students are excited about the new Program of Study and all students are in the midst of course selections with the entering Freshman doing their schedules later this week. PFFLG, Parents Family Friends of Lesbians & Gays have been meeting. The Musical for NHS opens in a week. Volunteer opportunities exist right now for Our House, Nantucket, Dreamland Theatre and the NCH Thrift Shop. Currently Student Council is meeting to determine Spring events and the Annual Badminton Tournament is getting underway. Chair Tim Lepore hoped Student Council will ensure the Superintendent gets an invite to participate.

Dr. Lepore also asked the Superintendent to give brief update concerning COVID. Superintendent Hallett reported there have been no significant COVID spikes after the vacation break. With masks in place for the current week, barring any unforeseen changes, the Mask mandate will be lifted at the end of the week. Masks will be optional starting March 14.

Finally, the Chair asked for determination of the School Committee to reschedule the previously cancelled Retreat. The date of March 15 was selected.

Horizon

The next meeting will be March 22nd, 2022. There will be the School Committee's Mid-Year Progress on Goals, NHS Alt Ed presentation, Science Curriculum presentation, FONPS, and NHS Dropout Rate Report.

At 6:51pm, the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch, seconded by Esmeralda Martinez, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Logan O'Connor
School Committee Clerk