

Nantucket School Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2022

Present Members: Chair Tim Lepore, Vice Chair Pauline Proch, Laura Gallagher Byrne, and Anthony Fox. 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. A motion was made by Pauline Proch, seconded by Laura Gallagher Byrne, 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

Superintendent's Report

COVID Updates

Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett began with COVID updates, stating that although COVID continues to present slight challenges the numbers are trending down. The decision was made to continue Test & Stay, keeping the routine was the optimum strategy. If students and parents opt into the Test at Home decision, it will present possible issues that could make the initiative hard to manage. Collecting and receiving consent forms from families will be a challenge, soliciting and collecting all the test forms will be a challenge, there will be no guarantee that each household performs the test properly, and they will not necessarily be able to determine asymptomatic individuals. There has been little push back up to this point in following the Test & Stay protocols and it seems as if 'staying the course' is the best solution. Dr. Hallett remarked the January 29 vaccination clinic was cancelled due to the winter storm that hit the island, but this has been rescheduled for February 19. She will email people with instructions on how to make an appointment so there is no confusion.

Enrollment

The Superintendent reported the enrollment number is up six students for a district total of 1690. The additional six students are two in NES and NIS and one in each CPS and NHS.

School Committee Progress on Goals Overview

Dr. Hallett stated that a mid-year retreat has been planned for February 15, which is a good time to meet off campus to review the School Committee 2021-22 Goals to get some perspective on how they are doing in the first half of the year and moving forward into the second half. It will allow for some good review and opportunities for discussion.

Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee

John & Abigail Adams Scholarship 2022 – NHS Principal Mandy Vasil

Principal Vasil was pleased to introduce KeithAnne Maynard, the only recipient this year to be awarded the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship. This opportunity gives tuition free offerings for any Massachusetts state college or university. COVID changed the parameters of requirements for MCAS tests for high school students in 2020, and it was not offered to sophomores. In 2021, the juniors were given the option to take the test, but it would not be officially required for graduation. Since it was optional, only five Nantucket students took the test, and Miss Maynard was the one student to qualify for the scholarship. A senior this year involved in the Drama Club, Accidentals & Naturals, Chorus, and the Diversity Club, Miss Maynard told the School Committee she is glad she took the test. She is looking forward to college and is hoping to study medicine. She has already received acceptance to RIT, UMASS Amherst, and UMASS Lowell and hopes to become a cardiac thoracic surgeon.

Chartwells – District Manager Erin Long & Food Service Director Linda Peterson

Erin Long began her presentation by thanking Mrs. Peterson, stating she herself can teach protocols or how to run a kitchen, but she cannot teach heart the way that Linda Peterson does. She reminded everyone that Mrs. Peterson has been involved in the Food Services Program since 1990, and her care and focus on the students and staff is undeniable. She also thanked the food services staff for working so hard, especially in such an uncertain time with the pandemic. Ms. Long reviewed how Chartwells manages the day-to-day operations, employs the food service staff, purchases the food and supplies for the menus. Chartwells offers resources and support to maintain USDA and DESE regulatory compliance, helps with audits, training, marketing, accounting, human resources, culinary, purchasing, and overall operations. She explained how Chartwells as a division of Foodbuy/Compass Foods, the largest food and supply purchasing in the world, has ability to negotiate rebates

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with vendors for purchases in volume, which helps to pass rebates onto Nantucket and ultimately benefits the district by saving money. She reviewed how buying power equates to rebate opportunities. Ms. Long offered slides to depict what is *offered* to students versus what is *served*, how meals allotments work, and how their proprietary software called *Nutrislice* and *Webtrition* is used to help families gain nutritional information about the daily food choices, as the menus are digitized and break down allergens, ingredients' and nutrition. Ms. Long gave an overview of how the COVID pandemic impacted foods service at NPS: Pre-pandemic, there was traditional cafeteria service (multiple meal components/choices), with a la carte cash sales and catering, a Point of Service prepayment option for families, Free & Reduced status for students who qualify, and direct interaction between students and food service staff. Current/post pandemic service is prepackaged meals either delivered to classrooms or served as "grab and go" for students to eat in the café or common areas designated differently in each school; there are minimal daily options, limited choices, no a la carte cash sales, hardly any catering services, and all students are receiving free meals regardless of eligibility status, and there is little to no interaction with food service staff. Ms. Long stated that major challenges to today's breakfast and lunch options include supply chain issues, inflation, and staff/labor shortages.

There was a slide to depict average daily reimbursable meals reflecting normal service in 2018 of 630, remote meals in March 2020 of 545 falling to 486 in April 2021, and then a jump for 2022 with free meals, totaling 912 per day. Ms. Long also talked about incentive programs for when life gets back to "normal" with "Mood Boost" for elementary and middle school students and "Student Choice, Food Your Way" for high school students, programs that could happen in the future to entice students to try more foods and to vote for foods they prefer.

The School Committee was curious about utilizing locally sourced products. Ms. Long talked about working with the farms for sustainable options and purchasing produce in bulk. Mrs. Peterson gave some examples of how she has worked with local farms in the past to glean product and utilize it in her daily offerings. She gave one example of receiving tomatoes and corn on the cob from Bartlett's Ocean View Farm, thus having plenty of product for almost a whole year of menus. Vice Chair Pauline Proch wondered aloud about providing "...what could be the only hot meal for students all day..." and was also concerned about providing high quality offerings, hoping that the pandemic was the root cause of lesser quality in food. She asked if it is possible to go back to what used to be served prior to the pandemic and stated her concern about food waste and that it seemed rather extensive. Ms. Long explained that before the pandemic, students had to take three out of five offered options to meet the parameters of a full meal. Students could choose what they wanted to comprise their meal as long as they chose three of the five components. Now with prepackaged meals, the five components are automatically in the meal in order to meet federal compliance, but it might not be what a student would have otherwise selected. Therefore, the waste is because the student does not want all that is in the prepackaged meal, explaining the significant amount of food not consumed. Mrs. Proch asked about monitoring the waste; Ms. Long responded that there has not been a formal analysis. Mrs. Byrne inquired if other districts are working with the same model of food service, to which Ms. Long replied yes. Mrs. Proch also asked about Free & Reduced and how we are collecting reimbursables if everyone is currently receiving free lunch per the federal government. Mrs. Peterson stated that she encourages students and families to sign up for Free & Reduced lunch regardless of status because the paperwork will trickle through to other utility expenses incurred by families, such as National Grid, MASS Health, Xfinity, etc. Mr. Fox said some students are uncomfortable with how the school system is collecting information every day for lunch orders, and high school students might be "embarrassed" to announce that they are ordering school lunch. There was discussion about how to mitigate so students could be more comfortable about ordering lunch and staff could save time with this routine.

In wrapping up, Ms. Long recapped how service during COVID, with less staff and all the constraints, impacted the "made from scratch" component as well as the time staff actually has to complete their routines in order to provide the designated service currently in place. The hope is to return to traditional service very soon and to work with the Superintendent and Administrators to determine when and how that can happen. The Superintendent reminded everyone how the current lunch program plan follows the health and safety protocols in place due to the pandemic. With limited café space and students eating in multiple spaces, returning to the traditional model will be considered but will require discussion to plan for the next year. The Superintendent also was curious about students having the option for second helpings because some seem quite hungry. Ms. Long said they could set that option in the POS system.

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Bullying Update – Principals Kubisch, McNeil, Horton, Vasil

NES – Principal Kimberly Kubisch shared that currently there have been no bullying situations. There have been four incident/complaint investigations, and all were determined not to fit bullying criteria. She said counselors are teaching a bullying unit, and the school follows the process formally outlined on the website, and the school utilizes Responsive Classroom.

NIS – Principal Evemarie McNeil reported last year, out of two investigations in third grade, there was one substantiated claim of bullying which resulted in the aggressor being given a support plan and the victim being given a safety plan. This year there were two investigations in fourth grade, both unsubstantiated; both students were given counselor support strategies. She reviewed what characterizes bullying: an imbalance of power with repeated aggressive behavior. She shared that it can be reported from any source. Mrs. McNeil mentioned NIS is fortunate to benefit from students who are offered early education at NES, and this is helpful in carryover. She stated everyone works hard with the students, counselors, and families to provide instruction, intervention, and support. Mr. Fox asked who determines the investigation; Mrs. McNeil states she does them.

CPS – Principal Michael Horton said sixth grade had one investigation last year, where both students contributed to a repeated conflict, but one student withdrew from school and thus ended the situation. This year, one investigation in sixth grade with the aggressor using inappropriate language did constitute bullying. Changing schedules and student placement along with plans for both the aggressor and victim has helped mediate the situation. Mr. Horton stated CPS takes bullying very seriously. There are plenty of conflicts, especially at this development stage, but they are not necessarily repeated issues; 95% of the time, separating students (which is possible due to the middle school schedule outline) helps to stop the bullying behavior from continuing.

NHS – Principal Mandy Vasil offered while there are harassing behavior now and again, there are no formal reports of bullying.

Safety & Security Update – Facilities Director Diane O’Neil

There was meeting on January 19 with 17 people joining. Mrs. O’Neil gave an overview of work being done:

- ✓ Audio work, speakers repaired or installed
- ✓ Camera issues and lighting issues
- ✓ Reminders for staff to not prop open doors
- ✓ Officer Thompson will start the “surprise visitor” drills again
- ✓ NES is working on clock replacement, tech and software
- ✓ NIS has additional cameras installed near playground, playing fields, and eventually also where the new baseball and tennis will be installed
- ✓ CPS is hoping to redo bathrooms – epoxy floors
- ✓ NHS cameras and speaker upgrades/add-ons in the auditorium
- ✓ Refresher for lockdown and intruder drills
- ✓ Reunification procedures

Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Approve from Hayward Photography to NES, \$2,345.09 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Rocky Fox seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Stop & Shop Community Bag Program to NES \$117.00 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from BoxTops for Education to NES \$34.40 Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Pauline Proch seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve January 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Pauline Proch seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

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Vote to Approve January 19, 2022 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Pauline Proch seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Laura Gallagher Byrne seconded, with no opposed, the motion was approved.

Sub-Committee/Work Group

Negotiations: Dr. Lepore stated the ESP Unit negotiations continue.

Cape Cod Collaborative: Mrs. Byrne reported there will be a meeting next week.

Diversity: Mr. Fox said there is new information from the Wellesley School District. He extended an invitation for Senior student KeithAnne Maynard to join the Sub Committee.

Policy: Superintendent Hallett reminded the subcommittee members that they will need to start with the K Policies in the next weeks.

Student Council:

Miss Kyomitmaitee shared that Student Council is gathering and sorting donations of winter mittens, hats, and boots for NES. They are also sorting items that have been donated for the local elderly population. Student Council is helping to recruit volunteers for Our House. She said the MCAS Biology retest will be held this week and National Honor Society is offering tutoring sessions after school in the library, all students, all subjects. Mr. Fox asked if they would consider tutoring younger students? She mentioned the CPS musical, Willy Wonka was terrific.

Horizon

The next meeting will be February 8, 2022, a School Committee Workshop for the Campus Master Plan . Following that meeting will be the Joint Session with the Select Board and a School Committee Retreat on February 15, location TBD.

Pauline Proch asked the Superintendent for an update to what happened at CPS on Monday and Tuesday. Dr. Hallett reported due to the winter storm, there were issues with heat, water pipes, and boiler malfunctions. The power went off over the weekend for approximately 30 hours. Facilities Director Diane O'Neil offered a brief overview of what took place with the HVAC systems. The boiler shut off, causing flooding. A special technician came to review/repair this issue(s), some units burst Monday and Tuesday mornings, caused flooding and heating problems, causing domino effects throughout classrooms and hallways. The situation has been contained; Facilities staff and Technicians are remedying the complications, but it will need to be determined if students and staff can safely be in school on Wednesday, February 2.

At 7:21pm, the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Laura Gallagher Byrne, seconded by Pauline Proch, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk