

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 15 2018

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Pauline Proch & Steve Sortevik
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4 The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Jennifer Iller, at 6:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction room at
5 NHS. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Steve Sortevik, seconded by Zona Butler and was approved by
6 the Committee.
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8 **Comments from Public**

9 None
10

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

12 **NHS China Trip – Mandarin Teacher Yeping Zhu & Students Ruby Dupont, Sydney Strate and Maddie Iller**

13 Ms. Zhu introduced herself and three of the students that went on the school trip to China in April. Seventeen
14 students and four chaperones traveled. Their itinerary was full of places, activities, experiences and the students
15 described many of their adventures. They visited Beijing, Tian’an men Square, the Great Wall, Shanghai, and the
16 Forbidden City to name a few places. They tried street food such as insects; they attended academic and culinary
17 classes; tried paper cutting activities; witnessed local school morning exercise and flag raising ceremonies; visited a
18 panda bear research center and taught English to a group of younger students. The students described their
19 homestays and shared their personal observations. They were amazed at the impressive and respectful behavior of
20 students toward their teachers and younger children toward their elders. They thought it was fascinating to watch
21 people “walk their birds while in cages”. They said they felt like famous people with the way the local children
22 flocked with excitement around them. The chaperones were interested at how little English was spoken in the
23 country and Mrs. Iller (one of the chaperones) was also impressed by the use of meditation in school and how it
24 seemingly centers the students. A member (parent) in the audience was emotional in describing how amazing this
25 trip was for her daughter, a phenomenal opportunity and thanked the school and the teacher for providing this chance
26 to visit another country. The School Committee was curious about reciprocal visits for Chinese students to come to
27 Nantucket. Ms. Zhu said she is looking into the possibilities.
28

29 **NCTM Conference – Director of C&A STEM, Michael Horton and NHS Math Department**

30 Mr. Horton has gone to the National Conference for a number of years and has led a different cross section of
31 teachers from the four schools to take part in the annual conference. This year the high school Math department:
32 John Barone, Paul Buccheri, Jonelle Gurley, and Darren Lucas, had the chance to travel to Washington D.C. Mr.
33 Horton liked the smaller group describing it as easier to move together as a group both inside and outside the
34 conference. Every year there is a theme to the conference and this year the theme was *Student Engagement*. The
35 overarching commonality to the conference was teaching students how to be comfortable with problem solving.
36 Make math as a subject more accessible, learning to figure out an answer to a problem and find success in an answer
37 and having less input from the teachers and more peer effort and support. The four high school teachers described
38 what stood out for them individually and how they were excited to implement these strategies immediately into their
39 classroom. They liked the suggestions of how to engage students, to mix up their lesson plans and not be routine in
40 their teaching delivery, therefore ramping up the energy of their classroom and facilitating organic classroom
41 management skills. Mrs. Proch was pleased to see the excitement and enthusiasm from the teaching staff and Mrs.
42 Butler reiterated she liked to see what each will contribute to the curriculum and classrooms.
43

44 **Facilities Update – Director of Facilities, Diane O’Neil**

45 Mrs. O’Neil reviewed a large spreadsheet of projects spanning May 2017 through the present. She was excited to
46 show how many checklist items were completed and thanked many people that helped in the completion of the
47 assignments, including staff, students and her entire Facilities & Grounds team. Many upgrades were cosmetic, such
48 as windows or painting projects and she reviewed a handful of major work done in the individual schools: NES new
49 PA system and key pads and interior door installations; the CPS hallway “1/2 shelf” lockers and charging outlets; the
50 NHS Auto shop upgrade; the field house roof; the gym windows padding; and the MPW auditorium lights and
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53 seating. She also noted finishing the project punch list for the new NIS school, which opened its doors this past
54 August. Steve Sortevik inquired about carrying future projects across fiscal years and Mrs. O’Neil assured him that
55 Capital projects do/can carry over. Mrs. Iller wanted to confirm the handicap buttons are now working at the school
56 entrance doors - Mrs. O’Neil did review these buttons indeed had a few issues, but troubleshooting has
57 reprogrammed and repaired the glitches. Finally, Mrs. O’Neil described a certification workshop opportunity for on
58 island trades called DECAM which is an important certification to have for projects over \$150,000. It is mandated
59 by the State to be DECAM certified when bidding on projects of this size and in trying to keep our work local, this
60 would be a helpful thing for Nantucket trade business owners to participate. She has been trying to notify as many
61 local business’ about these workshops.

62
63 **Calendar Changes to 2018-2019 and Draft Calendar 2019-2020**

64 The 2018/2019 calendar has already been approved by the School Committee, but based upon an initiative for the
65 teaching faculty to roll out and amp up some additional Professional Development, the Administrative Staff thought
66 two additional PD Early Release days added into the calendar would be beneficial. The Superintendent asked for the
67 Committee to take this under advisement for a future re-vote to add the extra days. Superintendent Cozort then
68 unveiled the first draft calendar for the 2019/2020 school calendar pointing out the two weeks at the Christmas break
69 happens when the holiday falls mid-week and while this seems advantageous at first, it does push the end of the
70 school year into late June. Mr. Cozort added that Martha’s Vineyard of the many districts in MA is the only one so
71 far that seems to have already approved this calendar. He will bring more drafts forward in the next few meetings.

72
73 **Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

74 Vote to Amend Policy JJE- Student Fund-Raising Activities

75 Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion to
76 approve the policy went through.

77
78 Vote to Amend Policy KBE – Relations with Parent Organizations

79 There was some light discussion to cite a reference in this policy pertaining to what 501(c)3 status stands for and to
80 provide clarity. Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none
81 opposed, the motion to approve the policy went through.

82
83 Vote to Amend Policy KDB – Public’s Right to Know

84 Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion to
85 approve the policy went through.

86
87 Vote to Approve New Policies KLJ – Relations with Planning Authorities and KKK – Relations with Local
88 Governmental Authorities

89 Superintendent Cozort reviewed these are new as written, but the district has been following these outlines for years.
90 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion to approve the policy went
91 through.

92
93 Vote to Approve the NTA Teaching Assistant Collective Bargaining Agreement This CBA has been presented with
94 the agreed changes to be voted by the Committee. It will be in affect from 2018-2021. A motion to approve was
95 made by Steven Sortevik, Pauline Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.

96
97 Vote to Approve the MOU between the Town of Nantucket & Nantucket Community School for the Community
98 Recreational Programming This MOU has been done for the last two years and this will be the third and last year the
99 school enters into this agreement. The Superintendent described this as a challenge and a burden for NCS to manage
100 and he feels it more appropriately is a function of the Parks and Recreation Department of the Town. He has notified
101 The Town Manager, Libby Gibson of this last year of the agreement in order for them to have time to revamp their
102

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103 needs within their purview. A motion to approve this MOU was made by Pauline Proch, seconded by Zona Butler,
104 and the motion was approved.
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106
107 Vote to Approve the Donation from the Friends of Nantucket Public Schools to CPS Gift Account for 8th Grade
108 Spanish Trip to Boston, \$700.00 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Zona Butler seconded, and the motion
109 was approved.
110

111 Vote to Approve the Donation from the Nantucket Dolphins Swim Team Booster Club to NCS, Nantucket
112 Community Pool, \$4,011.00 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was
113 approved.
114

115 Vote to Approve the May 1, 2018, Workshop Minutes. Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve, Zona Butler
116 seconded, and the motion was approved.
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118 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve, Zona Butler seconded, and the
119 motion was approved.
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121 **Superintendent's Report–W. Michael Cozort**

122 **Hiring Update**

123 Mr. Cozort briefly recounted the hiring situation for the district, citing housing is a challenge for recruiting, not just
124 being an island 30 miles out to sea. He commented that Special Services is a smaller candidate pool than prior years,
125 but this is an issue for any district, not just ours. He discussed each school, the positions that are open and was happy
126 to share a few positions having been filled: A new Speech and Language Therapist, seasoned and accomplished will
127 fill a new position, minimizing the need for outside contracted services. NES Nurse Bonnie Ray is retiring after a
128 long run - enormous expertise and institutional knowledge, but we are fortunate to have Meredith Lepore returning to
129 her roots. Natalie Thompson will move from a TA position in CPS to the PE and Health teaching position in NHS
130 and Morgan Raith, Landscaping, will increase from .2 to .4, affirming the student interest and growth in that Voch
131 Tech area. CPS has hired a Mandarin teacher from Rhode Island, young and ironically not from China, but from the
132 USA. There are candidates that have interviewed successfully for other open positions and the Principal have made
133 some offers. Superintendent Cozort will continue to update the Committee as he has more to share.
134

135 **On the Horizon**

136 The next meeting will be June 5. There was a fair amount of discussion regarding moving some presentations around
137 between the June meetings. The Technology, ELL and PAC update and the Wellness Committee presentation will
138 move to the second meeting in June. The June 5 meeting will have traditional Enrollment, but there will also be
139 some discussion regarding the upcoming public forums for the Rotary intersections and the Marijuana Recreational
140 use sessions, both having implications for the school district and operations. Mr. Sortevik asked to add discussion
141 regarding the CPS curriculum changes. He feels with school almost over there should be some discussion about
142 scheduling. There was some brief discussion about the best platform for this conversation and the Vice Chair
143 suggested perhaps, first a connection with the CPS Principal, Mr. Sortevik and the Superintendent would be prudent
144 before becoming a School Committee agenda item. Superintendent Cozort also brought up having one meeting in
145 July and two in August which has become somewhat standard practice.
146

147 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

148 Sub-Committees:

149 Pauline Proch reviewed the work of the Student Support Services committee which has brought some very
150 informational and comprehensive curriculum work for Drugs and Alcohol prevention. She also commented on the
151 Nurse visit counts for students, outlined by Jessica Douglas, NHS Nurse, and thanked all the school nurses for the
152 work being done. Mrs. Proch wanted to remind about the Nantucket Project Winter addition that brought activist

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154 Adam Foss to our community and that he will return, this time in our district on May 30 & 31, working with staff and
155 students to spark deep conversation regarding diversity.

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157 Steve Sortevik wished to shout out the following: Unified Arts evening was great as was the Lip Sync. He also was
158 very enthusiastic about the NCS Dance Recital. Mr. Sortevik spent some time in the NHS Wood shop and shared
159 how impressed he is about that space and all that teacher Mike Girvin is doing in that class. Mrs. Butler was very
160 excited about the dress up week at CPS and thought it created a great school spirit feeling and Mrs. Iller was very
161 impressed by the Math Expo in CPS, led by Dede Avery. Mrs. Iller also wanted to let the Committee know she
162 received a very nice note from Jim Kelly of the American Legion thanking them for allowing him time to be heard
163 regarding the Marching Band.

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165 At 7:38 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Steve Sortevik,
166 and unanimously approved.

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168 Respectfully submitted,
169 Logan O'Connor
170 School Committee Clerk