

**Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2017**

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Tim Lepore, Pauline Proch, and Natalie Gammons
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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. Tim Lepore made a motion, Pauline Proch seconded and it was approved unanimously. Mrs. Iller wished to
6 express condolences to the family of the late John O’Neill, Superintendent Emeritus and longtime community
7 member. Dr. Lepore offered a few words, mentioning Mr. O’Neill’s background, also as the force behind the
8 building of the original High School, the great work he did when he was Superintendent, and that Nantucket is a
9 better Town and school from Mr. O’Neills “being here.”
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11 **Comments from the Public**

12 None.
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14 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

15 **Facilities Project Update – Director of Facilities, Diane O’Neil**

16 Director Diane O’Neil supplied a detailed listing of projects completed for Spring and Summer 2017 including
17 project date started, completed and the dollar amount for the project. Noted specifically: Cyrus Peirce’s major
18 painting refresher project; Nantucket Elementary’s new doors for Special Education and Community School;
19 Nantucket High Schools complete parking lot regrading, repaving and repainting; the auditorium 2nd level seating
20 replacements and the autoshop lifts.
21

22 **Budget Planning Draft Calendar Fiscal Year 18**

23 Superintendent Cozort reminded the School Committee that he typically brings this draft calendar to them in
24 October, providing an overview of dates. He is hoping to show this draft a bit earlier and bring it back for action and
25 approval in the next meeting so the work can begin. Fall will begin the building budgets, December the presentation
26 of budgets to the School Committee and February the report to the Town Finance Committee. He noted a few
27 additions such as School Council meetings, and the change of Annual Town Meeting to start on a Tuesday versus a
28 Monday (determined by Town Manager, Libby Gibson).
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30 **Summer Programming – Summer Coordinator & Reading Specialist, Andrea Maher – NES**

31 Ms. Maher stated the Summer Programming has continued to grow and this year the offerings were extensive. She
32 was pleased at the number of Teachers and Teaching Assistants who were veteran staff and was equally pleased at
33 how many students participated in some form or another. She remarked that all children in need of the programs
34 were covered and supported by staff: 140 students at NES, 55 students at CPS/NHS, 23 teachers, 5 Specialists, and
35 19 TA’s. This did not include Summer Boost through the Community School which boasted 43 students, 4 teachers
36 and 2.5 TA’s. The program had a slight change in the days and hours from the previous year - 3 hours a day, 4 days
37 per week for five weeks, resulting in 20 days compared to 18 the previous year. An addition to the regular K-12
38 programs, this year PreK & IDSC was run by Mrs. Kim Albertson, a veteran teacher of this age and stage for over
39 two decades. Ms. Maher said the feedback has been positive. She shared a lot of photos, the breakdown of the
40 programs, a sample schedule of an academic day, and how technology was an important component! The teachers
41 were given resource binders, which provided a helpful tool to access a lot of different material to enhance content,
42 skills, and teaching styles. In observation throughout the summer, Ms. Maher felt the students seemed engaged and
43 successful. She thanked the School Committee for suggestions to focus on the busing needs and how providing the
44 bus was helpful in capturing more students. She also thanked the Harvey Foundation who donated *Books for Boost*
45 to the younger children who were very excited to receive the gifts. Mrs. Iller had questions about attendance, Mrs.
46 Butler asked about the timing of the school in summer. Ms. Maher said it is common to have approximately 80% in
47 attendance and felt mid-summer promoted the best numbers for turnout. She also recognized that staff coming from
48 other districts have to be in and out of school on different schedules as those on Nantucket. Additionally, Custodial
49 Staff needs to have an opportunity to ready the schools for the new year. Superintendent Cozort agreed and it was
50 his opinion that the number of days and the timing were well thought out because summer needs to be summer too.
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There was additional discussion regarding year round school, how it is no longer just for remediation and offering optional courses for those students who want to take mini or advanced courses without conflicting in a regular schedule is a good thing, but challenges exist. A community member asked if Summer School programs are voluntary to which Ms. Maher responded affirmative and the opportunities are presented to students based mostly on teacher recommendations, IEPs and student performance during the academic year.

Math Report, Intermediate Grades & More – Director of Curriculum & Assessment, STEM – Michael Horton

Director Michael Horton made a quick comment on Summer Math for CPS and NHS, and stated that out of 50 students only 2 did not complete the courses. He turned his focus to NES & NIS and a new Math resource for grades K-5, Eureka Math. This math was built on the foundation that students need to know why problems work as they do, not just how the answer was derived. Mr. Horton reviewed the evolution of Eureka, which has very high marks nationwide from educators and reviewers. Mr. Horton discussed how this has not been driven by the Administrators at NPS, but rather the teachers have been enthusiastic as more and more are joining the ‘movement’. Eureka math also captivates the parents, by offering parent support through a Homework Helper resource guide and Tip Sheets to explain math strategies, models, vocabulary, sample problems and links to videos. “Make math enjoyable” is the momentum Mr. Horton wants to promote.

Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement 2017-2020 The CBA was sent to the School Committee previously for their final review. It was voted for acceptance earlier in the day by the NTA and the Union members. Pauline Proch recused herself from the vote, a motion to approve was made by Tim Lepore, seconded by Zona Butler and approved by the School Committee.

Vote to Approve the Fiscal Year 2018 District Goals Superintendent Cozort simultaneously offered the School Committee a copy of his own Goals that align with the District Goals. A motion to approve was made by Tim Lepore, seconded by Pauline Proch and approved by the School Committee.

Vote to Approve Gift Donation for New Staff, Gift Certificates from Island Kitchen. Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the August 15, 2017, Meeting Minutes:

Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the minutes, Pauline Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Pauline Proch seconded, the motion was approved.

Superintendent’s Report–W. Michael Cozort

Enrollment Update

First day of Enrollment is not official and the Kindergarten numbers are not set in stone, but we have 1,644 students on the first day which does not include some students who enrolled today, September 5. Superintendent Cozort reflected on his predictions from earlier in the year which he was pleased to say was very close, within 10 students. October will be the official count for the Department of Education.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Superintendent Cozort remarked the cutting of the NIS ribbon was a special moment for the students, the staff and the community. Many people were in attendance, with plenty of excitement and he enjoyed the reactions of all as they toured the new school. He particularly liked walking through the Elementary School which now exudes a more calm and spacious learning environment. Pauline Proch and Jennifer Iller urged the Committee to stroll through the schools, new and old, to see everything including the changes. Mr. Cozort also mentioned how he has enjoyed popping into the classrooms to see new staff members already hard at work and classes fully engaged.

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On the Horizon – Superintendent Cozort stated we were on track to begin the new academic year. He will present a new calendar for 2018-2019, Budget Directives, and a NCS Summer update. Mrs. Iller asked to have the field updates for the playing fields that NCS has taken over. Discussion about the Bidding Requirement Policy vote requires more meeting time and the Superintendent suggested having the Director of Finance and Director of Facilities meet with the Policy subcommittee for further review.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Student Council member, Miss Natalie Gammons, said the start of the school year was a positive one and she thought the first day went well. It was very busy and like she never left. Miss Gammons and Miss Richards (President of the Class) addressed the students at an assembly on the first day, welcoming everyone. She talked about how FAM (Freshman Advisory Mentors) were hard at work with Seniors welcoming Freshmen at the Freshman orientation and how they and student council will meet with Freshman about four to five times throughout the year. Mrs. Iller reiterated, attending Freshmen orientation personally with her daughter, she was happy to see FAM at work.

Mrs. Proch had teachers share with her how excited they were to start the year and that they especially liked the Professional Development In service days.

Jenn Iller wanted to thank Lisa Wiesentaner, owner of Nantucket Cycle & Fitness, for offering pre-season training for the athletes.

Sub-Committees:

Mrs. Butler reminded the Committee she will need a substitute for her position on the Teaching Assistant Negotiations committee as she will be on the Strategic Plan committee. She believe Mrs. Melissa Murphy will be taking on this role, she will check her notes.

At 7:20 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Tim Lepore, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Logan O’Connor, School Committee Clerk