

**Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2017**

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Tim Lepore, Melissa Murphy, Pauline Proch, and Natalie Gammons
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4 The meeting was called to order by Chair, Melissa Murphy, at 6:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction room at NHS.
5 Tim Lepore made a motion, Pauline Proch seconded and it was approved unanimously. Mrs. Murphy asked to move
6 forward on the Agenda and begin with Fiscal Year 19 Budget Directives, pushing the Nantucket Community School
7 presentation later into the Agenda, upon arrival of Director of Community School, Caitlin Waddington.
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9 **Comments from the Public**

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

13 **Fiscal Year Budget Directives – Melissa Murphy, on behalf of the Superintendent**

14 The Budget Directives are offered annually every year to provide clear budget parameters for the administration as
15 they develop their budgets. These are presented to coordinate with the District Goals and the Budget Calendar. Mrs.
16 Murphy was questioned if the directives were not too different from the previous year and she responded that the
17 directives are similar, but that they did not include last year’s focus on separating the NES budget into two budgets.
18 She asked the Committee to review, offer suggestions if they wish, and prepare for a vote at the next meeting to
19 adopt the Directives.
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21 **Draft 2018-2019 School Calendar**

22 This is the first look at the 2018-2019 School Calendar and there are quite often numerous drafts. Mrs. Murphy
23 asked the Committee to review and submit any questions or recommendations to her or the Superintendent. Dr.
24 Lepore asked about Christmas break and Easter. The Committee reviewed the calendar and had a few more queries.
25 Mrs. O’Connor shared that the calendar is very similar to the Martha’s Vineyard School Calendar.
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27 **Readers Workshop Institute – Columbia Teacher’s College, CPS Assistant Principal Donna Johnson and CPS
28 ELA Reading Teacher, Becky Hickman**

29 Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Hickman thanked the School Committee for sending them to the Workshop this summer. It
30 was a weeklong institute in New York City designed to support teachers in the implementation of Reader’s
31 Workshop in the classroom. This workshop demonstrates how to grow readers and increase achievement. It was
32 hands-on (attendees become the students) opportunities for learning best practices for small group and large group
33 instruction and provided research, ideas, goals, and practices for teachers to promote the love of reading while
34 students are still gaining skill and strategies that support mastery of the standards. There was a lot of focus on
35 “Aliteracy” and how the norm now depicts a low percentage of students (20%) read for pleasure and that students
36 lack stamina and/or the ability to find a book that aligns with their level of reading. How do we push them to read
37 more, read at a higher level for challenge, stop ‘fake’ reading and get back to books? Mrs. Johnson shared how she
38 had successfully brought this type of learning to her previous district. She now is excited to do the same at NPS.
39 Mrs. Hickman was enthusiastic about how to reshape her teaching style to support the love of reading. She shared
40 about a teacher taking a back seat, letting the students take the lead which creates community building. She talked
41 about her personal library, her time on tasks, her “Book Tasting” to help students move quickly through many books
42 to discover those that interest them and make a personal book list of reading materials. The School Committee had a
43 number of questions: Does she use newspapers, how do you increase stamina, do we have any way of knowing what
44 children are reading at home, how do you pull devices out of their hands? Both Mrs. Hickman and Mrs. Johnson
45 affirmed that increasing stamina can be done just like improving any muscle, it’s use and time duration in
46 increments, and that changing the culture of reading will promote more enjoyment and better test scores. Mrs.
47 Murphy complimented Mrs. Hickman for being open to changing her teaching strategies.
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49 **Community School Summer Program Update – Director of Community School, Caitlin Waddington**

50 Caitlin Waddington presented a PowerPoint showing a number of charts depicting five year trends and participation
51 (FY12-FY17) in all the areas of the NCS. She gave a breakdown in numbers and percentages of the Early

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Childhood Education, Child & Teen Enrichment, Drivers Education, ACKventure Summer Programs, Community Recreation, Adult Education, Adult Literacy, and Community Pool Youth and Adult. She reviewed participation numbers for every program. She described how the programs ebb and flow, stressing the Community School's commitment to maximize resources, avoid duplication, collaborate and focus on gaps in service, offering as many programs as possible to serve the Nantucket Community. She briefly touched on the annual Town appropriations and the many donations NCS has received over the years. She talked about the day care needs of the Community that had been revealed through a survey/interest query and how NCS jumped in to keep Wee Whalers afloat. She described the Head Start program, which is independent of the Community School. NCS is hoping to offer a new program, Cobblestone Kids, for four year olds. Ms. Waddington thanked her team for their dedication. Mrs. Proch offered her appreciation for the depth of the presentation, and asked specifically about Gymnastics and was curious about space issues to run this program. Ms. Waddington said finding space is always a challenge, particularly for gymnastics. She noted that there are usually three considerations for any program initiative: who wants a specific program; do we have the numbers and the instructors to run the program; and do we have the space to provide the program. She said finding space sometimes thwarts the ability to offer a program and generate revenue. Mrs. Proch also asked about the Town appropriation being roughly 30% of the budget and what does the rest of the budget look like, not including grants. Mrs. Murphy thanked the Director for a thorough presentation and thanked the staff, noting how impactful NCS is in the community. She hoped more information specific to the finances will be provided, but acknowledged that may be more appropriate during the budget presentations. Mrs. Murphy stated that she is particularly interested in better understanding how the benefit or impact of programs is determined compared to the revenues and expenditures for a program. She stated the reality of being in a negative revenue situation will require a more focused view on how to realign resources with community needs. Ms. Waddington responded that she had more budget information, but had determined to bring that to the School Committee during the budget season.

Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Approve Gift Donation of School Supplies to NPS from Saint Paul's Church. Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Tim Lepore, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Transfer of \$500.00 from CPS Student Activities Account to Mermaids & Mentors Student Activity Account for school-wide mentoring activities. Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Gift Donation from ReMain Nantucket to NCS, \$20,000 for Adult Education ESL and \$10,000 for GED Preparation and Adult Basic Education classes. Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Tim Lepore, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Accept Complimentary Winter Membership to NPS from the Westmoor Club. Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Tim Lepore, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the September 5, 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—Chair Melissa Murphy on behalf of W. Michael Cozort
Strategic Plan**

Zona Butler, part of the Strategic Plan Committee, reported the Subcommittee met with a person to facilitate the creation of the new Strategic Plan. The possible facilitator is putting forth a proposal.

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104 **On the Horizon** – Following the proposed Horizon, we will see the official Enrollment in the first October meeting,
105 approve the Fiscal Year 19 Budget Calendar and Directives, possibly have Transportation numbers for busing.
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107 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**
108 Sub-Committees:
109 Dr. Lepore stated the Negotiations Sub Committee met with the NTA for the Teaching Assistant negotiations,
110 moving forward as planned.
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112 7:24 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Tim Lepore and seconded by Pauline Proch, and
113 unanimously approved.
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115 Respectfully submitted,
116 Logan O’Connor, School Committee Clerk