

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2018

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Tim Lepore, Pauline Proch & 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. Mrs. Iller welcomed all the students and parents in the audience (here for Quiz Bowl) Tim Lepore made the
6 motion to approve the agenda, and Pauline Proch seconded, the motion was approved.
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8 **Comments from the Public**

9 None
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11 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

12 **Quiz Bowl – NHS Teachers / Advisors, Peter Panchy & Kate Hickson & NHS Students**

13 On Super Sunday in November, the students of Quiz Bowl club participated at WGBH studios in Boston among over
14 100 participants including public, private and parochial schools. Led by Advisors Peter Panchy and Kate Hickson,
15 the Quiz Bowl club students annually attend a School Committee meeting to participate in a friendly competition
16 with the Committee members and Administrators. They simulate the same kind of game environment as when
17 competing on the State level. Tonight, the competition was broken down into two rounds, first the Seniors: Luci
18 Bresette, Liam Connole, Ramon Partida, Deana-Rae Weatherly, Isaiah Williams versus the School Committee and
19 next, the underclassmen: James Holmes, Jackie McGrath, Phaedra Plank, Vanna Walker joined by alum Evan
20 Borzerelli (in the audience) versus the administrators. Mr. Panchy hosted the matches asking very difficult questions
21 which covered the gamut of topics with the results ending in very close scores for both groups.
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23 **Bullying Update – NPS Principals**

24 Each Principal supplied the Committee with a memo summarizing the bullying incidents (or lack of) in their schools.
25 Superintendent Cozort offered that while there have been a small handful of bullying complaints, further
26 investigation on each case has resulted in findings that are not considered bullying (repeated behavior and situations)
27 but rather circumstances of conflict(s) that, with resolution protocols, have been remedied. The Superintendent
28 restated some of the programs and procedures that have been in place several years to support our anti-bullying
29 education including assemblies, professional development, Responsive Classroom, etc. He feels these promote and
30 support healthy social environments and we are fortunate they are working. Jennifer Iller asked the Principals if they
31 could speak to their proactive education. High School Principal John Buckey discussed Cyber Bullying and the
32 benefit of the cell phone “off and away every day” policy in school helping diminish opportunities. Elementary
33 Principal Kim Kubisch shared how the school continues to use Responsive Classroom and that everyday discussions
34 during school with support of guidance, social work, and good modeling, teaches and affirms to children about
35 expectations and what is acceptable. An audience member and parent of NHS and CPS students, Mrs. Liza Ottani,
36 asked if a bullying incident happens outside the school jurisdiction does the school get involved. Superintendent
37 Cozort outlined if there is a nexus between the outside walls of the school and the school itself, an incident carrying
38 over into school then opens the opportunity and responsibility for principals to get involved.
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40 **Safety & Security Update**

41 Presented as a ‘one pager’, the Superintendent briefly reviewed a summary of the schools’ monthly checklist and
42 items that have been addressed. He reviewed that new this year are once a month walkthroughs in each school,
43 attended by Principals and their Building Supervisors, looking to address any needs no matter how big or small.
44 Sometimes there are minor repairs to be made or a door not closing properly, it could be anything that helps to keep
45 our school in top shape. Mr. Cozort, while not wishing to discuss all the safety and security updates (these are to
46 keep our students safe) reviewed some major improvements. We now have consistent visitor checks and procedures,
47 we have intruder drills inside the schools, we have much better signage throughout the campus, the vestibules in NIS
48 and CPS are complete and Capital funds will allow us to continue that project in the high school. He also noted that
49 we have added another School Resource Officer. We try to maintain a balance of being welcoming yet taking
50 precautions to maintain the safest environment possible.
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Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Accept Donation from First Congregational Church to NCS for Education & Outreach, \$700.00. Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Accept Donation from Poet’s Corner Press LLC to NCS, \$87.00. Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Accept Donation from Josh & Bernadette Brown (Will Brown Donor Advised Fund) to NCS Learn to Swim Program, \$1,00.00. Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Accept Donation from Nantucket Wine & Food to NHS Culinary Art Program, \$10,000.00. Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve NHS Diversity & Spanish Club Field Trip to New York City on May 17-20, 2018. Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the December 19, 2017, Meeting Minutes. Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the minutes, Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the December 12, 2017 Workshop Session Minutes. Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the minutes, Zona Butler 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

There is one less student in January compared to December. Provided are the Entries and Withdrawals and of interest now is Nantucket High School having the highest enrollment of all four schools. The School Committee was curious about the break out of Special Needs only students and PG year (post graduate) students, the Superintendent reminded them that we can offer schooling options for SPED students up to age 22.

On the Horizon

A reminder that next meeting will be first the Budget Public Hearing at 6:00 followed by the Regular meeting to start at 6:30. FinCom will be on January 18th at 4:30. School Improvement Plans need to be voted upon after revisions in November. Also presented will be 2nd quarter Budget.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Sub-Committees:

The Policy committee have a meeting upcoming next week.

Strategic Plan:

Superintendent Cozort said weather had pushed off the initial meeting of the Facilitators and is being rescheduled. He now has a list of 6-10 people for Focus areas. He mentioned that he selected School Committee members for different focus groups on what he felt might be a match for greatest interest and to please let him know if they are comfortable with the selections. The Facilitator is Maryann Hedda.

Negotiations:

Teaching Assistant negotiations are continuing.

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104 Vice Chair Jenn Iller asked about the search for a new Directory of Community School. Superintendent Cozort said
105 the Search Committee (2 members of the Community School, Pauline Proch for School Committee, 2 Administrators
106 and 2 Community Partners) has met with four candidates and will have a second round interview with two of them.
107 He is hopeful for more outside interest and is not quite sure of the start date, feeling this needs to be flexible in order
108 to select the best applicant.

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110 Student Council member Natalie Gammons said the group is working on a Food Pantry fundraiser. Also, they are in
111 communication with Janet Schulte, Executive Director of Visitor Services in creating a job for a student in the Visitor
112 Services.

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114 Jenn Iller remarked how much she enjoyed the Variety Show at the holidays, supported and coordinated by Senora
115 Jill Surprenant and the Spanish Club. Pauline Proch reminded everyone about the Wintertime Arts Show in NHS
116 which will be on Thursday. Also, tonight, Tuesday is Math Night at NIS. Finally, on the shoulder of the recent news
117 regarding Temporary Protection Status, new Director of English Learner Kelly Cooney talked about bringing lawyers
118 to the island to provide a FAQ opportunity for constituents who are interested/effected.

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120 At 7:03pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Tim Lepore, and
121 unanimously approved.

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123 Respectfully submitted,
124 Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk