

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2019

1
2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Tim Lepore, Pauline Proch, Steve Sortevik & Henry Dupont

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4 The meeting was called to order by Chair, Tim Lepore at 6:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction room at NHS. Dr.
5 Lepore welcomed all the Quiz Bowl students in attendance. Steve Sortevik made the motion to approve the agenda,
6 and Jennifer Iller 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 Teacher Kate Hickson & NHS Students**

13 Advisor for Quiz Bowl, Kate Hickson, returned with the NHS Students (Devon Holdgate, Skylar Kardell, Aiden
14 McCormack, Jackie McGrath, Phaedra Plank, Oline Munkholm-Roth and Alec Vollans) for what is now their annual
15 School Committee meeting to participate in a friendly competition with the Committee members. They simulate the
16 same kind of game environment as when competing on the State level. Tonight, the competition was one round
17 played - students versus the School Committee, with Mr. Dupont, Student Council member, joining the School
18 Committee’s team. Mrs. Hickson read questions to both sides asking from a variety of subjects with the results
19 ending in favor of the students.

20
21 **Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

22 Action/Discussion/Vote of Superintendent Finalist(s)

23 Chair Dr. Lepore announced that just a short time earlier in that evening, Dr. David Buck, Superintendent Search
24 Finalist, withdrew from the pool of applicants. This possibly changed what the School Committee had prepared for
25 bringing forward as a candidate’s name because it lowered the number of applicants from four to three. Dr. Lepore
26 stated he was supportive of Glenn Robbins. He was enthusiastic about the energy this candidate brought to the
27 forefront and asked the Committee for their input in general. Steve Sortevik was prepared to support Dr. Buck as a
28 candidate. He agreed he liked the energy of Mr. Robbins, but was concerned about Mr. Robbins presiding as a
29 Superintendent of a smaller district of K-8, and therefore lacking high school experience as a Superintendent. Zona
30 Butler was in favor of Dr. Susan Kustka and was eager to support a candidate with experience in Massachusetts.
31 Both Jennifer Iller and Pauline Proch were in favor of bringing forth Dr. Buck and, therefore, were not comfortable
32 in supporting an alternative at this time. Their recommendation was to re-open the search. Dr. Lepore thought the
33 overall discussion might lead to some “conversions” of opinion, but after much conversation about the candidates,
34 possible site visits, candidates learning curves and/or experiences, a motion was made by Pauline Proch to reopen the
35 search (possible in the Fall), with a second by Steve Sortevik and the motion was carried in approval. Steve Sortevik
36 publically thanked everyone involved, expressing appreciation for their interest, their comments and support, and
37 stated, “We need to get this right.”

38
39 Vote to Adopt & Authorize School Committee Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Education Appropriation, Article Eight

40 Steve Sortevik specified he will not vote for the FY20 Budget Appropriation, as offered for a vote. He did not feel
41 the answers given at the Town Presentation were reasonable and he still was bothered about the percentages of award
42 to the School versus the Town, feeling the distribution is unfair. He asked to postpone the vote for more time to urge
43 the Finance Department to fully fund our requests and added he strongly urges the Town to fill the missing dollars
44 for items that were removed from the final budget numbers. Pauline Proch indicated that, in her 10 years of
45 budgeting experience and working with the Town, the broken fences mended by the Superintendent (from years ago
46 when the budget process was contentious) now work smoothly. She felt if the vote were to be postponed, the risk of
47 sending the wrong message to Town is real and it would be her hope to maintain the positive and balanced
48 relationship between Town and School. Dr. Lepore agreed. He shared that he has been through 30 of these
49 appropriations and reminded the Committee we were awarded large financial support for the building of Nantucket
50 Intermediate School. He furthered we continue to have a very healthy working relationship with the Town and

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53 Finance Department and felt the vote was necessary to have tonight. Jenn Iller made a motion, seconded by Pauline
54 Proch, and the motion was approved with Steve Sortevik abstaining. Dr. Lepore read the motion into the minutes:
55

56 *“On Motion, duly made and seconded, IT WAS VOTED: to recommend \$30,636,642 for the FY2020 Nantucket*
57 *Education Public Appropriation (Article Eight of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting of Taxpayers). The public school*
58 *total budget appropriation is recommended at \$30,136,642 - \$25,055,062 for payroll and \$5,081,580 for operating*
59 *expenses; and an additional \$500,000 Community School appropriation for payroll. And to AUTHORIZE use of*
60 *School Department accounts as listed.”*
61

62 Vote to Accept Donation from Samantha Horton to NHS Wood Shop program, \$500.00. Steve Sortevik made a
63 motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
64

65 Vote to Accept Donation to CPS from Friends of Nantucket Public Schools for 7th grade Camp Cody Trip, \$1,000.00.
66 Jennifer Iller made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
67

68 Vote to Accept Donation to CPS from Cape Cod Five Foundation to Ryan Millen for Educational Mini Grant,
69 \$480.00. Jennifer Iller made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
70

71 Vote to Accept Donation to CPS from Peter & Stacey McEachern for the 8th Grade Washington, D. C. trip,
72 \$5,000.00. Jennifer Iller made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
73

74 Vote to Accept Donation to CPS from Friends of Nantucket Public Schools for 8th grade Washington, D. C. trip
75 \$1,000.00. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Iller, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
76

77 Vote to Approve Field Trip to for 4th grade Boston Museum of Science, Boston, MA May 2 & 3, 2019. Jennifer Iller
78 made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
79

80 Vote to Approve the January 22, 2019, Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes,
81 Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.
82

83 Vote to Approve the February 4-7, 2019 Public Interview(s) Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to
84 approve the minutes, Steve Sortevik seconded, and the motion was approved.
85

86 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

87 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Jennifer Iller seconded, the motion was
88 approved.
89

90 **Superintendent’s Report–W. Michael Cozort**

91 **Enrollment**

92 For the month of January we have an increase by ten students, five in NES, three in NIS, two in NHS. The
93 enrollment numbers are listed with Withdrawals and Entries and the Superintendent thought the number was larger
94 than he expected in comparison to years’ past.
95

96 **On the Horizon**

97 A reminder was given for any School Committee members that have not yet turned in their SC Self Evaluation, to
98 please return as soon as possible. There were multiple changes for the Horizon: it was agreed to keep the March 5
99 meeting as originally scheduled, having Culinary students come to the meeting. For March 19 the NHS Post Season
100 Swimmers will attend as well as possibly Smart Power with Kim Horyn. The School Committee would like to have
101 the Superintendent Evaluation presented on March 30th with a possible Workshop earlier in the month, March 12.
102

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104 Pauline Proch asked through the Chair about having Donna Johnson along with a handful of Primary grade teachers
105 present ELA information at an upcoming meeting.
106

107 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

108 Pauline Proch shared an informational flyer and offered books free for the taking, from a writer promoted by the
109 Lighthouse School. Debby Irving author of “Waking Up White” is presenting in March at a number of forums and
110 Mrs. Proch feels that the focus of this subject is important. It aligns with the District Goals in the need to support
111 diversity and it is her hope people will attend the presentations and forums.
112

113 Student Council member Henry Dupont talked about a dance for St. Patrick’s Day being on the horizon for the
114 council, but it conflicts with the Musical so they are considering alternative dates. They are also working on some
115 additional sport competitions in the Spring, hopefully outside, much like the Volleyball and Badminton tournaments.
116 He added Seniors are hearing from college choices and those who applied to the Golf Club are waiting to hear about
117 the final selection decisions.
118

119 Mr. Sortevik inquired, on the heels of the college and Golf Club news, about student scholarships. He stated he was
120 approached by someone asking about how scholarships are reviewed. Mr. Cozort offered the details of scholarships,
121 that the School Committee specifically votes on two in particular, other scholarships that go through a committee
122 comprised of School, Town, and Community persons, and scholarships that go through the Community Foundation
123 for Nantucket. Mr. Cozort continued that Guidance is helpful in the scholarship information and selections and our
124 district is so lucky to be granted an enormous number between \$500,000 & \$600,000 for our students. Mr. Dupont
125 added that guidance is helpful in getting information to students, that there was recently a meeting for Seniors and it
126 is also available on the school website.
127

128 At 7:07pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Jennifer Iller, and
129 unanimously approved.
130

131 Respectfully submitted,
132 Logan O’Connor, School Committee Clerk