

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2019

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Chairman Timothy Lepore, Pauline Proch, Steve Sortevik & Henry
3 Dupont
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5 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Chair Tim Lepore, in the Nantucket High School LGI. Steve
6 Sortevik made a motion to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Jennifer Iller, and was approved unanimously.
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8 **Comments from the Public**

9 Kim Alberston, PreK School Teacher stood to reiterate the comments made by Tracy Mailloux, CPS Teacher, at the
10 previous School Committee meeting on March 5. Mrs. Albertson felt a lot of time and effort has been put forth by
11 parents, teachers, staff and community members – they have attended sessions and meetings of candidates, they have
12 provided feedback and she wants to know if the School Committee listens to the comments, and did they read
13 thoroughly the volume of feedback on each candidate. She expressed concern that this search is not progressing and
14 stated, "... we are trying to have confidence in the School Committee, but are struggling to see the outcome." Dr.
15 Lepore thanked Mrs. Albertson for her concerns and assured her and the audience that the School Committee has
16 been listening – they have been meeting, reviewing, discussing and considering a lot of information regarding the
17 Superintendent Search. He reviewed how the number one candidate, David Buck, gave short notice that he was not
18 staying in the running and this news threw a wrench into the School Committee's initial course of action. Dr. Lepore
19 stated that a plan is in motion and he would share more later in the meeting.
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21 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

22 **NHS Culinary Arts ProStart Competitors – Jenn Psaradelis, Assistant Principal of NHS, Tom Proch,**
23 **Culinary Arts Teacher, and Students**

24 Ms. Psaradelis excitedly shared that she has previously taste-tested the entry foods the Culinary group had
25 determined for their competition. She said the food was a testament to the hard work, and that the group won 2nd
26 place at the ProStart State competition. She welcomed Tom Proch and the Culinary ProStart members, Michael
27 Bartley, Malkia Blake, Sydney Higgins and Vainius Valentukevicius . The Culinary group graciously delivered hot
28 Crêpes Suzette to the School Committee while they talked a bit about the competition. Mrs. Proch, travelled along as
29 chaperone, and had photos to share depicting some highlights. She described the group having to plan their menu,
30 travel to the location, bring much of their wares with them, shop for ingredients, and roll out a three-course meal
31 under tremendous pressure of judges' scrutiny at ever step. The venue was Gillette stadium, with thirteen schools
32 competing for top honors. The charge was to make two of everything, one dinner was for presentation and one was
33 for tasting. The judges "hovered" over students, critiquing their every move, including knife skills, area cleanliness
34 and teamwork skills. Superintendent Cozort asked the students certain questions such as how much pressure did you
35 feel, did you have a budget, did you coordinate who did what, and each student answered. Mrs. Proch described
36 them as a Super Team, beautifully working together at such a top level of performance. The School Committee
37 congratulated them on such a great success and wished them well in their next year endeavors.
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39 **NHS Post Season Swim Team – Coaches James Pignato & Natalie Thompson and Student Athletes**

40 Coach Pignato thanked the Committee for having them and that it was an outstanding season for sure! He said the
41 last seasons have been tremendous, but this year marked the highest number of post season swimmers in the program
42 history, 18 in total. He introduced the boys' and girls' team: Grant Beebe, Matt Ghiachetti, Cameron Gottlieb, Kevin
43 Johnson, Cooper Norris, Jarret O'Connor, Tyler Roethke, James Taaffe & Alexa Aloisi, Emma Chambers, Maci
44 Crowell, Emma Davis, Sophie Girardi, Jackie Jordan, Sarah Hanlon & Samantha Weisentaner. He remarked this
45 kind of season cannot be accomplished without the coaching staff, teamwork, dedication and the overall
46 determination to continue to improve. He also talked about the feeder program of Dolphins and how this type of
47 success does not happen overnight – it takes years of focus. He reviewed the girls and boys team records, both being
48 10-0 in the Bay Colony Conference and highlighted their overall standing in Conference (both winners) Sectionals
49 (Boys 1st, Girls 4th) and States (Boys 2nd, Girls 6th). Steve Sortevik mentioned the recognition at the Coach level and
50 Mr. Pignato did talk briefly of having won a number of established Coach awards as well as his Assistant
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**Nantucket School Committee
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Coach, Ms. Thompson, winner of a similar award, the previous year. The Superintendent praised this team as they continue to have the highest overall GPA average of not only the Winter Season, but all sports at Nantucket High School and they repeat this feat each and every year. This dedication, he furthered, takes balance and mental toughness going from classroom to pool. The School Committee congratulated all on such an incredible season and Dr. Lepore offered he is impressed with our small school churning out great accomplishments.

Lasell College Program Update

Director of ELL, Kelly Ann Cooney and Bilingual Support member, Joseline Ramirez, introduced three students, sophomore, Shanell Whyte and two seniors, Deja Lewis and Faith Hensely and introduced a grant that recently became available to recruit students into teaching. Martha's Vineyard also has applied and been awarded the grant. Ms. Cooney and Miss Ramirez took the group on a field trip to visit LaSalle College where they gained hands-on experience to see what they were working towards achieving and how investing time into their future could lead to jobs in teaching. The three students each gave the School Committee an impressive overview of what they liked about this college opportunity and what was compelling for them individually. They agreed the program has so far provided them an amazing foundation for growth and that is has helped them become better learners, therefore, better teachers in the future. Miss Ramirez commented on how great the students have been to work with and by taking the accredited course online, not only offers them some college credit, but if accepted at LaSalle, offers them tuition at a cost of only \$5,000. The Committee was very impressed with each of the students and especially their public speaking skills. Mrs. Butler told them to take advantage of finding out what they are interested in and that it is okay during your early college years to change your mind as you discover what programs of studies are most interesting. Superintendent Cozort questioned the Seniors if this program would have been helpful earlier in their high school career, to which they, including the sophomore agreed, yes. He took the opportunity to talk about the Nantucket Education Trust's new initiative to help sophomores start thinking early about post-secondary options. This new initiative would support college visits during the 10th grade to gain the true experiences then, that are too late to have in your senior year. He is excited about this roll out and the impact it may have in the next few years.

Special Needs Advisory Council (SNAC) – Chair Laura Steele

Laura Steele was very enthusiastic about how much this group has grown and that they continue to look to increase parent involvement. She thanked Director of Special Services for being a key component to the success and growth of the committee. SNAC handles issues related to Special Needs. It is a group (now required by the Department of Education) that looks to make connections, find programs, offer speakers, offer family resources, and support the basic rights of families dealing with, and handling, special needs issues. She also praised Suzanne Fronzuto (retired teacher) and how she has also been instrumental in helping the committee grow. Ms. Steele talked about a newly formed group called Nantucketers Empowering Xceptional Transitions (NEXT) and how that will be another avenue of resources for students with severe disabilities who have turned 22 years of age and “age out” of the system.

Student Support Services Update – Special Services Director, Michele Brady

Director Michele Brady distributed her two-page chart broken out into services and roles of the SSS that support our students. It is an annual report that shows the breakdown by school and Full Time Equivalents, each section with a listing of responsibilities. Our Student Support Services are comprised of regular on staff and contracted staff: Guidance Counselors, School Psychologists, Social Workers, Nurses, School Resources Officers, Teaching Behavior Specialists, Behavior Analysts, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Speech & Language Therapists. Because we are an inclusive district and all support services happen “under one roof” rather than at different locations in a county, we offer so many different services to help our students succeed. She talked about the increase to the Social Worker FTE for next year and how we try to use contractual services in a limited capacity, choosing to rather have the people on our staff. Mrs. Brady also offered a power point that further broke down the separate departments and more of their specific involvement and daily tasks. She noted the new nurse report that all nurses put out every month showing the total number of visits per school and peak times of visits. Mrs. Iller asked about the middle school guidance and if the small department can reach to all the students. She would like to see an increase

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2019

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104 there to add more support for students, especially as our population continues to grow. Ms. Bailey, Assistant
105 Principal at CPS shared that guidance is on demand and they do a tremendous job - She feels they are highly visible
106 in the school. Mrs. Butler asked about the high school guidance and specifically, the percentage of students that
107 guidance has helped with college applications. Mrs. Brady responded she would find out that number and report
108 back. She summed up her report: Student Support Services addresses the needs of the whole child/every student to
109 help them reach their highest potential.

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112 **Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

113 Vote to Approve Donation to NHS Wood Shop Program from Starrish Plumbing Heating, Inc. \$1,500.00 Pauline
114 Proch made a motion, seconded by Jenn Iller, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

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116 Vote to Approve Donation to CPS from Class of 2009 for 8th Grade Washington D.C. trip, \$3,000.00. Pauline Proch
117 made a motion, seconded by Jenn Iller, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

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119 Vote to Approve Donation to CPS from Egan Maritime Institute for Maritime Studies, \$20,653.00. Pauline Proch
120 recused herself, Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Jenn Iller, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

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122 Vote to Approve Donation to NCS from Nantucket Golf Club Foundation for Youth Sports Grant, Fall 2018,
123 \$5,000.00 Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Jenn Iller, with none opposed, the motion was approved

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125 Vote to Approve Donation to NIS from Friends of Nantucket Public Schools for Grade 4 Field trip to Omni Theatre
126 at Museum of Science Boston, \$1,500.00 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none
127 opposed, the motion was approved

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129 Vote to Approve Creation of New Administrative Position of “Deputy Superintendent”. Jennifer Iller made a
130 motion, Steve Sortevik seconded, with none opposed, the motion was carried and approved.

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132 Vote to Approve the March 5 2019, Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Jennifer
133 Iller seconded, and the motion was approved.

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135 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices
136 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Zona Butler seconded, the motion was approved.

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139 **School Committee Chair Report**
140 **Superintendent Search Update**

141 Chair Tim Lepore announced the current Superintendent, W. Michael Cozort, has agreed to postpone his retirement
142 and keep his position for one more year, agreeing to a one-year contract. This will happen in conjunction with
143 another person taking on the role of newly formed position, Deputy Superintendent. This person will be mentored
144 and supported by Mr. Cozort with the idea to set up a smooth transition for the 2021 academic year (and years to
145 follow). Mr. Cozort contributed to Dr. Lepore’s update by stating this plan is on one condition – a solution that we
146 have a “plan” and something set for the future. By making the recommendation for a Deputy Superintendent, the
147 intent is to hire someone that the Search Committee had already put forth as one of the final four candidates. This
148 person will spend a year learning to navigate areas where they lack experience while at the same time, bringing their
149 knowledge to our district - We will learn from them, just as they will learn from us. Mr. Cozort and the School
150 Committee expressed their feelings of this being a positive choice and will support the district for the future.

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
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School Committee Self Evaluation

Chair Tim Lepore reviewed the collated Self Evaluation. He went over the categories and gave the overall outcomes of each statement within: Governance, Operations, Member Relations, Committee/Superintendent Relations, Strategic Planning, Fiscal Management, Community Relations & Conduct of Meetings. The Committee agreed with many statements, but there were some areas where they expressed some different opinions of how things were functioning. Strategic Planning was the one area that most of the SC recognized as needing improvement. Mrs. Proch thought there were some categories that could use some better focus and expressed that she thought feedback from the community would be helpful. Superintendent Cozort suggested a survey. Mrs. Butler suggested that a workshop to review the feedback would be beneficial. There was further discussion about how to go about this and it was decided that the Policy Sub Committee would put together some questions to follow up the feedback.

On the Horizon

We are on target with our Horizon - Not sure about Smart Power, we will have Enrollment, School Choice Participation, and the Evaluation of the Superintendent. This will require a meeting (TBD) for the Sub Policy members to collate the evaluation for presentation at the April 2 meeting.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Sub-Committees:

Behavioral Health Group – Mrs. Proch asked Mr. Cozort to provide an update. He reported that the group met last week and had in-depth discussion about the uptick in mental health issues within the community. There was also discussion about children who are caught up in foster care system and how often this results in those children being sent off island, because Nantucket is low in foster sponsor families to match the needs.

Student Council Representative, Henry Dupont, shared the Council is working on a new date for a dance as the last effort did not work out. There is a lot of college info coming in for Seniors. He lauded the Musical and agreed the annual Badminton tournament was as fun as ever. He also mentioned he just learned the MCAS were recently distributed to the teachers in an electronic format (new this year, as previously it was a paper test).

At 7:49pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Steve Sortevik and seconded by Jennifer Iller, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk