

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2019

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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.
5 Steve Sortevik made the motion to approve the agenda, and Jennifer Iller seconded, the motion was approved.
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7 **Comments from the Public**

8 Tracy Mailloux identified herself as a staff member, and parent. She stated that she enjoyed and learned a great deal
9 by serving as a member of the Superintendent Search Committee, but was surprised and disheartened to learn that the
10 School Committee could not come to consensus on one of the four qualified candidates that were presented to them.
11 She shared that she believed it was impossible to find the “perfect candidate and asked that the School Committee not
12 give up on the process. She believes that there is no more important priority for the SC at this time. She concluded
13 by asking what the plan is going forward for the school district.
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15 SC Chair, Dr. Timothy Lepore, responded that this search is the School Committee’s top priority. He stated that they
16 were caught off guard by the withdrawal, at the last minute, of the SC’s top choice. Since that time, they have met to
17 examine all options, including the three remaining candidates and hope, in the near future, to present their solution.
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19 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

20 **Friends of Nantucket Public Schools – Co-Presidents Gina Heneke and Liz Sullivan**

21 Ms. Heneke and Ms. Sullivan presented a report outlining the Friends’ budget, their scholarships and event updates
22 for the 2018-2019 school year. They reviewed the numbers from this year’s fundraisers (House Tour, Spelling Bee,
23 Bike-a-thon) and talked about how they have used those funds to support a number of field trips for NPS students,
24 including the 5th grade Freedom Trail, the 7th Grade Trip to Camp Cody and the upcoming 8th Grade Washington DC
25 trip. They are presently exploring a number of ideas for their annual summer fundraiser. Superintendent Cozort
26 reminded the School Committee and the audience that FONPS has raised over \$2 million over the past 30 years and
27 that the education of our children has been greatly enhanced by their support and generosity.
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29 **Dropout Rate Report (2017-2018) – Dr. John Buckey**

30 Dr. Buckey began by saying that is not his favorite annual report to provide, given the nature of the topic. He noted
31 that our dropout figures this year are down slightly from last year, from 2.8 to 2.1. He provided a chart with each of
32 the eleven students who dropped out, showing their age, grade, when they enrolled, and their reason for dropping out.
33 He noted there was a significant drop in the number of EL students who dropped out during the 2017-2018 school
34 year and credited Evelyn McEachern and Eillen Taveras for their efforts to that end. However, there was an increase
35 in the number of students with special needs who left school. He shared that it is disheartening when a student who
36 has accumulated a lot of credits makes the decision to dropout, as they should be able to see the light at the end of the
37 tunnel. Dr. Lepore noted that he knows firsthand how hard the guidance department works to find ways to keep our
38 students in school. Dr. Buckey agreed and shared that the numbers, unfortunately, do not indicate the number of
39 children who stayed in school because of their efforts. Pauline Proch said that it would be interesting to see if any of
40 the students withdrawing had participated in Mr. Viselli’s *Student Success* program.
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42 **Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

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44 Vote to Accept Donation from First American Title Insurance Company, \$200.00, to the 8th Grade Washington D.C.
45 trip. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
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47 Vote to Approve the February 19, 2019, Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes,
48 Steve Sortevik seconded, and the motion was approved.
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Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

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

Superintendent’s Report–W. Michael Cozort

Enrollment

For the month of February, we have an decrease of seven students, one in NES, three in NIS, and two in NHS. We were not able to include the Withdrawals and Entries, but will add those for the next SC packet.

On the Horizon

For March 19 the NHS Post Season Swimmers, as well as the Culinary Arts team will attend and be recognized for their achievements. Kelly Cooney will share information on the Lassell College connection and Michele Brady will report give an update on Student Support Services and the Special Needs Advisory Council.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Superintendent Cozort reported on the recent Safety and Security Committee meeting. The group consists of school administrators, local enforcement officers (including Nantucket Fire Department, Police Department, State Police), and Facilities Department. They reviewed recent building “walkabouts” which had noted areas of potential concerns.

Pauline Proch reminded the Committee of this year’s One Book, One Island program. She again offered books free for the taking, from author Debby Irving author of “Waking Up White” and reminded that there will be professional development for staff on the afternoon of March 11th and a presentation that evening for the community.

Student Council member Henry Dupont reported they are still trying to schedule a dance for St. Patrick’s Day. He noted that Badminton Mania is underway and the students are involved and passionate in their play. He shared that the Golf Club Scholars program has announced its ten finalists and that list will soon be publicized by both Veritas and the I&M.

At 6:32pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Jennifer Iller, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cozort
School Committee Clerk Pro Tempore