

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2019

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Jennifer Iller, Chairman Timothy Lepore, Pauline Proch, & Steve Sortevik

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4 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Chair Tim Lepore, in the Nantucket High School LGI. Dr. Lepore
5 asked for a motion to move the Announcement of Deputy Superintendent from Presentations category to Votes to be
6 Taken, based upon a recommendation from the Superintendent. Pauline Proch made a motion to amend and approve
7 the agenda, it was seconded by Jennifer Iller, and was approved unanimously.

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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 **Results of the Nantucket Public School District Audit – Director of Finance, Martin Anguelov**

14 Mr. Anguelov presented to the School Committee, the End of the Year Financial Report for June 30, 2018. The audit
15 was completed by our Certified Public Accountants, Roselli, Clark & Associates. Mr. Anguelov remarked this was a
16 ‘light’ audit with zero findings for our second year in a row. The School Committee was very pleased with the
17 results.

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19 **Evaluation of the Superintendent – Dr. Timothy Lepore, Chair**

20 Chair, Tim Lepore thanked Mrs. Proch and Mrs. Butler for putting together the final draft of the Superintendent’s
21 Evaluation. There was some question as to delivering the evaluation during a meeting when the Superintendent was
22 not present, but the two members assured the rest of the Committee that Superintendent Cozort knew he would be
23 away at a school conference and in keeping with required deadlines, wished the evaluation review to take place. As
24 per last year’s request, the Superintendent’s Goals were included into the actual evaluation document prior to being
25 delivered to the School Committee to help in their individual assessments. The collated document was presented by
26 the Chair. Dr. Lepore reviewed each section/category and gave a narrative of the summative report, including ratings
27 and evaluator comments. After reviewing the entire evaluation the Chair reminded the public that the Superintendent
28 is the only Town/School Administrator who is evaluated in public. The Committee thanked the Superintendent for
29 his work and look forward to the smooth transition for next year with the new Deputy Superintendent in place,
30 starting in July 2019.

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

33 Vote to Approve Recommendation for hire of the Deputy Superintendent

34 Based upon a formal recommendation from Superintendent W. Michael Cozort, the Chair supported the appointment
35 of Dr. Elizabeth Hallett to the position of Deputy Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2019. Prior to the
36 motion, Mr. Sortevik requested (through the Chair) to address the public about the process of selecting Dr. Hallett.
37 Mr. Sortevik mentioned (after discussing the public explanation ‘topic’ with the Superintendent) his need to share
38 with the community that indeed the School Committee was working behind the scenes and there was a process to
39 their decisions. Mr. Sortevik shared how the School Committee was ‘caught by surprise’ when the top candidate
40 backed out, and this led to a handful of Executive Session meetings to negotiate with Mr. Cozort, to stay for
41 additional time, and next steps for the district’s future. Mr. Sortevik stated the School Committee asked the sitting
42 Superintendent to interview the final three candidates and the input from staff and community members, and then
43 provide his insights to the Committee after he completed his own assessments. The final decision was to offer a
44 three-year contract to Dr. Elizabeth Hallett as Deputy Superintendent, with Superintendent Cozort staying on as
45 Interim Superintendent for one year. Pending a positive evaluation, the recommendation of the Superintendent and
46 the approval of the School Committee, the plan would be for Dr. Hallett to become Superintendent in July of 2020.
47 Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Jenn Iller, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

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49 Vote to Approve Donation to NHS from Richard Leone to the Wood Shop Program, \$1,000.00. Jennifer Iller made a
50 motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

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Vote to Approve NHS Overnight Field Trip for Diversity Club/Spanish Club to New York, New York, May 9-12, 2019. Jennifer Iller made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote of School Choice Participation for Academic Year 2019-2020. Steve Sortevik asked for clarification on School Choice and Dr. Lepore explained. Jennifer Iller made a motion to choose not to participate in the School Choice Program, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the March 19, 2019, Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Steve Sortevik seconded, and the motion was approved.

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

Superintendent Report
Enrollment

On behalf of the Superintendent, Mrs. O'Connor presented the enrollment numbers for March showing a slight increase of four students. The total number of students in the district on April 1 is 1,677 compared to 1,673 the previous month. She explained the Entries and Withdrawals numbers and commented that the small movement was students coming from and/or relocating back to foreign countries.

Draft Calendar 2020-2021, Draft #1

On behalf of the Superintendent, Mrs. O'Connor offered a first rough draft of the Academic Calendar for 2020-2021. Mrs. Proch commented on how late the last day of school seems to be, and Mrs. O'Connor attributed this to the late start with Labor Day falling on September 7, 2020. Zona Butler thought it might be good to include the dates for Seniors Last Day and Graduation, just like we include the first day of school. There was also some discussion about the PD days and one always being on Election Day.

On the Horizon

There was a reminder about the next meeting April 23 being a Workshop. Mrs. Iller talked about her feeling that the Workshop, led by James Hardy, Field Director from MASC, will be a very helpful tool in helping the Committee with meeting protocols, self-evaluations, and more. Mrs. Proch thought developing a survey (which evolved from discussion among the Committee of their own Self-Evaluation) was the priority for the School Committee. She added getting feedback from the community was supposed to help to develop the survey was not something she felt sure would come out of a Workshop with MASC - was this the right timing to accomplish this goal? Mrs. Iller and a few of the other committee members remained steadfast that the Workshop will be helpful and having Mr. Hardy is important. Mr. Sortevik realized aloud, time is hard to carve out when trying to add more meetings, but hoped having Workshops could be in addition to regular meetings, not in lieu of them. He also wished to have some additional Workshop meetings specifically for Technology and he would like these to include parents and/or community members.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Sub-Committees:

Policy – Mrs. Iller and Mrs. Butler met with the Superintendent and determined having the School Mission statement as one in the same for the School Committee. The Mission Statement, “*We Learn, Grow, and Care through Rigor, Relevance and Relationships*” will from now forward, be on every agenda cover page, and School Committee document. Also, the cover page to the Agenda will now include School Committee names, email contact and positions.

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104 Jenn Iller also revisited her month earlier request on behalf of Senator Cyr and Representative Fernandez to attend
105 the May 7th meeting. The two have asked to join a School Committee meeting. To accommodate this the Committee
106 discussed if it might be possible to move the School Presentation ILT Meeting to the second May meeting. Kim
107 Kubisch, NES Principal. thought that might be a good idea, especially in facilitating solid preparation for the teachers
108 and ELA Coordinator who will be presenter(s) of the ILT information.
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110 At 6:44pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Steve Sortevik and seconded by Jennifer Iller, and
111 unanimously approved.
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113 Respectfully submitted,
114 Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk