

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2019

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Vice Chair Timothy Lepore, Pauline Proch, & Steve Sortevik
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4 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Vice Chair Tim Lepore, in the Nantucket High School LGI. Dr.
5 Lepore asked for a motion to change the order of the agenda and have the Guidance presentation first and then
6 welcome our Guests Senator Julian Cyr and Representative Dylan Fernandes. Steve Sortevik made a motion to
7 amend and approve the agenda, it was seconded by Zona Butler 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 **Guidance Presentation – High School Guidance Counselors, Courtney Foster, Anita Small and Julia Chumack**

14 Mrs. Foster offered a packet of information filled with charts and data to support their Guidance presentation. She
15 expressed that this year was pivotal for the department with the hiring of the Testing Coordinator. She thanked the
16 School Committee for advocating for this additional position, which has allowed the counselors to develop
17 programming, services and ultimately, much more contact with students (which was a directive of the School
18 Committee). The department added new software - a tracking system to record student visits and all three counselors
19 agreed it is interesting to see what students need more or less of “what” and that the collected data is very relevant.
20 Of the 527 students in NHS, there have been, so far, over 1800 counseling sessions and no student that has not had at
21 least a 1-to-1 meeting. These meetings have multiplied for a handful of students, some having numerous sessions. Of
22 those meetings, some of those sessions have fueled the need for wraparound services to better support these students
23 in a myriad of ways, whether academic, emotional, social, etc... Mrs. Small and Mrs. Chumack continued on how
24 the department also revamped the Guidance curriculum this year to present specific tiers of information to each grade
25 level. The idea is to narrow their scope of what is most necessary information for each year as the student progresses
26 through their high school career. In addition, they introduced, implemented and ran NPS’ first ever dual-enrollment
27 program with Cape Cod Community College, focused on making college more accessible to students who might not
28 have information, knowledge or resources of college options. Nantucket Education Trust has also funded an initiative
29 called “Take Your Dream Across the Sound” creating an opportunity to take sophomores on college trip visits to see
30 an active campus, especially enticing for those students who might not otherwise have this opportunity. Zona Butler
31 asked about some specifics for the Dual Enrollment and how often the Counselors can get into the classrooms to get
32 to know the students in that specific environment and she shared she wants to hire for the department even more
33 staff. Mr. Sortevik commented that he was pleased with the progress and that Guidance in NHS had done more than
34 the School Committee had even hoped. Mrs. Proch wanted to know how to best help the students who do not have
35 knowledge or are not familiar with certain areas such as scholarships and she is sensitive to the students who might
36 be missing opportunities because they do not have the parental support or there might be a language barrier. She also
37 gave a shout out to the Innovative Pathways initiative. Vice Chair, Tim Lepore reinforced his support for the Testing
38 Coordinator position, because it clearly has opened up guidance connections and will allow their department to
39 connect with the student body even more than before.
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41 **Guest Speakers Senator Julian Cyr and Representative Dylan Fernandes**

42 Senator Cyr and Representative Fernandes thanked the School Committee for letting them come address the
43 Committee. They opened their presentation that clearly Nantucket as an island has challenges and, specifically,
44 within the education system. They thought an update from the State perspective would be beneficial. Senator Cyr
45 described his sitting on the Education Committee as his priority. Proudly a product from the Nauset school district,
46 he feels it has been too long since the 1993 Reform Act and that there has been a serious lack of focus on the
47 education funding system. He specified how Chapter 70 grants should work to help districts (most notably in
48 Nantucket especially) with our exploding ELL population and our unique island ‘status’...and now that the Chapter
49 70 formula has changed, it is his mission to have funds adequately shared in order to best support the Cape and
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Islands. He talked at length about how much funding would be needed and where we could find the money to support a more equitable distribution to our district so everyone gets fair opportunities to public education. He cited what the estimate per student costs are in districts versus the actuals for an example and how there is a paradigm misalignment of monies to make proper funding a reality. The current formula underestimates costs of health insurance and Special Education costs and he supports a bill to make this help enable healthier funding. Representative Fernandes seconded much of what the Senator had to say and commented that the bills (they both support) being put forward he expects to move, sooner rather than later with an aggressive timeline. He cited a dollar figure of two billion dollars as the shortfall and how he expects to cover the deficit. “Revenue is the key” and they discussed a handful of ways to find the money: millionaires paying their ‘fair share’, Capital Gains tax, Short term rental tax, state tax moving back to 6% (from 5%), transportation tolling and possibly a gas tax. The two gentlemen wrapped up their presentation and asked the Committee for any challenges they wanted to share. Dr. Lepore stated he is very concerned with Student Health, mentioning how funding is needed to help with addiction solutions and preventative care. He made a reference to our suicide cluster of years ago and more recently how we cannot supply beds for children who need help. Mrs. Proch talked about our social emotional health and depression and support or lack thereof, in the area of mental health. She also queried about Universal PreK. Affordable housing was another topic the School Committee mentioned and the problems Nantucket is facing with this issue. Senator Cyr responded how it is interesting to him that our enrollment keeps increasing which in his mind is positive, and he can understand our housing problems. He also mentioned how we are unique in this way too, because many other districts are losing students and their families. Both the Senator and Representative reiterated they are here to service our constituents and we should let them know how they can help and how they can use our information to make the arguments for a Bill at the state level. The School Committee thanked them for coming and sharing their viewpoints.

Third Quarter Budget Presentation – Director of Finance, Martin Anguelov

Mr. Anguelov delivered the third quarter budget, sharing expenditures are \$742,141 higher (72% of this funding is committed, equivalent to last year) than last year, primarily due to contractual obligations and some increase in the repair and maintenance costs in this Fiscal Year. Payroll specifically has increased by \$911,082 or 65% which is the same as the prior year. It is a very solid performance and additional repair and maintenance costs are due to necessary updates and repair to systems as well as slightly higher fuel costs.

The Nantucket Community School shows a strong performance with an increase of \$35,353 compared to last year. The program revenues grew by \$50,353, but with the Town contribution lower this year, it shows the \$15,000 difference. The revenue increase is driven by solid performance in Extended Day, Adult Literacy and Driver’s Ed programming. While the pool has a slight decline as did the Summer Camp revenues, we are still in a good place, because this is not programming issues, but rather ratio changes, with the need to increase staff to accommodate larger programs. It is noted that NCS remains committed to sustaining programming in a fiscally responsible way and while still providing offerings that maintain a solid balance of the two.

The School Lunch Program (SLUNCH) is showing a slight deficit of \$51,507 for FY19 to \$68,189 for FY18 operating the same number of days. This year, we see a slight increase of \$11,667 as total meals served this year has grown by 5,778. Free & Reduced represent 38.2% of the total meals served in comparison to 38.6% last year, and this has remained constant for three years. Improved product mix and higher participation rates will keep NPS on track to remain within the budgeted \$65,000 subsidy. Mr. Anguelov shared with the School Committee he has a meeting with the Chartwells Regional Director, Erin Long, to discuss costs of meals and staffing issues, conversation topics that keep percolating and needs to be considered. Meal costs have not increased in a very long time and staffing is very tightly reined so when there are holes to be filled due to staff absenteeism, Mrs. Peterson, Food Services Director, jumps in to be all things to all people, a very difficult undertaking to maintain. He will keep the School Committee apprised of the conversation with Chartwells.

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Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Approve Donation to NHS Latin Club from Ricciardi Marble & Granite, Inc, \$200.00. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation to NHS Latin Club from Michael Dobbert, \$100.00. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation to NHS Latin Club from Mark Cutone Architecture, \$100.00. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation to NHS Latin Club from Lisa Botticelli, \$200.00. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation to NHS Latin Club from OCB, LLC, \$100.00. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation to NHS School to Career program from Cape & Islands Workforce Development Board, \$2,500.00. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation to NHS STEM program from Cape Cod Club of MIT, \$300.00. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from FONPS for the NIS Museum of Science Trip, \$510.00. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donations from FONPS for the NIS Museum of Science Trip, \$45.00 & \$65.00. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the April 2, 2019, Meeting Minutes. Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the minutes, Pauline Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the April 10, 2019, Organizational Meeting Minutes. Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the minutes, Pauline Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the April 23, 2019, Workshop Meeting Minutes. Zona Butler asked to review the minutes, citing her edits were not made and she requested to table the vote to the next meeting.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

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

Superintendent Report

Enrollment

On behalf of the Superintendent, Vice Chair Tim Lepore presented the enrollment numbers for March showing a slight increase of seven students. The total number of students in the district on May 1 is 1684 compared to 1677 the previous month. Steve Sortevik commented aloud about the rumors of the Nantucket Lighthouse middle school ending their program in which case those students (12) will be coming to the public school. This is cause for concern, because it could increase CPS classroom size to 28+ students. Zona Butler asked the reason for the enrollment entries and withdrawals, Mrs. O'Connor, Clerk, offered it is typical relocations in and out.

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Principal Search

Mr. Sortevik detailed there have been a handful of candidates of which two were interviewed by the Search Committee and one applicant returned to Nantucket for a second time to meet with Staff and School Council members of CPS. He furthered there would be a Search Committee meeting on Wednesday May 8 to review the next steps.

On the Horizon

Tim Lepore asked a few questions of the Administrative staff about some presentations and updates on the Horizon, such as the ILT presentation and conference presentations for the Math and Science. Steve Sortevik asked about including a Forum on Technology use that he had discussed this previously with the Chair Jennifer Iller and with Superintendent Cozort. He wants to add this forum in addition to regular meetings. He focused specifically on CPS and reported parents and others seems to concur NIS and NHS have a handle on their Technology use, but CPS does not. Mrs. Proch thought it best to wait until the Chair and the Superintendent were present and asked for clarification on what our expectations are in terms of the outcome of such a forum. She thought aloud, was this district-wide or just Middle School? She also felt it prudent to wait for leadership (CPS Principal hire) to be set prior to having these specific conversations. Mrs. Butler added this forum has multiple areas to think about and steps to ensure a productive forum, takes planning - she suggested waiting on the Chair and Superintendent to consider dates and a rollout for such a Forum. Mr. Sortevik made it clear he wishes this to happen prior to the end of the school year.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Sub-Committees:

Mr. Sortevik was elated at the Parent University held at NIS and thanked Principal Evemarie McNeil and Director of C&A STEM, Michael Horton for this opportunity for parents and students. Mr. Sortevik was very surprised at the numbers of attendees on a school night and was excited to see the enthusiasm. He also wanted to share how impressed he is with the 3rd grade Enrichment clusters and that he is teaching a photography course and is very pleased at the level of artistic ability of the young students as well as their focus.

At 7:51 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Steve Sortevik, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk