

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2019

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

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4 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Chair Jennifer Iller, in the Nantucket High School LGI. Steve
5 Sortevik made a motion to amend and approve the agenda, it was seconded by Tim Lepore and was approved
6 unanimously.

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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 **National Council of Teacher of Mathematics (NCTM) – Superintendent W. Michael Cozort, Assistant**
13 **Principal of CPS, Jaime Bailey, CPS Teachers Kathy Benson, Brittney Beal, & Alice Crowley (not present)**

14 Superintendent Cozort introduced the group and commented this was the best conference he had been to in 20 years.
15 Not only were there workshops to choose from daily, but it was hard to determine which one to attend, and even,
16 harder to get to all that were interesting because there were so many offerings. It was a full day of “math talk”. The
17 teachers each offered what was poignant to them: speakers they met, addressing social justice and making math
18 culturally relevant, integrating concepts into instruction, having high expectations, and students solving problems and
19 challenges they face finding the answers, because it is “okay to struggle”. Applying multiple strategies and
20 approaches by “mathematizing your school” emphasizes the importance of Math. Superintendent Cozort talked
21 about the need for Math Coaches, those that can train and coach the adults (teachers) and not just Math Instructors for
22 the children. He stressed the need to celebrate Math as we do Literacy and Social Sciences, have math initiatives,
23 math competitions, and how gaming is becoming so important in the learning world because it ‘hits the kids’ and
24 engages them in ways that are relevant to them. The group was thankful for the opportunity to attend.

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26 **National Science Teachers Associations (NSTA) – Director of C&A, Michael Horton, Teacher Jennifer Lewis**
27 **from NES, Tracy Mailloux, Annie Webber, Amanda Bardsley (not present) from CPS**

28 Michael Horton was excited to share about the Science conference and commented Science teachers need to advocate
29 for Science, because science is in the world around us and it is applicable in every realm of learning. He thanked the
30 School Committee for the chance to attend the conference. Themes present at the conference were Phenomena, 3D
31 Assessments and Cross-Cutting Concepts – with the overall takeaway is to incorporate what you learn and apply that
32 to your lessons. The group went to many different workshops and they collectively agreed: questions about
33 phenomena do not have to be phenomenal. It is important to build conceptual understanding by engaging students
34 through investigation. Hands-on material needs to be part of the learning of science and teachers need to provide
35 structured opportunities through talking, reading and writing to critique ideas and offer avenues to promote student
36 thinking. One of the workshops highlighted that Science is three dimensional, The group affirmed that Nantucket
37 appears to be ahead of the curve by their understanding of the Science Standards. Mr. Horton discussed science unit
38 mapping and curriculum development and how Massachusetts is embarking on a full science curriculum review. He
39 thought we might be able to pilot units for science. Mrs. Proch added that she was pleased with how the district is
40 bringing in science learning as relevant to the world we live in today.

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42 **Special Education Update - Director of Special Education, Michele Brady**

43 Mrs. Brady offered a PowerPoint presentation to outline the differences of 504 and IEP plans and also to illustrate the
44 special education percentages for each school in a graph format. She described the focus of such plans as the way to
45 level the playing field for all students. She reviewed the 504 plan that can range from a small accommodation
46 specializing instruction in a related service area to a life-long plan that requires parental consent. These plans cover a
47 range of disabilities and fall under Federal regulations. IEP plans are designed specifically to promote effective
48 progress for students and terminate at graduation or age twenty-two. The IEP plans recognize thirteen disabilities
49 and are supported by both State and Federal regulations. Currently, we have 283 students on an IEP which represents
50 16.9% of the student population, include eight out of district placements and twelve students that attend one of the

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53 private schools and receive services from the public school. 108 students are on 504 plans which represents 6.5% of
54 the students. Mrs. Brady shared a graph comparing 2018 and 2019 for both plans and commented that the Nantucket
55 district is below the state numbers. She next discussed the PreK numbers showing a large increase of 17 students,
56 and this has challenged the district to provide the peer matches per class. Mrs. Brady showed the breakdown of
57 disability categories in each school illustrating the Elementary School with 68 students (which includes PreK), the
58 Intermediate Schools with 45, Cyrus Pierce with 63 and the High School with 77 students. She commented on our
59 having on staff, a bilingual Speech & Language Therapist as a very helpful addition over the last few years. Mrs.
60 Brady then reviewed the recent Coordinated Program Review Civil Rights Data Collection which just completed this
61 Spring 2019. The purpose of this review is so the state can ensure we are not over-identifying and we are following
62 the mandates under Special Education laws. She furthered we might be cited with a slight ding because of our PreK
63 numbers and peer matches, offsetting our required ratios, but this will not affect our Fall enrollment – we will
64 successfully handle the numbers per each class with the correct ratios.
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66 Mrs. Brady updated the School Committee on this year’s Special Olympics, held at Monomoy school district and that
67 we sent a handful of students and peers to attend. It was successful as has been in years past. Mrs. Proch back
68 tracked and asked about the PreK ratios and how that is handled. Mrs. Brady responded that they look at the
69 intensities of the disabilities in each classroom and under the requirements for inclusion, therefore there can never be
70 over 50% per classroom. Mrs. Proch also asked about high school students and when they age out, are there outside
71 sources to pick up from where the district can no longer support to assist students with the next phase of their life.
72 Mrs. Brady said they are always looking for transitional learning opportunities with outside agencies. This is
73 challenging, but they continue to seek partnerships.
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75 Facilities Update – Director of Facilities, Diane O’Neil

76 Mrs. O’Neil gave the School Committee a spreadsheet, with a long list of facility undertakings, broken down by
77 school and which show the project, the cost and the dates. She highlighted a handful of projects in each: NES: the
78 vestibule was completed which shuts down the main access to the academic areas; the hallways were painted and the
79 PA system was repaired. NIS: there was mitigation of the roof and window leaks (still a work in progress) and a few
80 tweaks to some of the punch list items such as a replacement card reader on a side door, and repairs to the fire alarm.
81 CPS: repairs to boiler and the area of the building impacted by the truck accident, and the purchase of over 60 new
82 desks. NHS: currently, the vestibule is being installed; the recent library renovation; cafeteria table and chairs
83 replacements, and more. All four schools had HVAC repair and replacement needs, but for now only NES & NIS
84 have been completed. The bid for CPS & NHS came in a million dollars over the budget, so that will be put out for a
85 re-bid. The Central Office which includes Grounds and Athletics has the Backus Lane project underway with the
86 land acquisition between the Town and the Land Bank complete, giving the school the deed and the green light – the
87 land is cleared, the next phase for leveling, grading and fencing is out to bid as is the structural bid is due May 31.
88 The Community Pool had replaced compressors, Central Office renovation is under design, and the RFP for the
89 Master Plan is underway. Mrs. O’Neil met with the Facilities Strategic Plan group a number of times and has
90 enjoyed the discussion of ideas about the Master Plan. In addition to the spreadsheet, Mrs. O’Neil offered a narrative
91 with past information for energy savings initiatives and operations and she also showed a chart of usage per school
92 and the energy dollars we have save from the Windmill. She commented that we are not only saving electricity, but
93 reducing our carbon footprint. Mrs. Butler questioned the carpet cost for the CPS/NHS library reno at \$82,000
94 feeling that was excessive. Mrs. O’Neil explained that was a bid and cost for both painting and carpeting. Mrs.
95 Butler also questioned the Backus Lane land line item and that there was not dollar amount assigned in the column of
96 cost but rather a note for ‘Land/Bank Town.’ Mrs. O’Neil reminded Mrs. Butler of the very generous land swap that
97 the Town exchanged properties and essentially “gave” to the school and therefore it is a zero cost. Mrs. Proch asked
98 about an old mold issue in NES and if that has been taken care of – Mrs. O’Neil responded there is no mold, there
99 have been several studies to assure it is clear. Superintendent Cozort responded that there had indeed been one area
100 that was impacted and needing attention, but it has been successfully cleaned all tests have come back to indicate
101 there is no further issue. Mrs. Proch asked Mrs. O’Neil to send the Facilities Strategic Plan to her, she would like to
102 review.

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Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Approve Donation to NHS Latin Club from Cape Cod 5, Inc, \$250.00. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation to CPS 8th Grade Washington D.C. trip from Patrick & Jodi Levesque, \$100.00. Zona Butler made a motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the May 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Zona Butler 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. These minutes had been previously tabled because Mrs. Butler had some questions. The minutes were modified and presented again for a vote. Mrs. Butler was still unsure that her edits were accounted for. School Committee Clerk, Mrs. Logan O'Connor was unsure as to why because the edits had been made and sent to Mrs. Butler for her examination. Mrs. Butler had not reviewed the re-edited minutes and therefore, they are tabled for a second time and will be presented at the June 4, 2019 meeting.

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

Hiring Update - Superintendent Cozort reviewed the current status of hiring at NPS. Everyone is working hard to fill positions. We have hired an Assistant Principal at NIS (Donna Johnson), and a Principal at CPS. NES is still seeking the replacement for Nina Slade who is leaving after 30 years of service and he recognized and thanked her for her years with the district. NES is searching for Kindergarten and 1st grade, NIS is working on filling 4th grade. The previous AP, Elise Goeglein, will move to the Math Coach position, and Jeannie Critchley, 4th grade teacher will move to fill the Math Intervention position. In CPS, a new music teacher has been hired, a social worker candidate is in interviews, and the PE position has been filled. At NHS, a counselor has interviewed and a Science teacher, both are very good candidates. For the district, a BCBA has been recently hired and the Speech & Language position as well. This Wednesday, both the new Deputy Superintendent, Elizabeth Hallett, and newly hired CPS Principal, Julie Lamoly, will both be on campus to meet with many administrators and start to get a feel for our schools.

Mrs. Iller asked the Superintendent to please speak about the rumors of the 6th grade incoming class numbers and specifically, the private school students coming to the public school. She said there are many parents who are concerned with class size. Superintendent Cozort shared that we now know there are ten students coming and assured everyone that we are working to avoid huge class sizes. He was certain the new Principal will be addressing schedules and other factors to accommodate the numbers.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Sub-Committees:

Nantucket Education Trust – Pauline Proch talked about the new initiative for the sophomore students to visit UMASS Amherst in May. Eighty-eight students will be on the trip and she was enthusiastic about the numbers and the plan for the day.

Scholarship – Superintendent Cozort briefly talked about the Maglathlin and Congdon scholarships that are currently under review.

On the Horizon

At the next meeting Athletics will present an update, the ILT program will present and enrollment for June numbers will be included.

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Mrs. Iller wished to confirm the date for the School Committee retreat which has been decided for June 25. Mr. Sortevik asked to revisit the decision to solidify a date for the Technology Forum. He thought perhaps if the newly hired Principal for CPS was going to return before the end of school, this might be a good time to schedule such a gathering. The School Committee all had different ideas about the best way to proceed with the Forum, who to invite, and when to schedule. With June having so many dates already on the calendar between graduation events and regular School Committee meetings along with the retreat, it seems difficult to find the appropriate time before the close of the academic year. Each member also had different views of the purpose of a Forum for Technology and questioned whether to include staff, or parents or both. Superintendent Cozort thought perhaps identifying questions to ask the staff prior to such a Forum would be a good idea and he cautioned the School Committee that the current conversation had moved too in-depth at this time for not being an item on the agenda. Mrs. Iller stated this discussion will be best done at the Retreat. Mr. Sortevik was disappointed with no final answer and uncomfortable not having a definitive date to hold the Forum, adding he is indeed looking for staff input, specifically from those that have had training regarding Technology.

The meeting was called to close, but Mr. Sortevik wanted to add his “shout-outs”: Danceworks - thank you to NCS and Kelly Corbett, it was terrific. He also wanted to send a message on behalf of the Community School about the Welcome Baby offerings and how NCS has an outreach program for expectant and new mothers. He also was very impressed by the NIS Unified Arts night last Thursday evening and specifically enjoyed seeing great artwork and watching students and staff enjoying Badminton.

At 8:23 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Zona Butler and seconded by Steve Sortevik, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Logan O’Connor, School Committee Clerk