

**Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2019**

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler, Chair Jennifer Iller, Vice Chair Timothy Lepore, Pauline Proch, & Steve Sortevisk
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4 The meeting was called to order at 5:58 PM, by Chair Jennifer Iller, in the Nantucket High School LGI. Steve
5 Sortevisk made a motion with an amendment (switching the order of a few agenda items) to approve the agenda, it
6 was seconded by Pauline Proch and was approved unanimously.
7

8 **Comments from the Public**
9 None
10

11 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

12 **ELL PAC Update – Director of EL Kelly ann Cooney & ESP Joseline Ramirez, and three ELL PAC Board
13 Members**

14 Ms. Cooney introduced the newly-elected Board (formed in April 2019) and the group presented in both English and
15 Spanish. New board members (and parents of current students) Doris Avelar and Rosa Tejada, Co-Presidents,
16 Eduardo Pineda, Vice President (not present) and Rubidia Escobar, Secretary, joined Ms. Cooney and Ms. Ramirez.
17 Ms. Cooney explained how the PAC group began, supported by the “LOOK ACT” (Act Relative to Language
18 Opportunity for our Kids) signed into law at the State level by Governor Baker in November 2017. The LOOK ACT
19 requires schools to establish a group like the ELL PAC if the district has more than 100 students EL students or if the
20 school district is underperforming operating a program in support of EL students. Ms. Cooney and Ms. Ramirez
21 originally started and ran the meetings, helping to create agendas and establish informal, open door gatherings to
22 provide the opportunities to brainstorm ideas. As the group grew, they met once a month to get to know one another,
23 they organized social events, attended the Superintendent Search Forums and eventually held an election in April to
24 establish the Board. There are currently no by-laws, but the group has strengthened and will create the by-laws in the
25 next year. The group goal is to provide advice to the school district to support the ELL programs, they will meet
26 with Administrators and participate in the School Improvement Plans in relation to the ELL student population and
27 hopefully guide instructional programming geared specifically for this support. Mr. Sortevisk was appreciative of all
28 of their participation and Dr. Lepore was curious if there were any other languages represented in this group other
29 than Spanish. There is one person who speaks both Spanish and Portuguese which is helpful. Mrs. Proch added the
30 work the group is doing is so important and she thanked the PAC especially for their help in the Superintendent
31 Search. Superintendent Cozort asked them directly what advice they can offer the School Committee. Ms. Ramirez
32 translated for the Co-Presidents who said trust was the most significant priority, bringing parents into the group,
33 helping them to be more comfortable so they can feel empowered to help make positive change.
34

35 **Nantucket Golf Club Foundation Vocational Scholarship – Dr. John Buckley, NHS Principal and Mr. Thomas
36 Bresette, Nantucket Golf Club**

37 Dr. Buckley was proud to recognize student winners of the NGC Vocational Scholarship and introduced Mr. Bresette
38 to share the scholarship news. This scholarship was established in 2018 and has expanded now in its second year.
39 Mr. Bresette talked about the application process, the panel of administrators, teachers, and counselors who worked
40 together to determine the awards, and he announced how this year saw 10 applicants with three winners: Malkia
41 Blake, Michael Bartley & Gideon Holdgate. Mr. Bresette provided background on each of the winning students:
42 who they are; how they got to where they are; the hard work and focus they have had for many years prior to their
43 senior year and he read a tribute about each one. He was filled with pride. Malkia heads to the Culinary Institute of
44 American, Micheal to Johnson & Whales and Gideon to Mass College of Art & Design concentrating on Furniture
45 Design/Wooden Art. Everyone was thrilled for the students and filled with ‘Whaler Pride’.
46

47 **Technology Update – Director of Technology, Jennifer Erichsen**

48 Mrs. Erichsen offered her Annual Update to the School Committee and began with the accomplishments: a phone
49 controller upgrade, Aspen Family Connection, Email from Outlook to Google Gmail, a managed Printer service, a
50 seven year hardware budget, Central Registration, Website work, expansion of the virtual environment and
51 Technology guides available to staff.

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53 Next she broke down the accomplishments in each school which collectively included computer upgrades,
54 smartboard upgrades, Flat panel SMART boards/TVs, iPad carts and the purchase of more iPads in the lower grades,
55 document cameras, the Kindergarten registration, whiteboard and interactive projectors, migration of Chromebooks
56 between NHS, CPS & NIS, better Chromebook billing, MCAS for grade 10 on Chromebooks including the Bio test,
57 eSports, support in the IMAC lab, and the newly established “Nantechies”, a program started for current high school
58 students to get involved and learn about technology hardware and software via an internship or summer work. Mrs.
59 Erichsen also had upgrades and a new server for the Community School, as well as the testing center and classroom
60 to help NCS expanded offerings. She finished reviewing the list of user friendly activities and then went over the list
61 of infrastructure upgrades: server upgrades including domain controllers, virtual environment upgrades, server
62 backup capacity, wireless upgrades all over the campus and miscellaneous switch replacements. Mrs. Erichsen gave
63 an overview of the hardware in the district, broken down by desktop, laptop, iPad, Chromebooks with a total number
64 of devices in FY19 of 2293. She wrapped up her presentation with the Professional Development for her staff in
65 Aspen SIF, Google GSuite, MCAS Test Coordination and Administration and ACCESS test administration, citing it
66 is all very worthwhile for her staff and helps them to stay ahead of the curve. She notably mentioned this year was
67 the first year for high school to offer digital MCAS and how seamlessly the process went, with our district handling
68 the new roll out very well in comparison to many other districts that struggled with implementation. Looking ahead
69 to the next academic year she will look to have some new staff members, welcome the continuation of the Nantechies
70 program, add fiber switches at NIS, establish a ticketing system for Technology Support for staff, and analyze the
71 inventory in the district through a program called “Spiceworks”.

72
73 Mr. Sortevik asked about the longevity of Chromebooks and what happens to those that are troublesome? Mrs.
74 Erichsen described the duration of use for a Chromebook seems to have an average of 4 to 5 years, and they then
75 cycle out to be reused at the lower levels or gleaned for parts. Having the parts available in the technology inventory
76 allows for readily accessible repair when needed. Mr. Sortevik took that moment to address the audience and
77 community to clearly put to rest the continuing rumors regarding doing away with Chromebooks. He wished to make
78 it very clear that Chromebooks were not disappearing from the district and while the School Committee was going to
79 have conversation about Technology Use, it would be done at their retreat and the topic was not going to be about
80 abandoning the devices. Overall, the Committee was very positive about the Technology report

81
82 **Athletics Update – Director of Athletics, Christopher Maury**

83 Mr. Maury began his presentation with very impressive student athlete numbers, 389 high school students
84 participating in at least one sport and 152 middle school students. From 2014 to the present, the numbers have
85 increased by 182 students, and he is pleased by the increase, citing he wishes to get as many students as possible
86 involved in the athletic programs. He praised our student athletes having to balance the travel into their schedule,
87 something other districts do not typically have to consider. Academically, our students performed outstandingly,
88 with 80 Principal List recipients and 193 Honor Roll awards. For the 373 Academic Awards, the highest GPA
89 overall (historically earned by the girls teams), but the boys are catching up and collectively, the school athletic GPA
90 was 3.72, a very impressive grade average and shows great effort from our students.

91
92 Mr. Maury reviewed the highlights of the year and the records and accomplishments of the teams with 8 of 20 teams
93 winning league Championships and 16 teams qualifying for state tournament play. He talked about some of the
94 outstanding seasons from Boys Lacrosse, Boys Soccer and the Swim Team and included some specific achievements
95 from these teams. He also noted the transition for Tennis, as it became a very popular Varsity sport this year and
96 thanked coached Vaughn Machado. Mr. Maury was faced with hiring seven new coaches this year, not an easy thing
97 to do on an island, but filled the coaching positions and praised all the coaches for jobs well done. He also spoke
98 about the Cape & Island League Expansion which has been in the works for over six years and has finally completed
99 this winter now creating a league that includes 14 Cape area schools, adding Barnstable, Dennis Yarmouth,
100 Falmouth, Nauset and Sandwich high schools and Martha’s Vineyard, increase the level of play for competitive
101 sports. The league will be split into the Atlantic and Lighthouse Divisions and the expanded league will also offer
102 schools a stronger voice in MIAA state level, and reduced travel for Nantucket. At the mention of adding Martha’s

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104 Vineyard into our regular season, Mr. Maury explained how this will impact the Island Cup. 2018 had the return of
105 the Island Cup after its cancellation in the preceding season and this year, the game will not be during the
106 Thanksgiving holiday, but rather part of our regular competition season.
107

108 Mr. Maury updated the School Committee on the Middle School Assistant position and that Travis Lombardi has
109 taken on that role, helping to provide better services to CPS and with a focus to increase participation. Mr. Maury
110 said this has alleviated some of the pressure from him to help cover all the programs in the Athletics. One of the
111 areas of focus is to increase the intramural offerings and to develop new programs or help in areas that were once
112 covered by other groups, i.e. the Boys & Girls Club who years prior offered Football, but now only offers flag
113 football to middle school age students. With CPS picking up the 7&8th grade football program, we can better support
114 the feeder program for Freshmen, JV and Varsity rosters and offer better, more evenly matched competition with
115 everyone playing at the right level against schools in the C&I League. Superintendent Cozort jumped in with support
116 of the NBGC running flag football as a more age-appropriate opportunity, citing what we now know about
117 concussions is problematic especially at such a young age. Mr. Sortevik asked about approving the league changes,
118 but the Superintendent stated that was not necessary as that is not the School Committee's role. Mr. Sortevik also
119 appreciated aloud the focus on academics and how this is important! Dr. Lepore agreed, and credited not only the
120 students for their hard work, but how the strength in academics must be acknowledged in the hard work of the
121 coaching staff, sending a clear message of priorities. Mrs. Iller asked about the number of competitions with the
122 change to the C&I League and would that mean more games, but Mr. Maury responded no, the number of games is
123 already set in a calendar year. The School Committee had earlier in the year, asked about drug testing of athletes and
124 establishing a policy. Mr. Maury, after much research throughout the state (Dr. Buckey also reached out to his
125 colleagues of the Massachusetts School Administrators Association) determined this policy was a hot topic and one
126 that could potentially lead to hefty legal battles. Not one district of 377 schools currently enrolled in MIAA member
127 schools, has a mandatory drug testing policy in place, and none of them are eager to "go down that path." Mr. Maury
128 added the drug issue is not in his opinion, a school problem, but rather a community problem and he feels we are
129 monitoring our students as closely as we can. Mrs. Butler agreed that we have a problem on island and she would
130 like to discuss this further at the School Committee retreat. She is very concerned that we should not have to react to
131 a tragedy and would rather find preventative avenues and alternatives in this area of concern.
132

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

134 Vote to Approve Revised Calendar 2019-2020. Superintendent Cozort pointed out the change of a District Early
135 Release Day originally scheduled for December 4, moved to December 11. Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded
136 by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
137

138 Vote to Approve Donation to NCS for Dolphins Swim Program Travel Expenses from Dolphin Swim Team
139 Boosters, Club, \$546.00 With clarification that this is not a school Booster club, but rather affiliated with NCS, Steve
140 Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
141

142 Vote to Approve Donation to NIS for 4th Grade Museum of Science Trip from FONPS, \$170.00 Tim Lepore made a
143 motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
144

145 Vote to Approve Donation to NES from Ahold Delhaize USA for A+ Rewards Stop & Shop, \$1,983.25 Tim Lepore
146 made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
147

148 Vote to Approve Donation to NCS from ReMain, \$12,500.00 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona
149 Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.
150

151 Vote to Approve the School Committee Clerk Chair Jennifer Iller asked Mrs. Logan O'Connor if she would accept
152 the appointment, Mrs. O'Connor accepted, the motion was made by Steve Sortevik, seconded by Pauline Proch and
153 unanimously, the motion was carried.

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155 Vote to Approve June 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the minutes, Pauline Proch
156 seconded, and the motion was approved.

157

158 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

159 Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Zona Butler seconded, the motion was approved.

160

161 **Superintendent Report**

162 **End of Year Activities**

163 Superintendent Cozort gave a brief wrap up for the year. The previous week was busy with Senior functions and
164 Wednesday, June 19 is the last day for students. On Monday, the School Committee recognized the Staff and
165 Retirees at the Ice Cream Social and on Wednesday when school does let out, Michael Horton will be leading the
166 Annual golf outing at Skinners for any staff that wish to participate. Superintendent Cozort announced and welcomed
167 the new Student Council Representative, Master Joel MacVicar who will start in August or September, depending on
168 his sports practices.

169

170 Superintendent Cozort also wanted to quickly glance at the Calendar for 2020-2021, a very early draft. He noted
171 there might be some Collective Bargaining negotiations to be done over some the in-service days versus EWD or
172 other professional development days. Mr. Sortevik agreed that additional professional days might impact the day
173 count and talking about the possibilities is a good idea, especially with Labor Day so late in the calendar for that
174 academic year. The overarching idea is to find the best use of teachers' time.

175

176 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

177 Sub-Committees: None

178

179 **On the Horizon**

180 There was a reminder about the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony at 8:30 for this Wednesday and clap out at NIS for
181 the 5th graders. Zona Butler wanted to review the Parking Lot notes on the Horizon and was curious about Smart
182 Power with Kim Horyn – at this time, SmartPower had not confirmed a date to attend a meeting. There was also
183 discussion about the summer meetings for School Committee and it was agreed to have one meeting July 9th and
184 two meetings in August. The Retreat on June 25 will be at 4:30pm at 56 Centre Street and Superintendent Cozort
185 asked the Committee to suggest topics for discussion if they were feeling strongly about the agenda.

186

187 At 7:37 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Steve Sortevik,
188 and unanimously approved.

189

190 Respectfully submitted,

191 Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk