

**Nantucket School Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 7, 2018**

1  
2 Present Members: Jennifer Iller, Tim Lepore, Pauline Proch, & Steve Sortevik  
3

4 The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Jennifer Iller, at 6:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction room at  
5 NHS. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Pauline Proch, seconded by Steve Sortevik and was approved by  
6 the Committee. The Chair, Tim Lepore, joined in and began the meeting.  
7

8 **Comments from Public**

9 A community member asked about the Food Service Update report slated on the Agenda for August 21. The  
10 Superintendent did reassure that this topic will be presented at the second meeting in August.  
11

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

13 **Advanced Placement Program Results – NHS Principal, John Buckey**

14 Dr. Buckey reported that the results have improved practically every year. He describes the “Hallmark” of this  
15 program is the Open Enrollment policy, which allows any student to take an AP class (not all districts offer this). He  
16 strongly advocates it is great to have students challenge themselves. The only stipulation to Open Enrollment at NHS  
17 is if a student enrolls in the AP class, the student must finish the course by taking the AP exam. Dr. Buckey reviewed  
18 the scoring levels of 1-5, No Recommendation – Extremely Well Qualified, and shared how students who score a 3  
19 or higher can sometimes offset their college course requirements or intro college course credits (and also the possible  
20 expense of college courses).  
21

22 In 2016, 213 exams were given, in 2017 163 exams were given and in 2018 198 exams were given. The ebb and  
23 flow can be attributed not only to Open Enrollment, but every year some courses are offered while others might not  
24 be offered so the general class enrollment numbers vary. Looking over the highlights for this year, there were some  
25 extremely good scores from AP Calculus, AP Bio, and AP Computer Science, all three the highest in program  
26 history. The Humanities consistently do well, this year a small dip, but not unexpected as these teachers were keenly  
27 tuned into the class makeup and nearly predicted their scores prior to taking the exams. Dr. Buckey discussed the  
28 national averages versus NHS averages, all very impressive. Steve Sortevik asked how many AP classes students  
29 typically choose to take, and do they choose more than one course per year. Dr. Buckey explained how some  
30 students may/can take many at one time (up to five). The faculty has discussed capping the opportunities to avoid  
31 “too many”, but that Guidance does a solid job at recommending more or less to balance the needs and the  
32 capabilities of each individual student. Tim Lepore asked how the students who take on a lot of these courses do. Dr.  
33 Buckey stated yes, typically they score very well. Dr. Lepore also wanted to know if Administration *prohibits* too  
34 many in selection or offers a *warning* if a student chooses to take too many. Dr. Buckey retorted, it is a ‘warning’ as  
35 he again stated the guidance department does its job of recommendations. Dr. Lepore also asked about other high  
36 schools not offering AP programs and Dr. Buckey concurred there are indeed other schools that offer other types of  
37 college credit options, or they create their own upper level learning course offerings. Pauline Proch asked to see  
38 some information regarding the diversity of the class make-ups, i.e. are there students with 504’s and IEP’s and Dr.  
39 Buckey stated he would gather that detail. Jennifer Iller asked if the exam would ever be optional, but Dr. Buckey  
40 emphasized the need to complete the course and exam provides necessary details and information for the overall  
41 course review. Mrs. Proch added she feels the pressure can be seen here in Nantucket and everywhere else, and  
42 while she thinks the AP program is a positive one, the system itself for college acceptance is a broken system.  
43

44 **School Committee & Task Force Assignments**

45 Superintendent Cozort offered the slightly revised task force assignments and reminded the Committee this was  
46 shared earlier in the year and it is always good to double check who is committed to which assignment. There was  
47 discussion of the Cape Cod Collaborative and the opportunity to do this remotely. Steve Sortevik will assume this  
48 role from Dr. Lepore. The Ad Hoc committee traditionally has the Chair and Vice Chair, but Steve Sortevik was  
49 added as an alternate in case Dr. Lepore is not able to attend when needed. There was a change to the Transfers &  
50 Invoices, removing Zona Butler (her choice) and adding Jenn Iller with Tim Lepore as an alternate. There was  
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53 discussion regarding the SNAC representative and that this will rotate with School Committee members. The  
54 Superintendent stated he would have the Director of SPED confirm meeting times for SNAC so the School  
55 Committee could schedule accordingly. Steve Sortevik will serve as the Legislative Representative. Mr. Sortevik  
56 added that he has been in contact with Glen Koocher from MASC and Town Counsel and he stated he is eager to  
57 begin conversation(s) about MCAS testing, the Foundation Budget and Circuit Breaker monies.  
58

59 **New Policies: *JFABE Educational Opportunities for Children in Military Families and JFABF Educational***  
60 ***Opportunities for Children in Foster Care***

61 The Superintendent introduced these two new policies submitted to us by MASC. They are being shared for a first  
62 reading with the next step being a vote of acceptance. These policies are fairly straightforward and assure families in  
63 these situations the ability to place and educate their children in the most supportive way, lessening the burden when  
64 the familial situations are not traditional or typical. These policies are directives from the Department of Education.  
65

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

67 Vote to Approve CPS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Washington D.C., April 23-26, 2019 The Principal and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team  
68 are excited to provide this trip. Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Iller, with none opposed, the  
69 motion for the trip was approved  
70

71 Vote to Approve Donation from Nantucket Land Council to Nantucket Public Schools for purchase of Engineering is  
72 Elementary Kits for Grades 1-5, \$3,415.00 Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Iller, with none  
73 opposed, the motion for the donation was approved.  
74

75 Vote to Amend the Policy BEDG – Minutes There was debate about why this policy is coming forward.  
76 Superintendent Cozort explained that MASC has issued this in an attempt to emphasize that minutes are not a  
77 transcript. Mr. Sortevik stated he feels the minutes are reflective of a meeting and it is his opinion the minutes  
78 provided are what we are supposed to offer - this policy seems to minimize the details and not offer a good summary  
79 of the meeting. Jennifer Iller stated this conversation came up in the Policy sub-committee review and they prefer  
80 the minutes to remain as they are. Steve Sortevik stated he would review with Town Counsel. Superintendent  
81 Cozort suggested the Committee review with MASC first, prior to Town Counsel. The Chair tabled the vote.  
82

83 Vote to Approve the Draft Calendar 2019-2020, Draft #2 The Superintendent requested of the Committee, one more  
84 opportunity to bring this calendar to the faculty for final input before a vote for approval moves forward. The  
85 calendar was tabled for a future meeting.  
86

87 Vote to Approve the July 10, 2018, Meeting Minutes . Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the minutes, Jenn  
88 Iller seconded, and the motion was approved.  
89

90 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Steve Sortevik seconded, and  
91 the motion was approved.  
92

93 **Superintendent's Report–W. Michael Cozort**  
94 **Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Update**

95 Mr. Cozort shared a brief memo from Fairwinds, Nantucket Counseling Center, outlining the services offered to NPS  
96 and the district use during the last year. As we do outsource this provider, we can see that our staff did not use the  
97 services to a large extent, and perhaps we can renegotiate our contract or change the fee structure to be most effective  
98 in terms of cost to the district and opportunities for the staff. The administration has suggested that sending an email  
99 to the staff reminding them of the services would be prudent. Mrs. Iller asked about how long we have been  
100 providing this service. Superintendent Cozort said it has been at least seven years with a straight monthly fee and the  
101 contract we have is akin to a snow plow contract in that some years the service is used a lot and some years it is  
102 rarely used.

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104 Mrs. Iller also asked about consideration of opportunities for other health and mental care options such as gym  
105 discounts, citing a healthy outlet for mind and body is exercise and physical fitness. Dr. Lepore inquired if EAP is  
106 part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and also, is it provided to the Town of Nantucket. Mr. Cozort answered  
107 that it is not part of the CBA and he was not sure about the Town access to EAP, but he was sure it must be available.  
108

109 **Professional Teacher Status**

110 Superintendent Cozort began that he was not sure who requested the information on Professional Teacher Status but  
111 he wanted to review the parameters for awarding such status: A teacher must have taught in the system for a  
112 minimum of three consecutive years and be certified in the state of MA. The Principal can make a recommendation  
113 to offer PTS and the Superintendent awards it. This year: NES - 2, NIS -1, CPS – 2 and NHS - 5. Mr. Sortevik  
114 asked if any teachers who are technically eligible are denied. Superintendent Cozort that is possible depending on  
115 the circumstances.  
116

117 **On the Horizon**

118 A few items will be moved from the first meeting in August to the second, the ELL PAC Update and the vote for the  
119 Draft 2019-2020 calendar. Presented for the August 21 meeting, there will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Budget update, Food  
120 Services, the MOU with Cape Cod Child Development, School Handbook changes and the Technology Use review.  
121 Also, the Superintendent’s Goals. September begins Budget planning and School Improvement plans, School  
122 Resource Officer updates as well as Summer School and Community School updates. Other topics such as student  
123 conduct and School Committee openings will be pushed forward to October meetings.  
124

125 A brief hiring update: filled positions at NES & NIS, late resignations of ESP and 4<sup>th</sup> grade and an Speech Language  
126 Therapist are last minute needs. Guidance position new at NIS provides now two counselors in each NES and NIS.  
127 CPS is complete with Librarian full-time and one position left to fill, a new position of Dean of Students. At NHS,  
128 hiring is complete with a Testing Coordinating & Innovation Pathway position in Guidance filled. Superintendent  
129 Cozort lamented about the late resignations and that it makes for a very difficult situation for students coming in the  
130 door soon. He is strongly suggesting making this a part of negotiations because he feels the late notice is  
131 unprofessional and harms students and hopes the School Committee will take a strong stance on this matter.  
132

133 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

134 Sub-Committees

135 Safety & Security: Thank you to Diane O’Neil, Director of Facilities for ensuring the numbering on all the  
136 outside doors. Also, a great day for the Emergency responders show day on Monday, August 6 at NES/NIS.  
137 The attendance by the public was enormous and it was a terrific event.  
138

139 Nantucket Education Trust: NET is meeting monthly. Recently, there was the first ever tenant’s meeting  
140 which garnered approximately 60% attendance. Many improvements being made to the buildings and  
141 grounds, “good things are happening”. Mr. Cozort added that now all 12 units are filled with Town  
142 Employees, back to the original intention of the housing situation.  
143

144 At 7:04 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Steve Sortevik and seconded by Pauline Proch,  
145 and unanimously approved.  
146

147 Respectfully submitted,  
148 Logan O’Connor  
149 School Committee Clerk