

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2018

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

4 The meeting was called to order by Chair, Tim Lepore, at 6:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction room at NHS.
5 A request was made by the Superintendent to add a vote to the agenda regarding Substitute Pay Rate. A motion was
6 made to approve the amended agenda by Pauline Proch, seconded by Jennifer Iller and was approved by the
7 Committee.
8

9 **Comments from Public**

10 Alice Crowley, NTA Co-President and Math Teacher in CPS, addressed the Committee on behalf of the Teachers
11 Association and membership inquiring about the timing and formation of the Superintendent Search Committee. She
12 expressed their desire in considering having staff members on the Committee for their feedback. She conveyed
13 concern that the “Nantucket rumor mill” supports this search committee is already selected. The Chair assured Mrs.
14 Crowley the search committee has not yet been created and he was attentive to her comments.
15

16 Tracy Mailloux, Science Teacher in CPS, stated she had two main concerns: First, about a specific Policy (GBEBD
17 – Crowd Funding) voted for approval at the last meeting. She would like clarification about the step by step
18 procedure process of approval for such fundraising. She questioned the Superintendent having the final authority, or
19 if it was just the Principals. Second, she had questions about the Technology Presentation from the last meeting- She
20 stated that she felt there was no purpose. She feels the medium of technology has changed, and we as a district have
21 adapted, but that the home environment has not necessarily adapted. She directly asked the Committee what are
22 their issues. Zona Butler responded collectively, asking Mrs. Mailloux to present to the Superintendent, all of her
23 questions, so that they may be put on the radar and addressed appropriately in a future meeting. The Superintendent
24 did offer a response for the policy question, sharing that it was developed to ensure that staff do not violate the code
25 of ethics law.
26

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

28 **English as a Second Language (ESL) Update – Director of ELL, Kelly Ann Cooney**

29 Ms. Cooney began her presentation with a video that was an idea sparked from the MATSOL conference that a few
30 of the EL teachers had previously attended. She gave a shout out to Brittiany Beal, Math teacher in CPS, for putting
31 together the montage of the younger students answering the question: *What I wish My Teachers Knew About Me.*
32 Children from El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Brazil gave a quick sentence about where they were from, and what
33 they were enjoying learning in school and what makes them who they are. Ms. Cooney reviewed how our ELL
34 population has grown and named and thanked the large staffing membership of CORE content teachers and SEI
35 endorsed teachers that supports the EL enrollment. She provided a breakdown of ELL numbers and percentages of
36 students by school over the last five years, affirming we are hovering at 300 students in our district for 2018. She
37 also gave percentages of these students that also have special needs, are in their first year of school with NPS, and
38 might additionally be considered SLIFE students (students with limited or interrupted education), and students who
39 have FLEPed, meaning they have advanced out of the program and mainstreamed into classes. We currently have
40 34% of students that are multilingual and Ms. Cooney said these numbers present more like a “Gateway city” such as
41 Fall River and not the numbers anyone would expect for a small island. She gave a breakdown of the many different
42 countries that now represent our EL students (over nine) with Spanish speaking countries having the highest
43 representation. She also pointed out to the Committee how well the ELL students are faring on our ACCESS and
44 MCAS tests and that overall they are demonstrating solid scores, often better than state comparisons.
45

46 For the school year 2018-2019, Ms. Cooney was excited about some additions to the staff and programming that are
47 sure to add to the success of the program: a Bilingual Support Specialist (a NHS graduate and member of the
48 Spanish speaking community which is very helpful in connections for families and school), a new ESL position at
49 the Intermediate school, a Newcomer Welcome program at NHS, the Innovation Pathway program at NHS,
50 identifying SLIFE students, and the ever growing EL Parent Advisory Council. Dr. Lepore asked about Portuguese,
51 the rise of this language and adding staff that are fluent. Mrs. Iller was curious about identified FLEP students and if

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2018

52
53 they ever move back into the support ESL classes. Ms. Cooney described how team meetings determine if EL
54 students have an issue in one area or another. Pauline Proch was pleased with the additional programming and
55 mentioned with the budget process upon us, creating a wish list would be helpful. She thought aloud bilingual
56 guidance or family outreach liaisons would be a plus in supporting the social-emotional aspects. Mrs. Butler
57 commended Ms. Cooney.
58

59 **MCAS Results – Directors of Curriculum & Assessment, Michael Horton & Jean Garen Witt**

60 Superintendent Cozort reminded the School Committee this presentation is not a deep dive but rather an overview.
61 The analysis and more specific details will be forthcoming, but this previously embargoed information was important
62 to hand over to the teaching staff so they could start to work to decipher areas of strengths and weakness. Mr. Horton
63 began the presentation explaining the 2018, data will be compared to the baseline data of the previous year, 2017
64 and the current scoring scale works on an average scored scale of 440-560. The categories are more direct whether a
65 student Met Target, or Partially Met Target and no longer will the overall school scaling range be from 1-5, labeling
66 an individual school and then the average score rates the district. Now, the schools will simply ‘not’ require
67 assistance or intervention, or they ‘will’ require assistance or intervention. Mr. Horton illustrated how to go directly
68 on the DESE website, how to get our district data and how to look up the specific MCAS information pertaining to
69 each school. He was enthusiastic about how much information exists to see how the district is performing.
70

71 Mrs. Witt then reviewed the handout slides that broke out achievement per school, by grade, for ELA and Math,
72 columned by Not Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting, Meeting, and Exceeding Expectations. The percentages
73 showed last year, this year, and state averages, displaying small dips in some areas, but good growth in other areas.
74 A standalone slide in the power point also detailed the growth and some areas that have not had much movement.
75 Mike Horton gave examples about the jump in grade 10 Math Proficient & Advanced from 67% to 76%, likewise
76 grade 9 Biology Proficient & Advanced increase from 78% to 83% and grade 9 Biology Failing decreased from 7%
77 to 3%. But that is juxtaposed by the decreased scores in grade 10 Math, where Failing increased from 9% to 13% .
78 Mr. Horton and Mrs. Witt provided additional comprehensive data printed directly off of the DESE website and
79 summarized we have had incremental growth and pointed out the sub group categories that are very helpful in seeing
80 specifics of achievement growth, EL progress, high school completion and absenteeism. This brought up a fair
81 amount of discussion regarding students missing school, how much, and the direct correlation to learning. Mr.
82 Horton reported to the Committee that absent days of school have always been calculated in a built in formula and
83 when students are out for extended periods of time, it is a challenge to teach to those students and keep them up to
84 date. Mrs. Butler was curious if drop out numbers impact our calculations. Mrs. Iller wanted more information
85 regarding the MCAS Alt and wondered if these statistics are included. Mrs. Witt affirmed they are included, but it
86 will be necessary to look deeper to pullout the data of each school. Mr. Sortevik gave a general comment in
87 response to Mr. Horton’s overall enthusiasm about the increases in some of the scoring, and stated he will be
88 interested in the deep dive session because we continue to lag in Math.
89

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

91 Vote to Approve Rate of Substitute Pay for Teachers and Teaching Assistants

92 Superintendent Cozort made a recommendation to the School Committee, in accordance with NPS Policy GCG, to
93 raise the established Sub Pay Rate from \$80 to \$100 for teacher assistants, to \$100 and \$120 for teachers. He
94 explained that we do not have a large pool of substitutes, based on both the economic times and the fact that we have
95 hired many of our past substitutes to work full time in the district. Mr. Sortevik felt this rate increase might not be
96 enough, but Superintendent Cozort respectfully recommended a vote and action so the dollar amount could be
97 implemented immediately. Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Jenn Iller, and the increase was approved 4-1,
98 with Mr. Sortevik opposed.
99

100 Vote to Approve Budget Planning Calendar

101 Superintendent Cozort thought this should be tabled for a vote until more dates were confirmed, including the Annual
102 Town Meeting, tentatively scheduled for April 1, 2019 at 6:00pm. The School Committee agreed to postpone.

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2018

103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153

Vote to Approve Donation from EduKit, Inc. to CPS Gift Account, in the amount of \$750.36
Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve, Jenn Iller seconded, and with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation (valued) from Joseph L. Viera Fund to Student Athletes (Football) for 18 Pair of sweatpants and training shorts to be used during the 2018 season, \$918.00
Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve, Jenn Iller seconded, and with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Nantucket Land Council to 5th Grade Nature’s Classroom Field Trip, final balance for donation, in the amount of \$2,746.00 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Steve Sortevik seconded, and with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the September 18, 2018, Meeting Minutes Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the minutes, Pauline Proch seconded, and the motion was approved.

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

Superintendent’s Report–W. Michael Cozort

Superintendent Cozort offered official enrollment numbers as reported to the State for October 1, 2018. At 1,686 students, the district is at its highest number in history and looking at the 5th grade of 141 students (which does not include the private school numbers that eventually come to the district), that class could be the highest ever. He sees the numbers continuing to grow at an average rate of 50+ students every year - in four years, that equates to a new school. Mr. Cozort felt it important to watch these numbers closely and to be wary of the pressure on the infrastructures across the community. He thought aloud that modular classrooms brought to CPS might help bridge the gap. The School Committee was not surprised at the enrollment, but a little unnerved about what the future holds. Mrs. Butler asked to add additional information on the enrollment report to track absenteeism.

On the Horizon

Mr. Cozort reviewed the Horizon. It was confirmed Mr. Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of MASC coming on October 16 to lead the Workshop regarding the District Goals, the Superintendent Goals, and discuss the Superintendent Committee Search process.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

ESP Negotiations:

In record completion, the negotiations were finalized in the second meeting and the approval vote will be added to the October 23 agenda.

Policy: Mrs. Butler said the review and answers for the Public Comment policy concerns will be addressed in a Policy meeting and reported on in an upcoming Public meeting.

Superintendent Search Committee: Dr. Lepore reported NESDEQ and MASC have been contacted for proposals. The School Committee will determine how they wish to proceed after meeting with Glenn Koocher. He reported on the Public Comment query about the setting up of a Search Committee and stated while he has received a number of requests to be on the Search Committee, nothing has been finalized. Mrs. Butler thought there should be a wide range of representation.

Additional comments: Mrs. Proch wanted to review the District Goals and thought that School Start times and School Uniforms should be included.

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2018

154

155 Chair Tim Lepore reminded everyone the upcoming Homecoming weekend events which has a slightly altered
156 schedule than years past. He also was very delighted with the Run for Recovery event and how this exemplified our
157 students' community outreach and accomplishments. Superintendent Cozort shared he went to a golf match that
158 afternoon, having a chance to follow some of our Varsity athletes through the course, happy to have this opportunity.

159

160 Henry Dupont, School Council Representative reiterated Homecoming weekend events and Veritas is soon to print,
161 and he has heard the Library move back in date has been delayed a bit, but students are looking forward to the
162 opening.

163

164 At 8:19 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Steve Sortevik and seconded by Pauline Proch,
165 and unanimously approved.

166

167 Respectfully submitted,

168 Logan O'Connor

169 School Committee Clerk