

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2018

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2 Present Members: Zona Butler (left at 6:45) Jennifer Iller, Tim Lepore, Pauline Proch, Steve Sortevik & Henry
3 Dupont
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5 The meeting was called to order by Chair, Tim Lepore, at 6:00 PM in the NPS District Conference room at NES.
6 A request was made by Mr. Sortevik to add to the agenda, discussion of the Search Committee process and a working
7 timeline regarding the Superintendent Search. It was agreed to add to the agenda topics with “d” Superintendent
8 Search discussion - a motion was made to approve the amended agenda by Pauline Proch, seconded by Zona Butler
9 and was approved by the Committee.
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11 **Comments from Public**

12 None
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14 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

15 **Veritas – Dr. John Buckey, NHS Principal and Co-Editors in Chief, Henry Dupont & Owen Hudson**

16 Dr. Buckey remarked that the Advisorship for Veritas (our award winning student newspaper) has come back to the
17 school with an internal advisor (as originally intended), Page Martineau, high school English teacher. With the
18 renovation of the Library almost complete, Veritas will be able to finally have a designated space. Henry Dupont &
19 Owen Hudson, Co-Editors in Chief, are very excited about the future for Veritas. They thanked the Class of 2018
20 who gave a donation for new furniture and felt this would help to make the space inviting, not only for current
21 members of Veritas, but for the growth of the paper and enticing student interest. They talked about the number of
22 editions put out per year and how the current Journalism course being offered in school has been helpful to their
23 producing well written stories. Mrs. Proch commented how she appreciates the Spanish pages now included in the
24 newspaper and she was curious about the diversity of the actual staff of Veritas. Master Dupont talked lightly about
25 some new people working with the newspaper and that it did include an African American female and some ELL
26 students. He also shared how just expanding the staff has helped broaden the social media options and opportunity
27 for a website revamp. Mr. Sortevik announced he thinks Veritas is a “tremendous newspaper” and Superintendent
28 Cozort added that it is usually the busiest students who are the ones who take on the major task of this paper. When
29 asked about the time required, the editors responded that during press week it is not uncommon to be there every day
30 right after school until the custodians shut the school down in the evening. Mrs. Butler asked about offering a
31 subscription to increase distribution. The Co -Editors responded how the paper is free, but that updating the website
32 will improve distribution online availability and that funding is done through advertising.
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34 **MCAS Deep Dive Results – Principals Evemarie McNeil, Peter Cohen & John Buckey**

35 Superintendent Cozort shared the Principals know their data! They have gone through the information and they will
36 show good news and progress in areas as well as some challenges still facing our district. He noted it is important to
37 look at cohorts to make solid comparisons, review for example, last year’s fourth grade with this year’s fifth, because
38 that is the same grouping of students. He then turned the presentation over to the Principals to share their findings.
39 Collectively, all three offered the same format of data which was to breakdown ELA, Math and Science and then
40 offer their takeaways, remediation and goals.
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42 Mrs. McNeil, Principal of the Intermediate School began by exclaiming she was proud of her educators and how they
43 promoted growth by knowing where their students started. The teachers broke down subgroups with information
44 provided from the Department of Education and zeroed in on what and where work is needed. She reviewed in ELA
45 Grade 3 to 4 increased 17% in Meeting or Exceeding Expectations and Grade 4 to 5 increased 9% in Meeting or
46 Exceeding Expectations. In Math Grade 4 to 5 went up 19% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations and in all three
47 grades fewer students were in the Not Meeting Expectations category, which shows the gap closing in a positive way.
48 Overall where the target level made by the state is to reach 75%, NIS made 78% and that is a very good data point.
49 She reviewed how NIS will continue with the ELA initiatives and ongoing PD and also continue with rigorous Math
50 instruction. She thanked Donna Johnson, Literacy Coordinator, for her vertical and horizontal help for all the
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53 Elementary grades and how her knowledge of the standards and new programs is undoubtedly going to pay off with
54 results. She also noted that while science has not been a primary focus, they are adding more programming and
55 instruction with the help of Michael Horton, Director of C&A, STEM.

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57 Peter Cohen, Principal of the Middle School, shared his results for ELA, Math and Science. He noted for ELA,
58 Grade 6 increasing from 31% to 41% in Meeting Expectations and for Grade 6 to 7, the increase was 31% to 42%.
59 For Math his increases for Grade 7 were 33% to 39% and Grade 8, 26% to 32% and in Science, Grade 8 increased
60 from 20% to 23%. While he did have some decreases in certain areas, his focus is how the gaps are narrowing and
61 that is paramount to show progress. His takeaways are to continue more classes in ELA and Math and how his
62 WIN/WIN blocks for intervention and his Advanced Math opportunities for each grade level is providing additional
63 focus and time for students with differentiation needs. It is his opinion that the Math results are directly related to
64 ELA understanding, because of how the test is set up and literacy skills now impact everything, requiring more
65 reading comprehension even when the subject is Math or Science. Dr. Cohen talked about concentrating on what we
66 do well and knowing the data to help drive the instruction. He added that since MCAS is not current and not the only
67 data point, he feels it is important to look at the varied standardized tests (MAP/ACCESS) and student grades and
68 classroom work to get a better picture for each individual student. Student engagement and classroom management
69 with effective practices to better deliver learning opportunities is likewise important to the overall score results.
70 Switching the traditional role for the Assistant Principal and having an AP who can work more as an Instructional
71 Coach and help with Evaluations should be of additional value. Further, hiring a Dean of Students to take on some
72 of the behavioral issues previously handled by the AP should also be beneficial. Mrs. Iller addressed all the
73 Principals asking how the ELL families receive their MCAS scores and she wanted to know what happens after
74 parents receive the results - How does the district help, do they extend the offer for intervention, or do they wait to be
75 contacted by families. Dr. Cohen reminded the Committee that MCAS scores are mailed out in the home language of
76 each family and Ms. Cooney, Director of ELL chimed into say the ELL PAC is looking for more info for parents on
77 this very topic.

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79 Dr. Buckey thanked the other principals and stated they have a harder job than he, because they are assessing three
80 different grades as opposed to one at the high school. He reviewed his scores, celebrating CPI measuring at or above
81 90 in all three subjects and the increases in each area, but he did point out there is still a struggle for students with
82 disabilities. He shared a glowing letter from a community member who has been vocal about the low scores on
83 MCAS, and now was praising the high school for such fantastic results. He also stated that there has been no
84 evidence that standardized test results equate to future success for students. Dr. Buckey, newly established as the
85 President of the MASS, has had opportunities to speak with the new Commissioner of Education, James Riley, about
86 the MCAS scoring debate. One area that heavily impacts our district is Attendance and new this year, attendance is
87 counted in our accountability reporting. Dr. Buckey commented that the Commissioner “gets it” and understands
88 one metric such as attendance, should not be the only metric to monitor student success. The attendance issue led to
89 a large discussion with the School Committee and all three Principals. The Principals agreed much of the attendance
90 ebbs and flows because we are an island and many families move in and out with the tourism work trades.
91 Superintendent Cozort added it should be no surprise that students who miss large chunks of school lose out on time
92 on learning. Mrs. Proch asked for a reminder about the absenteeism policy (which is 15 days maximum) and what is
93 done when students cross this threshold. Dr. Cohen responded the Student Information System in Aspen will now
94 automatically generate a letter to the family and while there are always outliers to this issue, it is one that needs
95 monitoring. Mrs. Iller asked how we assist students that come in and out of our district and that when they move in
96 (early or late in their academic/grade level years and even early or late in the calendar year) must have some impact.
97 Dr. Buckey agreed that age and from where are factors to include. Dr. Lepore interjected it is important to make the
98 students excited about taking these tests and to endorse how it provides an opportunity to see “how you are doing.”
99 The Superintendent detailed that this is done in every school, promotion and encouragement surrounding the tests,
100 but that the middle school age students are simply hard to excite regardless and the high school, graduation
101 requirements necessitate this test, so that is a motivator alone.

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104 In wrapping up this presentation, Mr. Sortevik wondered aloud if the district is chasing a moving target.
105 Superintendent Cozort responded looking at the growth is most important. Closing the gap is the key to success and
106 that an improvement or decline in any one year is not as important as the overall trend indicating improvement.
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108 **District Goal Discussion**

109 These Goals are a work in progress, but in need of being finalized. The Superintendent has asked for input from the
110 School Committee. Pauline Proch wished to include Cultural Awareness and supporting our diverse population. The
111 Superintendent thought this could be included in the social emotional learning section providing for the whole child.
112 Mrs. Proch also was hoping to include Uniforms and Start Times as goals to include. Jennifer Iller said she felt
113 student dress code (and uniforms) has been solidified for now if indeed the Principals are addressing the situations as
114 they arise. She thought more discussion on the school start times would be beneficial before adding this as a goal.
115 Mrs. Iller asked to include Athletics and Extra Curricular activities as a goal, because she feels this is a contributing
116 factor to the well-being of students. And, finally, Mr. Sortevik asked to include Math Strategies in the already
117 established Goal One. Superintendent Cozort responded he would amend these District Goals and bring it back for a
118 vote in a future meeting.
119

120 **Search Committee Discussion**

121 Dr. Lepore reported he has been given a complete list of people who have expressed interest in participating in the
122 Search Committee. He has started to review and while not all can participate, he would like to finalize a list of
123 approximately 15 people. The School Committee responded who they felt important for representation/constituent
124 “seat” and it should be a diverse list. They all agreed a Facilitator is essential and they also agreed to engage MASC
125 for the full service offering to help in this search. Applications will be accepted until December 15 and the start date
126 for the new Superintendent will be July 1. They determined they want to have Focus Groups established and MASC
127 will provide the guidance on how to begin this process. Committee members will not be identified and any
128 information or feedback that the Committee wanted to share should go directly to Chair, Dr. Lepore. Mrs. O’Connor,
129 as Clerk, will contact MASC to inform the determinations made by the School Committee and she will produce the
130 finalized advertisement for the Superintendent application.
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132 **Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

133 Vote to Approve NHS Field Trip for World Languages Trip to Boston, November 2&3, 2018

134 Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve, Pauline Proch seconded, and with none opposed, the motion was
135 approved.
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137 Vote to Approve Slate for Search Committee Membership for Superintendent Search

138 Discussion was completed, no vote to be taken
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140 Vote to Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement for ESP Unit, 2019-2022

141 Superintendent Cozort commented this was completed in two sessions (record time). Jenn Iller made a motion to
142 approve, Pauline Proch seconded, and with none opposed, the motion was approved.
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144 Vote to Approve Two Donations from Egan Maritime Institute to CPS Gift Account, \$41,306.00 Pauline Proch
145 recused herself, Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve, Jenn Iller seconded, and with none opposed, the motion
146 was approved.
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148 Vote to Approve Donation from Class of 2018 to NHS Gift Account, \$4,000.00 for Library Furniture and \$2,000.00
149 for Veritas Furniture. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve, Jenn Iller seconded, and with none opposed, the
150 motion was approved.
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152 Vote to Approve Donation from T. Theory Foundation to NCS, \$1,000.00 Pauline Proch made a motion to approve,
153 Jenn Iller seconded, and with none opposed, the motion was approved.

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Vote to Approve the October 2, 2018, Meeting Minutes Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Jennifer Iller seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the October 16, 2018, Workshop Minutes Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Jennifer Iller seconded, and the motion was approved

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

Superintendent’s Report–W. Michael Cozort

Superintendent Cozort reaffirmed how well the Principals dug into the MCAS data and he felt their presentations were clear and consistent. He also wanted to refer to his SWOT analysis that was handed out to the Committee at a previous meeting. He reviewed that he has one for each school and also ELL, SPED and Curriculum and while the Strategic Plan is not yet outlined, these SWOT outline the challenges and opportunities that can be identified on the Plan. He will share all of the documents with the Committee.

Student Council

Henry Dupont announced the hopeful resurrection of Powderpuff Football (flag football) and they are working on that for the Island Cup weekend. The proceeds they make will go to the Harvey Foundation so Student Council is hoping they can make this happen. They are also working on December Delight.

On the Horizon

For November 6 there will be Pre-School Presentation, the Preliminary Budget Forecast, Federal Grants, Homeschooling, Transportation Numbers, the Budget Planning Calendar Approval, Enrollment and Election Site Discussion.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Pauline Proch asked if Space Utilization can be put on the Agenda for a topic of discussion – a report of gym use, classrooms, community use, etc... Are the schools being utilized for all space needs; this is something that people have asked her since the newspaper piece about the possibility of another new school due to enrollment trends, there seems to be a buzz. Superintendent Cozort answered cautiously, he felt compelled to put the conversation “out there” with CapCom based upon the Enrollment numbers and the past growth – 50 to 100 students per year is not sustainable because in four years, that equals a new school. He thought it would be naïve not to give heads up regarding this possibility. Dr. Lepore wanted to revisit the Athletic Complex and where that stands and Superintendent Cozort reminded the Committee the complex was shelved when the new NIS school need presented itself so emphatically.

At 8:24 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Jennifer Iller, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Logan O’Connor
School Committee Clerk