

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 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 NHS Long Group Instruction Room.
5 A motion was made to make a slight alteration of the agenda by moving the 1st Quarter Budget as the first
6 presentation, and with an approval of this agenda by Pauline Proch, and seconded by Jennifer Iller, it was approved
7 by the Committee.
8

9 **Comments from Public - None**

10
11 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

12 **1st Quarter Budget Presentation – Director of Finance, Martin Anguelov**

13 Mr. Anguelov presented the 1st Quarter Budget, which closes at September 30, 2018 reporting for this quarter, total
14 expenditures at \$310,057. This amount is less than the previous year (\$598,254) and reflects future commitments
15 which shows 25% committed for this year in comparison to 28% for last year. The dollar figure difference is largely
16 due to \$168,000 repair and maintenance for the HVAC systems at NHS & NES. These are one-time expenditures
17 and just happen to fall into this quarter. We have the budget to cover these needs, but this is not something that can
18 continue to happen. The variances are within what is considered an acceptable range of year-to-year comparison.
19

20 Nantucket Community School First Quarter numbers were presented next. Mr. Anguelov was very happy to share a
21 strong performance of \$35,164 growth from the previous year. He reminded the School Committee the Town
22 contribution went down from last year to this year, \$465,000 to \$450,000, but the difference netted out on the plus
23 side because revenues have been solid. There has been a \$4,256 increase in Instruction income in the Adult Ed
24 revolver, a \$14,609 increase in the Pool revolver revenues, a \$25,918 increase in the Extended Day program and a
25 \$11,573 increase in the Driver's Ed revenues. He was enthusiastic to review the reduction in rental expenses of
26 \$10,800 for this year verses last year, as well as \$21,329 reduction in Medical Insurance expenses for cost of three
27 new employees that started in the Fall and will therefore not be reflected in this first quarter (but will appear in the
28 year). He has had several meetings with the Director of the Community School, Tracy Roberts, who is creating a
29 positive environment in NCS, and feels strongly they will be able to remain committed to the programming currently
30 running while simultaneously achieving balance between revenues and expenses.
31

32 The School Lunch Program is at status quo. Currently, we operated at a deficit of \$26,509 versus a deficit of
33 \$25,424 for the same period last year. The number of operating days was the same for both years (19 days), yet this
34 year's sales were down slightly by \$671. The Food Service Director is comfortable with the staffing levels and the
35 lunch program seemingly is performing well. Free & Reduced represents 40% of total meals served in comparison to
36 39% for last year, but this is consistent and follows an acceptable trend. With improved product mix and higher
37 participation rates we look to keep on track and remain within the budgeted subsidy of \$65,000. Mrs. Proch asked if
38 we are limited to purchasing from state approved vendors, and/or can we accept donations from local farms. Mr.
39 Anguelov responded we have an MOU with Sustainable Nantucket to take advantage of local produce and he will get
40 an updat on local donations from Linda Peterson, Food Services Director. Jennifer Iller was curious if we are
41 concerned about the slower sales for this quarter, but Mr. Anguelov felt we need to move forward into the next
42 quarter to accurately determine the sales volume. Mrs. Iller also asked for a breakdown of sales by school and
43 perhaps menu items offered, and Mr. Anguelov said he would reach out to Mrs. Peterson for that data.
44

45 **John & Abigail Adams Scholars, Class of 2019 – Dr. John Buckey, NHS Principal**

46 Dr. Buckey introduced 34 Seniors who have been awarded the 2019 John & Abigail Adams Scholar Award. This
47 scholarship award offers free tuition to any Massachusetts public college or university and is awarded based upon
48 MCAS combined test scores of Advanced and Proficient in Biology, ELA and Math and they must score in the top
49 25% of the class. He explained students have 8 semesters of tuition granted and this can be deferred for up to six
50 years. The Seniors introduced themselves, sharing what they were interested in studying and/or what might be their
51 path after high school. The School Committee congratulated them all and thanked them for sharing their plans.

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2018

52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102

School Improvement Plans – NPS Principals
Nantucket Elementary School – Principal Kimberly Kubisch

Mrs. Kubisch began noting that the School Improvement Plan for NES has been in place, but improved upon each year once the District Goals are approved. She was pleased with the new resources but acknowledges there is still a lot of work ahead. For Goal One, academic achievement and engagement for all students, she reviewed the new curriculum resources and how this all leads to changes in instruction and ultimately, improved student achievement. Data analysis and tracking with multiple and consistent benchmarks and assessments along with strict adherence to core standards is improving hand-in-hand with teaching and learning results. Goal Two, establishing building wide instructional routines and protocols to support differentiated instruction, saw added planning time. This helps build better foundations for students prior to Grade 3. Goal Three, creating a positive classroom and school climate by providing a safe and secure school is supported by the continual training of Responsive Classroom. New in this area is the implementation of weekly social-emotional whole group lessons and activities for all students, planned and led by Guidance. This has seemingly led to a reduction of discipline referrals, time outs, school suspensions, and SSC visits. Goal Four involves NES families and Nantucket Community members visits. This goal is supported by a constant connection via miscellaneous communications, reaching out in many ways and new this year, a computer station set up for families to access during the day to enter registration information. The final goal, Goal Five is to identify, develop and provide professional development opportunities for staff and she thanked the School Committee for providing increased Professional Development. Mrs. Proch asked about any teachers practicing ‘Mindfulness’. Mrs. Kubisch replied this is a random practice, not a whole grade and that different specialists do this at different times. She also shared she suggested a “mind yeti” with parents at a NES coffee. Mrs. Iller asked about a goal for keeping class sizes down and Mrs. Kubisch said there is nothing written in a policy or in the goals as NES routinely keeps the classes down between 18-22 students. Mr. Sortevik asked about the social media piece and if NES reaches out via Instagram and Facebook, to which Mrs. Kubisch answered in the affirmative.

Nantucket Intermediate School-Principal Evemarie McNeil

Mrs. McNeil revised her plan this year to encapsulate it in two large goals and embedded in both is family and community. The First Goal is to focus on increasing student achievement and learner engagement, ensuring that curriculum is aligned with the state and national standards. She broke down subject areas, focusing on math as a high priority. She was happy to report that now in the 2nd year of Eureka Math, the pacing has improved, and common planning time has featured more math. Consistent support and progress monitoring helps identify who needs the most help. Also, in the first Goal, ELA focus, with big initiatives to enhance reading and provide comprehensive and rigorous lessons. There has been ongoing PD of Reading Workshop and Words Their Way programming and all the teachers are utilizing these opportunities to redefine reading enrichment instruction. Science and Technology, thanks to redefined core standards, promotes reaching out to community agencies in the science fields and with her hope of PD for the following school year, this should show increases in the grade five MCAS scores. Lastly for this goal, she mentioned the transition to the 2018 History and Social Science curriculum frameworks and wanting to identify meeting times to focusing on the SS standards and providing PD opportunities. Mrs. McNeil feels teachers are doing a good job informing families of what is happening in the classroom. The learning environment is positive and active, and it is felt inside outside the school. Goal Two, to continuously improve and promote a positive, safe working and learning environment based on shared beliefs and core values. She broke the goal down further into: live determined core values exemplifying common shared beliefs about what all students, families and staff need in order to have a successful school experience; ensure a physically safe school campus; ensuring a safe intellectual environment through promotion and implementation of strong social-emotional learning programming; and, maintaining and strengthening positive and culturally proficient school climate. Mrs. McNeil listed multiple ways all these targets are being met, from continuing Responsive Classroom, ongoing protocols and safety and security drills, having high expectations for school rules, family and/or counselor Involvement in positive ways, and when things need attention, identifying and promoting extra-curricular offerings for students. Mrs. Proch asked about having School/Parent Education presentation by a Caribbean educator who explains how different cultures raise their children in different ways and thought a presentation at NPS might be a good thing for our school community. Mrs. Butler asked for a brief overview of collaborative planning time and

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2018

103
104 Mrs. McNeil described how all the major content and grade levels in addition to ESL, SPED, and Specials, look at
105 students from every lens, every week, to ensure social emotional balance for each child.
106

107 **Cyrus Peirce Middle School – Principal Peter Cohen**

108 Principal Peter Cohen thanked his School Council and began with a brief overview of his preamble and that this
109 Improvement Plan is a natural progression of the goals set in 2013. Realizing that student achievement must improve
110 and along with large ELL increases and student population, a renewed focus on differentiated instruction is
111 necessary. This has led to the I Plan (an “I” theme) of Instruction, Intervention, Innovation and Imagination. This is
112 interwoven into the same goal structure as the other school plans with the First Goal, *Instruction*, being student
113 achievement. Focus on PD, implementing standards-based teaching and learning strategies, and data informed
114 instruction are supported by a myriad of examples of how to achieve each. The most important is to close the gap
115 between our scores and the states on our assessments. The Second Goal, *Intervention*, is not solely based upon
116 academics but also social-emotional support. By adding the Dean of Students and the Student Success Program
117 (aligning to NHS Alternative Ed, SSP) and increasing general education interventions we are front loading the
118 opportunities to improve student conduct and to better support students inside and outside the traditional classroom.
119 Goal Three, *Innovation* is to continue to research and implement innovative ways for improvement. Dr. Cohen gave
120 examples of technology integration training, empowering Teacher Leaders, expanding the network for educators,
121 developing middle school version of standards-based grading, expanding use of social media to promote the CPS
122 story and effectively use data to inform decisions. In his final Goal Four, *Imagination*, Dr. Cohen wishes to consider
123 creative ways and strategies to improve our school. This Goal is a wish list exploring the length of the school day,
124 expanding the arts education for more students to have greater access, have a stronger advisory program (much like
125 the NHS), starting languages at an earlier age, developing student-led conferences, school uniforms and more Project
126 Based Learning opportunities. The School Committee was curious about PBL and Mrs. Butler was particularly
127 interested in some concrete data to see how students fare on tests whether in PBL classes or not. Dr. Cohen said
128 there are few differences as far as he can tell. He furthered that reaching (via different platforms) out to students and
129 families is paramount to their success. Mrs. Proch agreed and questioned about having parent involvement as part of
130 the goals. Steve Sortevik appreciated Dr. Cohen’s “optimistic plan” and wondered about privacy issues with
131 collection of data, but was assured that parental permissions are granted. He also was in favor of a longer day, but
132 queried the budget implications with the extension of time. And, in relation to the budget, he was curious about
133 adding staff and what that looks like to the bottom line. He rounded out his comments by reinforcing his concern for
134 the Math and hopes this will be addressed in a variety of ways. School Council representative Henry Dupont
135 reiterated Mr. Sortevik’s uncertainty about Math and was confused about the Math Boost only helping half of the
136 student body. He questions the thought process –if Math is suffering, then more Math is needed for everyone.
137

138 **Nantucket High School – Principal John Buckey**

139 Dr. Buckey unveiled year 2 of his School Improvement Plan. He said he feels his data is often widely known to the
140 School Committee, because he has the opportunity to present often throughout the year with AP, Dropout Rates,
141 Guidance presentations, and more. He discussed much of the focus in this year is for ELL, SPED, and Math
142 education. He reviewed the same major goals: Goal One, increasing academic achievement and learner engagement.
143 His evidence of attainment will be annual increases in the scores for MCAS, AP tests, PSAT and SAT scores,
144 expanding the fine and performing arts programming as well as vocational offerings. Goal Two, ensuring a safe
145 culture and climate for all students is by improving daily attendance rates with increases to participation in clubs,
146 activities, and interscholastic athletics, increasing School-to-Career students and access to annual job fairs and
147 providing continual programming and support in topic areas of bullying, suicide prevention, and substance abuse.
148 Dr. Buckey also seeks to further develop the SRO program, decrease the dropout percentages, invest in more PD and
149 provide training opportunities to heighten cultural awareness. Goal Three, increasing communication and
150 connections with families and community, Dr. Buckey has been doing a lot through publications, weekly updates, his
151 Smore letter to families, and is seeking an Instagram account, a Twitter page for NHS and using the Facebook more
152 to promote NHS. Goal Four, to improve the working and learning culture and integrating the new Assistant Principal
153 into the leadership fold, he continues to strive to have a positive culture of respect in the school. Dr. Buckey seeks to

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2018

154
155 reinforce the AP’s role, with clear expectations for student behavior and progressive discipline steps if needed,
156 promoting family-school partnerships through Winter Arts, College Planning, FONPS, ASAP, and create a cohesive
157 and high performing administrative team to best serve the students. He also provided supporting documentation,
158 both the graduating class of 2018 and a rolling three-year average to support his improvement plan strategies. Mrs.
159 Iller asked an overall question to the Principals about the Social Worker and Guidance participation. Dr. Buckey
160 responded Julie Kingston’s opportunities for home visits is frequent and proves very helpful.
161

162 **Superintendent Goals – Superintendent, W. Michael Cozort**

163 Superintendent Cozort offered his annual Goals and pointed out the the format is identical to the that of the
164 Administrative Staff. The goals align with the District Goals and include professional practice, student learning, and
165 district improvement. Mr. Cozort stated, “Your goals are my goals…” and reiterated that Math is featured
166 throughout the learning process. Goals focus on promoting the use of data to help analyze information to make
167 decisions regarding instruction. He always has a goal regarding the Budget process and the Committee will see a few
168 things in the projected budget that will add up to more than the Appropriation, but feels it is important for them to see
169 the needs. Additionally, his goal to continue to try to be visible and accessible is important as ever. Dr. Lepore
170 noted that Mr. Cozort’s visibility is so very important and was not something that happened with predecessors.
171 Steve Sortevik noted appreciation for the focus on Mathematics. He asked about using the goals as part of the
172 evaluation of the Superintendent and was assured that is part of the DESE evaluation rubric. Mrs. O’Connor
173 reminded the Committee the approved evaluation guidelines are available on the district website.
174

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

176 Vote to Approve Policy *GBEBD – Crowd Funding* – no action as this Policy has already been approved
177

178 Vote to Approve the November 6, 2018, Meeting Minutes Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes,
179 Jennifer Iller seconded, and the motion was approved.
180

181 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices Jennifer Iller made a motion to approve, Pauline Proch seconded, and the
182 motion was approved.
183

184 **Superintendent’s Report–W. Michael Cozort**

185 Horizon is on track for the many budget topics coming up as we move into the FY20 process. We will have
186 Technology, Athletics, Facilities, and Community School presented at the December 4 meetings. We will also have
187 a presentation from Andrew Viselli, teacher of the Alt Ed program in NHS as well as Enrollment for December.
188

189 **Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

190 Student Support Services - Pauline Proch reported the meeting provides lots of dialogue regarding the increasing
191 behavior and health needs of our students. Many hands at the table working on these topics.
192

193 Nantucket Education Trust – Pauline Proch reported the Annual Appeal Letter is going out and she feels the timing is
194 good.
195

196 Policies – Jennifer Iller reports they are meeting in the next week.
197

198 At 7:36 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Jennifer Iller and seconded by Pauline Proch, and
199 unanimously approved.
200

201 Respectfully submitted,
202 Logan O’Connor
203 School Committee Clerk