

Nantucket School Committee
Workshop Minutes
October 16, 2018

1
2 Present Members: Zona Butler (4:40 arrival), Jennifer Iller, Timothy Lepore, Pauline Proch (5:58 arrival) and Steve
3 Sortevik, NPS School Committee Clerk, Logan O'Connor & Guest, Glenn Koocher, MASC Executive Director.
4 Also present at the Workshop, David Creed, newspaper reporter, Alice Crowley, Teacher and NTA Co-President,
5 Tracy Mailloux, Teacher and current Parent.
6

7 The workshop was called to order as a quorum was present, by Chair, Tim Lepore, at 4:20 PM in the NPS District
8 Conference room. Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Jennifer Iller, and
9 the Committee approved unanimously. The Chair motioned to move to a Workshop with the same persons
10 approving.
11

12 Tim Lepore welcomed Mr. Glenn Koocher, MASC Executive Director. Mr. Koocher initiated his conversation by
13 talking about the new Commissioner of Education, Jeffrey Riley, who is seemingly demonstrating a hands-on
14 approach to his leadership. He spoke about the Commissioner's state wide tour, visiting districts and promising an
15 inclusive collaboration between schools and the state level. As a former Superintendent, Riley has been a receiver
16 from the Department of Education and understands "both sides of the desk". Mr. Koocher gave a fair amount of
17 information regarding legislature at the state and mentioned the the possibilities of the state reviewing School
18 Committee's as a whole and providing rubrics for evaluating their functionality.
19

20 Tim Lepore asked Mr. Koocher for updates about the Foundation Budget, Circuit Breaker and Chapter 70 monies.
21 Mr. Koocher gave some overview and talked about a surplus of funds existing in those pools, but explained sharing
22 these dollars out to districts solely based upon the numbers of disadvantaged students is not an accurate count (we
23 cannot always identify all), so it is tricky when determining awards to districts. Tim Lepore also asked about Free &
24 Reduced numbers helping to identify these students. Dr. Lepore moved then to Bilingual Law and his worry in not
25 letting the ELL students down when it comes to their education. Mr. Koocher reviewed how the Bilingual Law is
26 certainly helpful and provides more outlines to make sure we are accessing necessary monies to educate children that
27 have limited or interrupted education. He also emphatically stated the state needs to be flexible in their "punishing"
28 districts if scores are going down, because of the possibility of ELL scores impacting the overall scores. Mr.
29 Koocher added there are new strategies within the Bilingual Law that will help make the formulas work.
30

31 Mr. Koocher then discussed 'Norms & Protocols' and how School Committee's as a whole can model exemplary
32 practices in their Roles and Responsibilities which are: Establishing Policy, setting the Budget, negotiating Collective
33 Bargaining Agreements, hiring the Superintendent, and running their meetings. He discussed that law does not
34 always tell you what to do and how to drive your initiatives, but a good relationship with the School Committee and
35 the Superintendent is paramount. Mr. Sortevik assumed rhetorically, that School Committee has significant authority
36 for curriculum. Mr Koocher stated that through Policy and District Goals, this is what can drive curriculum but that
37 Superintendent and the Principals have the authority in their prospective buildings. There was a fair amount of
38 discussion regarding unions, the new Janus ruling, and new School Committee membership responsibilities. Mr.
39 Koocher offered many anecdotal examples from other districts and how good practice or bad practice outcomes were
40 shaped by the meeting protocols.
41

42 Jenn Iller wished to move to Public Comment and asked for some clarification from Mr. Koocher. Mr. Koocher
43 affirmed all Public Comment should go through the chair, items should be relating to school only, and the Chair and
44 School Committee should be wary of attendees of meeting (no matter who they are) from highjacking the public
45 comment section and vying from the Agenda. It was noted a Policy stipulates the rules and outlines for Public
46 Comment and the Chair can determine conversation limits, topics, and the opportunity to address comments at
47 another meeting.
48

49 Conversation moved to the next item on the Agenda - the hiring of the Superintendent and establishing the Search
50 Committee. Mr. Koocher discussed at length, the School Committee's options with regard to what the search and

Nantucket School Committee
Workshop Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2018

51
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

hiring entails and to determine if they are: moving with internal candidates or looking to go outside our island walls - casting a wide net for applications, using a search firm (at some level or not) such as MASC or NEASC to aid in the search, the process of creating the job outline, selecting the search committee, holding the interviews, and utilizing the Central Office as a main conduit were all topics to consider. Open Law meeting was reviewed at length with regard to the functionality of what the School Committee can do and when, depending upon Regular Session meetings, Workshop Session meetings or Executive Sessions. All meetings must be posted officially. Dr. Lepore thought spending money on securing a search firm for help is money spent wisely. All members agreed they wanted some form of assistance from a search firm, but were not yet able to articulate how much assistance. Jenn Iller thought providing a Stipend to someone to run the Search Committee and be the Facilitator might be something to contemplate. The School Committee talked about the previous times Nantucket hired the Superintendents, and how the processes moved during those hires. Steve Sortevik blanketly asked how do we get started recognizing the need to jump quickly. Mrs. O'Connor shared with the School Committee there is already large staff interest in being on the Search Committee and that people have been submitting their names consistently. She also informed the School Committee an ad was placed in the Inquirer & Mirror which will broadly advertise the opportunity to be considered for the Search Committee. The School Committee agreed they want to gather a list of people expressing interest and it was determined Mrs. O'Connor will provide the list so they can review and the Chair can determine the final names by the next meeting tentatively scheduled for October 23rd or 30th.

At 6:20 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Steve Sortevik and seconded by Jennifer Iller, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Logan O'Connor
School Committee Clerk