

**Nantucket School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2020**

Present Members: Chair Jennifer Iller, Vice Chair Timothy Lepore, Zona Butler, Pauline Proch and Steve Sortevik

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Chair Jennifer Iller, in the Nantucket High School LGI. Zona Butler made a motion to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Steve Sortevik and was approved unanimously.

**Comments from the Public**

None

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

**Draft Calendar #11 – Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Hallett**

Dr. Elizabeth Hallett offered this draft #11 of the Calendar for 2020-2021, which had previously been shared with Principals and Staff for review and feedback. There were two slight changes to this draft: The first change is moving the Professional Development day in October (annually offering PD in Nantucket for core teachers and PD in Hyannis at Cape Cod Collaborative for Encore teachers) to November 2 and by including November 3 (Election Day) as a day of no school, giving two entire days dedicated to PD as well as a four day weekend for families. The second change is making December 23 an off day of school to allow for holiday travel. This day in December pushes the last day of school to June 25. A late Labor Day is what often drives the calendar overall and Dr. Hallett did remind the School Committee if there are indeed snow days that winter we might push into the last week of June. Mrs. Proch reaffirmed she was appreciative of the opportunity for everyone to weigh in and make their preferences known.

**K-5 Science Curriculum Review**

**Director of C&A-Stem, Michael Horton & CPS Science Teacher, Mandy Bardsley**

Michael Horton introduced Amanda Bardsley who is the Coordinator for the K-5 Science Review Team, newly established this year. The team is tasked with assessing and developing a curriculum for Science that combines the Massachusetts and National Science Standards and that effectively creates a vertical plan in grades K-5. Mandy Bardsley began her presentation with a quote “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” She is eager to gather the established group of teachers (Taylor Murphy, Annie Dixon, Taylor O’Brien, Rosemary Topham, Eliza Koso, Jennifer Lewis) to prescreen, pilot and determine the science curriculum by exploring shifts in the subject and creating a baseline to move forward. The group has outlined to - Plan, Prescreen, Explore, Evaluate and Present. Dr. Bardsley further detailed the Goals within each category to show how they will accomplish these tasks. There are gaps in the science curriculum, and it is necessary to establish the Next Generation Science Standards with the hope to roll this out to students for the upcoming academic year. The group has set a goal to prepare a presentation to staff in June in order to get timely feedback to drive the direction for the roll out in Fall. Dr. Lepore stated he is interested to see how this will ‘flush out’ and Dr. Bardsley added these standards will help the staff learn where the deficiencies lie to help aid in learning. Dr. Hallett thanked everyone involved and complimented the willingness of this group working together to launch the initiative in NES/NIS. She furthered this is a huge step forward for sustaining a strong science program.

**Committee discussion and votes to be taken**

Vote to Approve the District Improvement Plan

Zona Butler asked to have a motion to discuss the plan before voting; she made the motion, which was seconded by Pauline Proch and approved. Mrs. Butler was concerned about the dates written in the current DIP plan, specifically where there are items checked off as finished or currently in process and felt that some of the dates needed to be updated before she voted to approve. She gave an example of where she was looking at a date change. Dr. Hallett reminded the School Committee the District Improvement Plan is a fluid plan, a ‘living document’ and can and will be updated as we move through the plan and throughout the year. Mrs. Butler was still uncomfortable without the changes being made, saying she felt it would be out of sync. Pauline Proch reiterated she understood the point and if the dates were tweaked, perhaps everyone would be comfortable to vote for approval. She made a motion, Zona Butler seconded the motion, with none opposed, the motion was carried.

Vote to Approve School Improvement Plans for NHS, CPS, NIS, NES

Steve Sortevik asked the status on the CPS Intervention pertaining to that SIP. Principal Julie Lamoly responded to him that the process outlined in their plan has started with the Administrative Team involved to ensure it is an adequate plan.

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Mr. Sortevik asked if there is a designated person as the Interventionist and Mrs. Lamoly answered those in need work with School Counselors during the day. The School Committee then readied for a vote, Pauline Proch made a motion, it was seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Calendar 2020-2021

Steve Sortevik made a motion, it was seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Donation from Nantucket Wine & Food Festival Charitable Foundations to NHS Culinary Arts Program \$10,000.00

Tim Lepore made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Nancy Serafini to NCS Ready, Set, Read Program, \$1,014.00

Zona Butler made a motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve January 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the minutes, Zona Butler seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

Zona Butler made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Steve Sortevik seconded, the motion was approved.

**Superintendent's Report – Elizabeth Hallett, Deputy Superintendent**

**Principal Search**

The Deputy Superintendent gave an overview on the posted position for the High School Principal position. She shared with the committee where the position has been posted and that a job description is attached where possible. Seven organizations have this position posted live: NESDEC, MASS, MASC, School Spring, TopJobs, EdWeekly print and online and AASA. Dr. Hallett has begun to establish the Search Committee and it is in the preliminary stages. She has a good number of constituencies represented from staff to students, parents and community members. She is targeting to schedule the first meeting with the committee in mid-late February and begin interviewing in March. So far there are some interesting candidates, but it is early.

**CPS Scheduling**

Deputy Superintendent Hallett shared that an off-island Middle School Principal seasoned with scheduling work in his purview, Chris Pollett, will be coming to Nantucket to share his expertise on scheduling at the middle school level. He represents NELMS and is coming to present a full day workshop to help guide the work to produce an effective and learning appropriate schedule for next year. She looks forward to his visit. Mr. Sortevik asked about the team of staff who will participate in this workshop and was this via self-selection. Dr. Hallett explained that the scheduling team originated from the task force that was formed in Fall and included most of the scheduling team who volunteered in summer to produce a functioning schedule. She appreciated the work put in thus far and praised the talented team for their continued work.

**Enrollment**

Dr. Hallett offered enrollment for the month of January and cited we are at 1677 which is two students less than the previous month. She stated the withdrawals are based on a wide variety of reasons, from personal decisions, outside placements, dropouts, and economy/housing, and that the numbers are not based on just one factor. Mrs. Butler looked to each Principal for some explanation to their numbers. She was curious about holiday break withdrawals and are all those students back in school, she was curious about any overlap. Steve Sortevik was concerned about the numbers in middle school, focusing on 7<sup>th</sup> grade as the biggest class ever. He was under the impression most students from the private schools come in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, but Dr. Hallett and Pauline Proch assured him it was usually 6<sup>th</sup> grade and we can be prepared for those entries. Dr. Hallett said the Administrators are keenly aware of the numbers, especially for scheduling purposes.

**Sub-Committees:**

Cape Cod Collaborative

Mrs. Butler attended the State Legislative Breakfast. She enjoyed the gathering and shared there were many compliments given to Nantucket for being so welcoming with diversity and how we are accommodating the different ethnicities on our

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island. There was a positive specific comment pertaining to the full Spanish Mass at the Catholic church, not a common thing in all districts in the Commonwealth.

Negotiations

Mr. Sortevik said they are ongoing, and they have agreed on two issues.

Safety and Security

Mrs. Iller said the committee meets next week.

Policies

Mr. Sortevik asked about new policies from MASC. Zona Butler talked about how the Sub Committee reviews the policies. Jennifer Iller said she would share an email she had received from MASC pertaining to policy adoption.

**On the Horizon**

There was discussion about holding a Workshop for the Self Evaluation in March. The Committee was asked to have their completed Self Evaluation to the Clerk no later than March 3, 2020. The School Committee agreed they would not hold a second meeting in February. There was preliminary conversation about the Superintendent Evaluation and how they must start that process.

At 6:44pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Steve Sortevik and seconded by Pauline Proch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk