

**Nantucket School Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 17, 2019**

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2 Present Members: Chair Jennifer Iller, Vice Chair Timothy Lepore, Zona Butler, Pauline Proch, Steve Sortevik and  
3 Student Council Representative, Joel MacVicar  
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5 The meeting was called to order at 5:58 PM, by Chair Jennifer Iller, in the Nantucket High School LGI. It was  
6 requested to amend the agenda to move the School Committee Self Survey Results lower in the order of  
7 presentations that evening and to table the CPS Handbook approval until the Policy Sub Committee had reviewed the  
8 document. Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the updated agenda, it was seconded by Pauline Proch and was  
9 approved unanimously.  
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11 **Comments from the Public**

12 Tracy Mailloux, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher and Parent shared she appreciated the healthy debate on School  
13 Committee goals at the Workshop Meeting of September 3. In finalizing their goals, she encouraged the School  
14 Committee to remember to place the students first and focus less on the responsibilities of the members as  
15 individuals.  
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17 Alice Crowley, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math Teacher, read a letter (attached) to the School Committee on behalf of the Nantucket  
18 Teacher's Association. She expressed the union's concern that the schedule was not ready for the opening of the  
19 school year, while lauding the CPS teachers for their efforts to make the first days of school productive.  
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21 **Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee**

22 **Summer School Academic Programs 2019**

23 Ms. Andrea Maher, Summer School Coordinator and Samantha Kodak, ELL Teacher in Nantucket Elementary  
24 School presented their summary of the Extended School year (ESY), Title I, and Title III Programming. The  
25 program this year was for three hours per day, four days per week for a total of five weeks. There were 208 total  
26 students in ESY/Grant Funded programs: 168 in NES & NIS, 40 students in CPS & NHS and included 25 teachers, 5  
27 specialists, 18 teaching assistants, 1 volunteer and 2 coordinators. The Summer Boost program: 18 students, 1  
28 teacher, 1 teaching assistant/translator, 3 support staff (made up of 9-12 grade students). Students for all  
29 programming were provided bus transportation. The goal of the program(s) is to maintain the progress made during  
30 the previous academic year. Ms. Maher gave a breakdown of the participant numbers per class and grade and offered  
31 sample schedules, along with information about the writing and reading units of study and the Math units covered.  
32 Ms. Kodak offered attendance rates/percentages and discussed the improvement or regression in each academic  
33 category of Reading, Writing, Math and Science. The numbers were positive, showing strong percentages in the  
34 'maintained/improvement' area which was determined based upon standard assessments. Ms. Kodak also was  
35 enthusiastic to share information about specific rubrics for both teachers and students, noting the positive  
36 professional learning environments (co-teaching and modeling) as impactful for everyone. The two shared  
37 photographs of all the students hard at work and clearly felt this year was a very successful year.  
38

39 Ms. Kodak mentioned to the School Committee that offering some kind of arrangement for food for the students  
40 would be helpful, feeling some came to school without proper breakfast or lunch. Mrs. Proch was saddened to hear  
41 this news and wanted to explore options to offset this concern. Mrs. Proch was further curious about babysitting  
42 offerings so those students who could not participate in the summer programs due to caring for their own siblings  
43 versus coming to school. Dr. Lepore asked if we could offer the summer program during vacations or the winter  
44 break? Superintendent Cozort jumped into to remind the Committee this is where Innovative Pathways has been so  
45 helpful, working to address skills and knowledge needed at that late high school stage in order to move forward in the  
46 student's next path choice. Mr. Cozort also circled back to the food conversation and suggested perhaps Nantucket  
47 Education Trust (NET) and other such sources might be an option to reach out to for funding. He was curious about  
48 the tipping point for students, wondering aloud how much school is too much because everyone needs a break. Ms.  
49 Maher responded it was her opinion 15-20 days is a good balance based on historical data, and the overall feelings of  
50 students, families, and performance. It is also important for our staff to have a chance to recoup prior to the start of  
51 school.

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**Nantucket Community School 2019 Summer Programming – Director of Community School, Tracy Roberts**

Director Tracy Roberts stated the summer programming was very successful and comprised mostly of children’s programs. She began by reviewing Summer Boost, a readiness program offered to 4 & 5 year-olds who have not had formal preschool experience and are going to enter kindergarten in the Fall. The Boost program is funded through NET, Community Foundation for Nantucket (CFN), and the Harvey Foundation. The program mimics the Extended Year summer program, running for five weeks and it was made up of 18 Boost students, 2 teachers, and 3 high school interns.

Providing color graphs, Mrs. Roberts briefed the Committee about the numbers for the ACKVenture Day Camp, the ACK Farming & Gardening Camp, the Sports Camps and Learn to Swim. The participation numbers were generally full and worked well with the Extended Day pairing, allowing some children to participate in both morning and afternoon programs. Specifically, sports camps are dependent on staffing qualifications and she cited the Tennis camp as increasing tenfold this year when a tennis pro was hired to run that camp. She felt a close eye on the Bridge camp (two weeks at the end of summer prior to the start of school and designed to provide coverage when traditional camps are over) was warranted as these numbers were uncharacteristically low this year. She will decide the viability of this program for next summer. Mrs. Roberts offered the pool day pass and membership statistics for the last three years – memberships were up slightly and pool programming, which includes swim team, was substantially increased from 23 to 45. Mrs. Roberts thanked the many community partners for continuing to support NCS. Mrs. Proch felt the Bridge weeks were most likely attractive to working parents and she thought another survey to determine the needs and/or choices as to why select the Bridge camp or not, might be helpful. She also wanted to ensure NCS was reaching out to possible non-swimmers who might not be participating and might not know about the swim options.

**School Committee Self Survey Results – Field Director of MASC, Jim Hardy**

Mr. Hardy, at a previous School Committee meeting, had charged the Committee the task to take part in a Self-Survey designed to help reinforce the characteristics of a high performing School Committee and decipher where our Committee stands. The Committee was asked to submit the results to him so he could collate and report back. He finalized two questions out of the results: 1) How much time was spent on tasks; and 2) How important is the task to you? The two need to balance one another so that the Committee is not spending time on unimportant tasks, and likewise, not enough time on important tasks. Out of eight areas, and with a choice of Significant time, Sometime, Minimal Time, None, & Don’t Know, Mr. Hardy was able to determine a weighted average that would help the Committee be most successful. He aligned these results with the draft School Committee Goals which he felt was a “good document” and should be used as a tool. Identifying important areas and supporting these with evidence allows the Committee to have a living document that will be continually updated and can track progress. Mr. Hardy stressed to the Committee it is important for everyone to be in sync, and everyone needs to share and ‘buy-in’ with collective goals. He cited an example of losing weight vs. losing a specific amount of weight in a specific time frame – this make the goal more tangible and attainable.

This conversation led to a discussion about the most effective way to use the School Committee time and, specifically, discussed options of bi monthly meetings following the prescribed agenda, or maybe more work focused in sub-committee meetings or Workshop sessions. Some School Boards have one meeting per month and let the sub committees do a proportional amount of work while other Boards meet more often - it varies throughout the districts. Mr. Hardy stated regardless of the meeting schedule, it is imperative to be most specific when it comes to presentations and what information the School Committee is looking for and this can be accomplished by setting expectations. If the School Committee is more specific in the framework of what information they are seeking, this will ultimately drive the outcome/presentation and will be more informative. Mr. Hardy asked if the School Committee or the district is aware of when presentations are expected. Superintendent Cozort reminded, through the Chair, of the Horizon document that is part of every agenda packet and is specifically intended to keep calendar track of presentations for the year, in a monthly and weekly outline. Steve Sortevik felt, in his opinion, the survey results might suggest the need for more meeting time. He is not opposed to meeting more often. It is his belief the number

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103 of goals is intimidating and had a specific question about how to direct the Administrators to ensure goals are being  
104 met. Chair Jenn Iller stated her objective is to ensure the meetings are productive and the Committee feels the  
105 agenda is accomplished. Zona Butler reiterated her feeling about being together on the ‘same page’. Pauline Proch  
106 felt these results and discussion were helpful to expand her vision for her role as a Committee member. She was  
107 particularly satisfied with the draft Goals and hoped to have a Goal (and Evidence) listed on every agenda for  
108 discussion and to assist in keeping the document and the Committee accountable. Mr. Hardy acknowledged Student  
109 Council Representative, Joel MacVicar, and was very pleased to know NPS had a student voice. He shared that of  
110 160 districts in the Commonwealth there are only a few that have a Student Representative. Master MacVicar  
111 offered he liked the goals and how they were very thorough. He gave an example of a football analogy: preplanning,  
112 breaking down each area specifically, and then meeting collectively as a team to execute the plan.  
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115 In finalizing the presentation, Mr. Hardy stated he was pleased with the survey results. He reiterated that meetings  
116 need to focus on what is important, include functional roles, and stay on track. If there are more items to discuss,  
117 those important topics should be scheduled for separate discussions.  
118

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

120 Vote to Approve School Committee Goals. Steve Sortevik made a motion, Tim Lepore seconded, with none opposed  
121 the motion was approved.  
122

123 Vote to Approve CPS Handbook - Tabled until after the next Policy Subcommittee meeting.  
124

125 Vote to Approve Donation from Egan Maritime Institute to CPS for Maritime Studies \$21,221.25 Steve Sortevik  
126 made a motion, seconded by Tim Lepore, with none opposed, the motion was approved.  
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128 Vote to Approve Donation from Nantucket Dolphins Swim Team Boosters to NCS for summer travel, \$224.00 Steve  
129 Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch , with none opposed, the motion was approved.  
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131 Vote to Approve August 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes & September 3, 2019 Workshop Session Meeting Minutes. Tim  
132 Lepore made a motion to approve both sets of the minutes, Zona Butler seconded both, with none opposed, the  
133 motion was approved.  
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135 Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

136 Tim Lepore made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Pauline Proch seconded, the motion was approved.  
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138 **Superintendent Report**

139 **Rotary Update**

140 Superintendent Cozort and Facilities Director, Diane O’Neil attended a meeting with Town concerning the Rotary at  
141 Surfside and Bartlett. He shared he made reminded the Town of the School Committee’s concerns regarding this  
142 Rotary. He shared that the Town has had this site studied by experts and believes it is the intention of the Town to  
143 move forward with their plans for this rotary. Andrew Vorce and Mike Burns both came to two of our School  
144 Committee meetings over a year ago, to discuss the rotary (where our Committee clearly voiced their disapproval) but  
145 all information now sounds like 2021 is the target date. Dr. Lepore was not shy about his concern for this decision,  
146 stating he believes it is a “horribly bad idea and a dangerous initiative”. He has supported the use of the stop signs as  
147 an alternative and reminded the Committee that the safety of our students and staff is paramount. Steve Sortevik  
148 asked about the other rotary in plan at the corner of Sparks and what about the voting for or against for funding at  
149 Town meeting. Superintendent Cozort mentioned if the Town and workforce go to the State for funding a vote might  
150 not be necessary. Chair Jenn Iller stated she specifically spoke with Andrew Vorce and was notified there is a  
151 workshop scheduled complete with engineer, so decisions are not final, as of yet. As discussion ensued, the  
152 Superintendent reminded he was making a presentation on the Rotary to keep the School Committee abreast of the  
153 latest information and if discussion was going to continue, the topic should be part of an agenda presentation.

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**Hiring Update**

Hiring stills continues to be a challenge. We need more Teaching Assistants.

**CPS Schedule**

Deputy Superintendent, Elizabeth Hallett reiterated the schedule in CPS has been a challenge, but the important component is to look ahead, not back, and to focus on areas for reconstruction in order to find a workable solution. Three areas to take into consideration: class size, common planning time and how the scheduling will work aligning with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. It is a difficult puzzle, one that seems to be now in a good place, but that might require tweaks for ELL and SPED to accommodate service delivery. Dr. Hallett noted many schools in the Commonwealth are struggling with more time on learning and creating a schedule to fit all the requirements. She agreed the CPS schedule is not perfect, that we can do better, and has suggested creating a task force/work group to find solutions for next year (and possibly this year). She thanked the dedicated staff who diligently worked and focused on a positive outcome and definitively stated the work would be done prior to next year in order to stave off a repeat situation.

**Budget Directive Draft**

Superintendent Cozort had previously sent to the School Committee, last years copy of the Budget Directives asking for feedback. He will bring forth at the next meeting, a draft for a vote.

**Subcommittees & Acknowledgements**

Sub-Committees:

- Policy Committee: meeting next week focusing on the CPS Handbook
- Negotiations: Began this past Monday, ironing out details. Teams have been identified, they will meet every two weeks.
- Student Support Services: Met the past Monday. Mrs. Proch met the new Social Workers at the prospective schools. There were good discussions of strategies for students.
- NET: There will be a meeting on Thursday.

**On the Horizon**

The next meeting on October 1 will have the MCAS, moved from the second meeting in October now to the first. The data is currently embargoed, but most likely that will be lifted by then and it will be important to have this information. Official enrollment will be in, the Homeschooling report, Budget Directives draft, and the School Resource Officers. Also, the approval of the CPS Handbook. There was discussion to add the Rotary conversation to a November meeting and Mrs. Proch asked to add Goals, and the discussion of how to manage these Goals. Jenn Iller suggested a Workshop for the Goals specifically.

**Student Council Representative**

At 7:59 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Zona Butler, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk