

**Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2019**

Present Members: Chair Jennifer Iller, Vice Chair Timothy Lepore, Zona Butler, Pauline Proch, Steve Sortevik and Student Council Representative, Joel MacVicar

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

Comments from the Public

None

Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee

NHS John & Abigail Adams Scholars – Dr. John Buckey, Principal NHS

Dr. Buckey was pleased to present a very large number of students who earned the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship Award. He pointed out the number of students used to hover around 15 and this year there were over 30 students. Based on MCAS scores, scoring Advanced on at least one test and averaging an overall scoring in the top 25% of the class total on those scores, this scholarship offers eight semesters of tuition to a Massachusetts state school. This opportunity has helped many students lessen the financial burden of college. The School Committee asked each student to share what they are considering for next year, and including travel and the Air Force, almost everyone had college on their horizon with some of the following majors in their plans: Criminology, Business, Biology, Film Production, Communications, Marketing, Computer Science, Sports Management, Humanities, Astronomy, Pre-Med, Pre-Vet, Education, Engineering, International Development, and Nursing School. The School Committee was impressed and delighted to hear from the students and wished them congratulations.

NCTM Boston – Director of C&A, Michael Horton and Math Teachers

Michael Horton along with Kara Carlson (grade 5), Jeannie Critchley (NIS Math Intervention), Deb Davis (grade 2 [not present]), and Elise Goeglein (NES/NIS Math Coach) all attended the NCTM Conference in Boston. Mr. Horton was ‘wowed’ by the second day, saying it was the best professional development sessions he has seen. The focus on this conference was equity for all children, putting systems in place to provide an equal opportunity for success no matter what kind of learner. Ms. Goeglein illustrated the idea of building conceptual understanding by using a hands on/manipulatives approach, progressing to pictorial/drawing and writing approach, to then abstract/using the algorithm. The idea behind this methodology is to slow the pace down, ensure students are at the same level as they move forward and close any gaps along the way. There is also heavy focus on interactive learning among their own peers, having “Accountable Talk” about what they see and why they each see the problems in a certain way, all which allows for more meaningful problem solving. Jeannie Critchley emphasized less talking from the teacher and more assessing about the students stages of learning as the teacher progresses around the room. Teaching from the background can help the adult determine who is ready to move forward and use a system through Exit Tickets which checks for a student’s understanding at the end of each lesson, assisting in planning the next lessons. They reviewed how lessons should be structured with shorter lectures and more work sessions/hands-on and how there should be talking before writing. Debate is a key component to aiding long term retention and “Accountable Talk” is meaningful, respectful and mutually beneficial to both speaker and listener, stimulating high order thinking. The teachers gave an example of a tape diagram or bar model to help pictorially represent part-to-whole relationships of math problems and which help solve more complex problems. They also talked about homework and decreasing the number of straight mathematical homework problems to make the sure students understand the word problems associated with math, citing less is more when it comes to deepening conceptual understanding. The enthusiasm from all those who attended was clear. Zona Butler said she is accustomed to old school math instruction and could the team help her understand how this system is working better. Mr. Horton said engaging the students is the key element, and the natural social interaction can help facilitate the math conversations. Mrs. Critchley added this system allows for more effective differentiation. The School Committee was very pleased with the participation and group work and with Math as a whole getting the attention needed to progress favorably in helping our Math scores.

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Town of Nantucket Energy Reduction Plan – TON Energy Coordinator Lauren Sinatra, Dawn Holdgate, Selectman Chair and Margaret Song, (Representative of CapeLight Compact)

Mrs. Dawn Holdgate opened the conversation by promoting the Energy Reduction Plan as a priority of the Board of Selectman. She described the plan as a fluid one, designed to include identified priorities and expressed her hope that the School Committee will follow suit and help secure the Town's Green Communities designation. Ms. Lauren Sinatra added the State accepting and confirming a Green Communities Grant Program depends on all Town departments sign off on the plan, emphasizing the community-wide efforts. Ms. Margaret Song reviewed why this plan will help with Capital funding and shared that Nantucket Public School's participation is necessary for the submission of the Grant. There began some discussion about which version of the plan was the most recent edition, all coming to the to the School Committee very late in the process even though this plan had been in progress for a much longer time period. The School Committee stated they received the first draft of the Plan on November 13th, 2019. They knew that the Facilities Director Diane O'Neil had gone through an energy audit in the late summer with recommendations stemming from that audit, yet they had not seen anything regarding the audit or any other documents concerning this topic. Steve Sortevik was concerned with agreeing to the current Plan, asking if we were committing to all the requirements stated in the plan and that he thought we did not have to do certain things if they are not already part of our Capital commitments. Jennifer Iller said she was led to believe as of last Friday (11/20) that the School Committee requesting more time to absorb and review the current plan would not impact the States blessing for 'Green Status'(we could be designated partially Green), but that now she was being told that is no longer an option. She added she feels this is a lot of pressure for the School Committee to agree to something when they do not have all the most current and accurate documents. Zona Butler offered that the Committee could not vote at this current meeting to agree or not because this vote is not on the agenda and regardless, felt more time was necessary for the Committee to review the plan and paperwork more thoroughly. Steve Sortevik added his trepidation committing to something if we do not know the funding is available. Pauline Proch said that while she understands the TON and the Energy Coordinator wanting the sign off from the School Committee in the next two days (deadline of 11/22) she needs more time to consider what is best for the district and asked for Ms. Song to provide a way to ensure all the important details are vetted. Ms. Song suggested the School Committee could support the Superintendent to write a letter to the State that NPS is committed to the Green efforts. Mrs. Holdgate added the Board of Selectman meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening will have the same vote as asked of the School Committee. She said the Plan updates have been consistently changing for the BOS too and that she had faith relying of the advice of experts. At that point, Ms. Song interjected a vote was not required if the School Committee indeed supported the Superintendent's writing a letter. Chair Jennifer Iller countered and wrapped up the conversation stating that, based on the uncertainty of the financial commitment required, the Committee could not confirm their report at this time. She asked to be more involved in the process of the Energy Plan and hoped that if this delayed anything by a year, the year could provide the timeline necessary to do what is best for the school district. She reiterated the School Committee is charged with just that task.

First Quarter Budget Report – Director Martin Anguelov

Director Martin Anguelov said he waited two weeks in order to present the budget numbers wanting to include the School Lunch Program. He presented the School Committee with the traditional MUNIS reports, but in a response to their request, he provided a new format for Budget Numbers showing comparison of Expense categories and a three year spread of numbers along with the current percentage of the actual budget used to date. He hoped this would address what the School Committee was hoping to see in a breakdown. Expenditures are \$30,982 more than a year ago, which represents 25% of expenditure funding committed to date and which is exactly the same as last year. Likewise, payroll expenses increased by \$31,177 for the same period which is 14% expended and again, the same as last year, considering the roll forward for the COL. He pointed out the difference in remuneration of 27 paychecks for FY20 versus the typical 26 paychecks noting every seven years this happens based on the calendar and electing to not prepaying staff on the payroll. He reviewed the large HVAC expenditures of last year and reminded the School Committee this is not a factor for FY20. He also pointed out the large percentage number for SPED tuition at 125% and mentioned to the Committee this is not 'overspent' it is covered by state funding for Circuit Breaker funding, but that it is usually applied in the 3rd quarter and he wanted this number to be represented and not a surprise.

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Mr. Anguelov reviewed the Community School Budget and reported a growth of \$56,330 over last year, which equates to an actual program revenue increase of \$6,330. The main difference is the \$50,000 uptick in the Town appropriation from last year of \$450,000 to this year of \$500,000. There was growth in the Extended Day and Summer Camps. However, there was a decrease in Adult Ed of \$14,612 and a decline in Driver's Education revenues of \$3,606 and much of that is reflected in the timing of revenues. He emphasized the commitment to providing programming while still being fiscally responsible and achieving a balance between revenues and expenses. Mrs. Proch asked about payroll differences and the breakout of the appropriation and how that impacts insurance for the staff of NCS. She also circled back to the regular budget numbers and asked about a specific equipment expense line of \$10,756 spent. Mr. Anguelov said he would double check what exactly fills that line item.

The School Lunch Program for September 2019 operated in a deficit of \$41,200 versus the same period for 2018 at \$38,699, yet sales dollars increased by \$2,766. This can be attributed to 21 days of operation for this year against 19 days for the last year. Free & Reduced meals in September represents 44% of the total meals served which is higher than 40% for last year. Mr. Anguelov feels product mix and higher participation rates in the program will drive the budget and the subsidy of \$55,436, maintaining a positive trend to reduce the deficit reduction overall. He continually commends the Food Service Director, Linda Peterson and Sarah Erichsen, who handles the F&R applications, for staying on top of these important pieces to help the SLUNCH program overall.

Federal Grants – Director of Finance, Martin Anguelov

Mr. Anguelov reviewed the Federal Grant chart and did a comparison for two years, FY 19 and FY20. In FY19 the total in grant money was \$621,045 and in FY20 (current year) the total is \$613,427, slightly down. He briefly reviewed the four distinct Title grants (I-remedial reading, II-professional development, III-ELL, IV-Safe Schools) and a new Perkins grant geared to Vocational learning. He also talked about the IDEA (SPED) monies that were a slight increase from \$385,703 for FY19 to \$392,217 for FY20.

Preliminary Budget Forecast FY 20 – Director of Finance, Martin Anguelov

Mr. Anguelov offered the Preliminary Budget forecast and reminded the School Committee this is early in the process and the figures start out with the roll forward numbers without any additions. The projected estimated budget appropriation for FY21 is \$31,082,154 with payroll being \$25,864,534 (83%) and expenses at \$5,217,620 (17%). These percentages are right on target from the prior year which were exactly the same % in the same categories. One fact to mention is this is the largest (\$945,512) roll forward in years mostly because of payroll, but that more typically roll forward numbers hover in-between \$500,000-\$800,000. The budget development is always a collaborative process and when the different departments and schools present their budgets, we will determine what is most important and what we can allocate and where.

Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Approve Donation (fundraising 20% net) from Hayward Photography to NHS, \$2,143.11 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation (fundraising 20% net) from Hayward Photography to CPS, \$Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation (fundraising 25% net) from Hayward Photography to NIS, \$2,384.95 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Tim Lepore, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation (fundraising 25% net) from Hayward Photography to NES, \$3,064.74 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

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Vote to Approve Donation from EduKIT, Inc. for NES, as a referral bonus, \$200.00 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from St. Paul's Church to NES for additional School Supplies, \$353.91 Tim Lepore made a motion to approve by, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Anonymous to Adopt a Lunch Tray Program, \$500.00 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from David & Virginia Macaulay to Adopt a Lunch Tray Program, \$100.00 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Tim Lepore, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Sandra Morgan Adopt a Lunch Tray Program, \$150.00 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Tim Lepore, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Scheerer-Schwanbeck Charitable Fund via Community Foundation for Nantucket to Adopt a Lunch Tray Program, \$500.00 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve November 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Tim Lepore seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

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

Superintendent Report

Before jumping into the Budget Planning Calendar, the Superintendent wanted to bring to the attention of the School Committee, news from the Nantucket Children's Center (formerly Wee Whalers) sharing with its families the intention to close their doors on December 20. The Superintendent reminded the Committee how the Community School stepped in when this happened a few years ago to help keep the program afloat, but it is not the districts problem to solve. He feels this is a community issue to try to work for a solution. He shared he had a meeting scheduled for the following day for all key people and this will require some outreach to other providers to help provide some resolutions. Mrs. Butler asked why the doors are shutting and the Superintendent responded he does not, at this time, know any details.

Budget Planning Calendar

Superintendent Cozort presented the updated Budget Calendar with a January 16 request for the Budget presentation as that annually follows the Budget Hearing. There were a few new dates on the calendar, but not all dates were solidified.

Master Campus Plan

Mr. Cozort talked about the original Athletic Fields plan giving way to the need for the new Intermediate School. He noted that the district has a college campus feel and hopes to maintain this commitment as the district grows. Therefore, the new Master Plan should take into consideration where the "next" school might go and then determine where playing fields and other needs (tennis courts, staff housing) might fit in. He added that it has not yet been determined what configuration the next school might be, but wondered aloud if it might be a middle school with the high school then absorbing the existing middle school spaces. He stated that enrollment will determine how quickly these plans will need to be implemented, noting that this is the first year in the last ten that enrollment has leveled. He summed up this plan is both fun and daunting at the same time.

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Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Cape Cod Collaborative

Zona Butler attended in Hyannis and reported they were happy to have someone from Nantucket – no one had been to a meeting since the late Robin Harvey. Mrs. Butler said it was interesting to listen to conversations not just about busing issues and she was glad to attend and partake in a meeting. Superintendent confirmed with Mrs. Butler that remote participation remains an option.

Planning Board Economic Development Committee

Pauline Proch and Zona Butler attended this meeting with several public comments about the Rotary(s) as part of the planning for TON. While there were no votes, she was pleased that both she and Mrs. Butler had two opportunities each to describe their position (not in favor) on the Rotary at Bartlett Farm and Surfside Road and the impact this will have on our students. Both stated clearly, they are not convinced the Rotary is the solution to the traffic patterns, because while it might alleviate traffic it will not provide a safer cross walk for pedestrians, especially children.

Negotiations

Steve Sortevik stated things are moving mostly amicably, for now.

Student Support Services

Pauline Proch said the group continues to meet and discuss the needs of staff and students and how to best provide necessary resources.

On the Horizon

There will be the Food Services Update, Regional Music Competition report, MASC Conference Report, and Budget Development for Technology, Facilities, Community School and, Enrollment for the beginning of the month of December.

Student Council

Joel MacVicar said he was excited about the Powderpuff game for Friday evening at 6:30 and thanked students Morgan Winn, Rosha Kelly, and Advisor Seanda Bartlett for their help in planning and organizing the event.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk