

**Nantucket School Committee
Workshop Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2019**

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2 Present Members: Jennifer Iller, Zona Butler, Pauline Proch, Steve Sortevik, Superintendent W. Michael Cozort (left
3 at 6:15) and Deputy Superintendent, Elizabeth Hallett
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5 The workshop was called to order when a quorum was present, by Chair, Jennifer Iller at 5:35 PM in the Nantucket
6 District Conference Room. Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Pauline
7 Proch, and the Committee approved unanimously. The Chair motioned to move to a Workshop with the same
8 persons approving.
9

10 **School Committee Goals**

11 Chair Jennifer Iller welcomed everyone and stated the primary focus of this workshop is to keep the School
12 Committee Goals as a priority and determine how we stay on track. She raised the idea of Sub-Committees, and
13 there was a brief discussion about the efficacy of them versus keeping workshops as a place to have these deeper
14 conversations. Superintendent Cozort reminded that the Horizon is a vehicle to drive track the Goals. He believes it
15 is used to effectively review the full-year calendar and what topics, and milestones are annually presented and a way
16 to add, move, or delete presentations as the School Committee sees fit. Superintendent Cozort added this document
17 exists to schedule teacher and student presentations, including sports, music, guidance, ELL, etc.... and can be
18 updated strategically. He also mentioned the Parking Lot section, which can include items that are a consideration
19 for a future presentation the Committee might like to have. Zona Butler asked to enlarge the Horizon document into
20 an 11x17 page, to increase the actual size of the calendar to be able to include more information.
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22 Pauline Proch jumped to the agenda format and wished to somehow add the Goals and how they correspond to the
23 agenda items. There was discussion about how to best illustrate this and the School Committee discussed numbering
24 Goals akin to the presentations and/or color coding them. The hope is to ‘tease out’ more from the Goal as stated and
25 allow the public to see the Committee working with the live document and addressing these areas.
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27 **Pre – Budget Discussion**

28 Zona Butler asked to have a different summary sheet of the budget for their quarterly reports. She would prefer to
29 see a condensed version of the budget detail rather than the large General Ledger that the Committee is provided on a
30 quarterly basis. Mrs. Butler feels it is easier to review and follow summary detail that shows: the amount budgeted
31 in a specific area by major categories, the amount spent in those categories, and the amount available, as we move
32 forward through the fiscal year. She also asked for five years for comparison. Director of Finance, Martin Anguelov
33 asked a few questions to clarify the kind of one-page summary would best fit her request and talked about the
34 importance of the line items and the narrative summary that go hand in hand for the quarterly reports that he presents
35 four times per year. Superintendent Cozort reminded the Committee it is imperative to meet the requirements to
36 provide certain detail, because we are a municipality and per the state regulations. School Committee Clerk, Logan
37 O’Connor, through the Chair, concurred, saying we must be able to provide to the public the greater detail of the
38 General Ledger in addition to any one-page summary now being requested. Steve Sortevik queried about the Budget
39 reports the Committee receives that are the annual Budget presentations of each school. Superintendent Cozort
40 differentiated between the color graph and narrative summary reports that come to the School Committee from each
41 school and each department once the budgets are put together versus what the quarterly reports provide. There was
42 quick discussion about the process of roll-forward numbers (salary information with small room for contingency
43 budgeting) and how that is the first step in moving through the budget process. This is preliminary work followed by
44 the months of effort that goes into creating the overall budget to arrive at the numbers that are presented. Mr.
45 Anguelov agreed he would create a one-page summary for the Committee.
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47 **Horizon**

48 Conversation moved back to the Horizon and viewing what is on the docket for the next months. Superintendent
49 Cozort reminded the Committee the protocol in creating the Agenda is to work through the Chair. At this time, there
50 was discussion about moving Veritas presentation to a later date to accommodate a request that came through email
51 from Lauren Sinatra, Town Energy Coordinator. Ms. Sinatra asked to be put on the November 5 Agenda, and was

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53 offered November 19 as an option, which she agreed. Dr. Hallett, Superintendent Cozort, and Facilities Director
54 Diane O’Neil, have all been in touch with Ms. Sinatra - more information needs to be fleshed out before anything is
55 acted upon on the School Committee side.

56
57 Relating to the Horizon, instead of sub-committees (as discussed earlier) it was suggested to sprinkle in a review and
58 update of School Committee Goals, four times on the Horizon. Conversation led to the possibility of more workshops
59 during each month and debate over the most efficient way to have a working dialogue. Dr. Hallett suggested, the
60 Committee will notice the ‘digging in’ of the Goals document, because you will see where the evidence aligns, you
61 will see it on the agenda, and it will be a work in progress. Mrs. Butler asked to have a way to know a goal has been
62 attained and Dr. Hallett responded she can be the keeper of the Goals and add benchmarks as needed. Pauline Proch
63 asked to have a presentation from the Assistant Principals, thinking it would be interesting to hear from them.
64 Superintendent Cozort responded he felt he would rather have them incorporated into a presentation stemming from
65 the Principals as this would round out the team leadership opportunities for the AP’s. Pauline Proch and Chair
66 Jennifer Iller also brought up the MASC conference taking place in November and asked for an update.

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68 **Budget**

69 Circling back to the budget, Mr. Anguelov clarified the summary he will provide and confirmed it will show three
70 years. Dr. Hallett reminded the School Committee that budgets take time to develop and she asked Mr. Anguelov his
71 opinion on where we stand now in the budget cycle for FY20. He spoke about the roll-forward numbers of current
72 contracts/salaries and re-explained this is a percentage based upon internal known numbers. He is comfortable with
73 the figures thus far. Steve Sortevik announced he wants to change the approach in how the School Committee goes
74 about the budget with the Town of Nantucket and feels NPS has been “gravely underfunded.” It is his opinion the
75 Committee needs to show a list of need, not want, and cited his discontent with higher percentages afforded to other
76 unions and factions of the Town budget comparative to what we have been given. Mrs. Butler agreed they should
77 present a realistic picture and asked if the Director of Finance “builds a contingency.” Mr. Anguelov responded he
78 understands both sides of the budgeting process, having worked in the Town Finance Department and now as the
79 Finance Director for school. He reminded the Committee the Town has been very fair with NPS, citing the Town
80 Manager receiving \$4.5 million dollars in requests from everyone in the Town, and giving the school \$1.45 million.
81 He reminded the school has been fortunate all these years, especially concerning big projects (like NIS) and the
82 Heating/Cooling systems, and most recently, the additional and last minute \$135,000 given for Technology 1:1. He
83 furthered the possibility of a flattening economy will create more challenges and our good relationship with the Town
84 is a key element. Mr. Sortevik stated he wants an Override if Town does not give us what we want and alluded to the
85 Override for Our Island Home. Mr. Anguelov cautioned strongly, this is not a good idea and linking the school
86 needs with OIH needs are not even one and the same. The discussion moved to insurance, specifically, where Town
87 stands with Master Medical and the potential cost savings in doing away with that option. Mr. Sortevik also asked
88 about HMO plans and the availability of this for Town employees.

89
90 Pauline Proch added to the conversation, her concern about the Community School budget appropriation and feels it
91 is not enough money for NCS to sustain. She described their programming catering to the most vulnerable
92 population and the cost of insurance to the key employees of NCS makes it almost impossible for them to stay afloat.
93 Mr. Anguelov reminded the Committee of the great amount of appropriation money that has come to the NCS from
94 Town over the last decade and understands the budgeting is difficult working with revolvers and grants, but the
95 challenge remains in how to make it work.

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97 At 6:50 the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Steve Sortevik, and
98 unanimously approved.

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100 Respectfully submitted,
101 Logan O’Connor, School Committee Clerk