

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2024

Present Members: Chair Pauline Proch, Laura Gallagher Byrne, Timothy Lepore, Esmeralda Martinez, and Student Representative Bruna Jenzura. Also present from the Studio, an NCTV Representative. This meeting is an in-person participation meeting in compliance with Governor Charlie Baker's statement allowing public bodies the ability to hold a meeting at a physical location that is open to the public, without requiring to provide alternative means of remote access.

The February 20, 2024, School Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM in the Nantucket High School LGI by Chair Pauline Proch with a motion made to approve the agenda by Timothy Lepore, seconded by Esmeralda Martinez and approved unanimously.

There was no Public Comment.

In Superintendent Hallett's absence, the meeting proceeded to presentations.

Seal of Biliteracy - Barbara Cohen, Director of English Language Learners

Barbara Cohen, the Director of English Language Learners, began the presentation by introducing the Seal of Biliteracy which schools, districts, or states give to commend students proficient in two or more languages by high school graduation. She announced NPS's participation in the program for the first time this year and elaborated on the criteria for earning the seal. This includes MCAS scores meeting or surpassing 472 from Spring 2019 onwards, along with achieving an intermediate high score on an approved word language assessment as per the ACTFL proficiency guidelines of 2012. She noted the proactive stance of the Bulgarian school on the island in requesting the Seal of Biliteracy. Ms. Cohen highlighted that the Seal is recognized by colleges, fulfilling language requirements and reducing costs. Additionally, she mentioned its importance in providing evidence of language skills to employers, potentially leading to higher salaries through negotiation. Ms. Cohen then played a video from DESE.

Mrs. Martinez asked if alumni could apply for it. Ms. Cohen was not sure but would look into it.

Dr. Lepore asked if signing counts as a language. Ms. Cohen responded yes.

Ms. Jenzura thinks it is great and mentioned it was going to be brought up at an upcoming scholarship meeting with Seniors.

Ms. Proch asked about the test and thinks it is a great opportunity for our students to maintain their home language. Ms. Cohen clarified that the tests must be ordered through the state.

Nantucket Community School Sport & Camp Report - Jazmine Kasperzyk, Wellness Coordinator and Adrienne Peterson, ACKventure Camp Coordinator

The Community School presentation began with Sport and Wellness Coordinator Jazmine Kasperzyk outlining her roles and duties. She then detailed the various programs offered, including CPR & First Aid certification, tennis, gymnastics, QiGong, and yoga. Additionally, seasonal programs such as Summer Sports Clinics featuring flag football, basketball, tennis, and gymnastics were mentioned, with gymnastics being available year-round. Ms. Kasperzyk expressed pride in the popularity of the CPR & First Aid certification program. Adrienne Peterson, the ACKventure Camp Coordinator, outlined her responsibilities and discussed the day camps, emphasizing the partnerships with various island organizations. ACKventure Jr. is tailored for ages 3-4, operating from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with an optional Early Bird session from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Meanwhile, ACKventure full day serves ages 5-8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., also offering an Early Bird option. Peterson highlighted the privilege of utilizing NIS facilities including the playground, indoor spaces, fields, and the high school pool. Additionally, she mentioned collaborations with the Linda Loring Nature Foundation, Maria Mitchell Association, NiSHA, Nantucket Historical Association, Sophie T's, and Hang Loose Helado ice cream truck.

Laura asked if they offer scholarships. Adrienne Peterson explained they offer financial aid. Sports program no, but locals receive a discount in any program.

Dr. Lepore asked about lacrosse camp. Ms. Kasperzyk responded that there wasn't enough interest.

Mrs. Gallagher Byrne asked how they recruit counselors.

Ms. Kasperzyk noted that in previous years, there were more off-island applications, whereas this year there is an increase in applications from residents as well as high school students.

Mrs. Proch inquired about the location for gymnastics classes, recalling challenges in previous years related to equipment and logistics.

Ms. Kasperzyk replied that equipment is stored at both NES and CPS and further explained how she pulls out the equipment she needs per class. She also gave praise to the apprenticeship program for its valuable assistance, expressing gratitude for their support.

Committee discussions and votes to be taken

Vote to approve honorary diploma for Eunice Ross, Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Timothy Lepore seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the donation from The Nantucket Golf Club Foundation to Nantucket Community School's ACKventure Camp for \$20,9000.00. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Esmeralda Martinez seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the donation from the Will Brown Donor Advised Fund to Nantucket Community School's Learn to Swim program for \$500.00. Timothy Lepore made a motion to approve, Esmeralda Martinez seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the donation from MIT Club of Cape Cod to Nantucket High School Science Department for \$600.00. Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Timothy Lepore seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Vote to approve the Nantucket High School overnight field trip to The Boston Public Library on March 29 & 30, 2024. Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Timothy Lepore seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Transfers and Invoices, Laura Gallagher Byrne made a motion to approve, Timothy Lepore seconded, and with no opposed vote, the motion was approved

Sub-Committee/Work Group Report

Ms. Gallagher Byrn reported she attended a Nantucket Education Trust meeting and is looking forward to working with the Committee. She also attended the Cape Cod Collaborative meeting which focused on the lack of teacher staffing and on a happy note everyone has bus drivers.

Ms. Proch reports that TA negotiations are finishing up. She also reported the meeting for the school lunch meeting will be in early March and will have more updates for the lunch program.

Student Council Representative - Bruna Jenzura

Ms. Jenzura reported students are ready for the Winter break and noted the principals' list was last week. Then highlighted the golf club scholarship dinner tomorrow night.

Pauline asked about the number of students who applied for the scholarship. Ms. Jenzura was unsure of the number of students

Agenda for the next meeting, March 5, 2024 - March Student Enrollment, Dropout Rate Report, High School Program of Study, MCAS Civics Pilot. - March 12, 2024 Workshop Meeting at 5:00 PM

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:33 PM by Timothy Lepore, seconded by Esmeralda Martinez, with none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Bedell

School Committee Clerk