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NAUSET REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Meeting of February 5, 2009  
Held at the Nauset Regional Middle School

APPROVED

MAR 5 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Bob Jones

ROLL CALL:

- For the committee: Ed Brookshire, Dion Dugan, Bob Jones, Bonnie-Jean Nunheimer, Greg O'Brien, Paul O'Connor, Jon Porteus, Fred Walters (Absent: Maureen Voke, Rick Wood)
- For the administration: Michael Gradone, Gail Briere, Ann Caretti, Hans Baumhauer, Tom Conrad, Greg Baecker, Kathy Schrock
- Also present: Town officials, staff, the press, interested citizens

CITIZENS SPEAK

- Mr. Jones explained that if anyone wished to address the Committee regarding the FY 10 budget that they should hold their comments until the Superintendent reviews the proposed cuts to the budget. Following his presentation, the Chair will recognize anyone who wishes to speak. No one wished to address the Committee at this time.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

- Administrators' Reports

Mr. Baecker reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take the National Test of Progress in Math, Science and ELA; the Arts Day on January 30 began and ended with a music program and the students and staff enjoyed the day dedicated to the Arts; over 220 students have signed up in teams to participate in the Book Bowl; there are more students participating in the before school programs than in the afternoon. He recommended that the late buses be eliminated beginning one week from Friday in order to realize savings. Mr. Gradone said that he, Mr. Baecker and Mr. Baumhauer have met to discuss this issue. He asked that the Committee authorize him to determine if this is an option we should consider; making reductions now may avoid further reductions in the future. *It was moved by Paul O'Connor and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Nunheimer to authorize the superintendent to cancel the afternoon buses if he determines that this savings is in the best interests of the program.* Mr. Gradone also explained that they will be looking at changing some of the afternoon programs to mornings. Ms. Nunheimer felt one week's notice was not a sufficient amount of time for parents to make arrangements. **Voted unanimously.**

Mr. Conrad reported on the successful winter sports, although the weather has been difficult for rescheduling games/practices, etc.; musicians are preparing for the All-State performance; the Jazz Festival is on the 26<sup>th</sup>; Pops Concert is Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m.; pre-registration is starting and he'll be meeting with the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School and Nauset Middle School eighth graders; the Program of Studies is on the Website giving us great savings there; Christopher Thomas will be going to the State Shakespearean Competition; Senior Class Officers requested to have a fudge sale to raise money so they can donate some of the profits to the Wind Turbine (the Senior Class voted full support).

Ms. Briere reviewed her report on the Region Professional Development Activities which took place on January 16 both in-house and at the Collaborative. Mr. Gradone reported that the Drivers' Ed course is being discussed with the possibility of discontinuing this program partly because of the liability and the periodic expense of putting new cars on

the road; he will report back after meeting with the Drivers' Ed instructors. The letters to retirees regarding Section 18 have gone out. (Mr. O'Brien arrived)

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- Consider FY 10 Budget

Mr. Gradone explained that the budget presented has six fewer educational assistants than when the budget was first recommended. We are graduating seniors with special educate needs meaning that is up less than 1%; transportation is level funded (will go out to bid the next year); Central Office reduced one-half of a position and hopes to reduce more with anticipated retirements. He reported on the situation with E&D which is compromised because Brewster won't be going for an override as anticipated last year when we reduced E&D to \$250,000 at their request; income is down 3.38% and the total operating budget is at 6.7%. He then reviewed the proposed FY 10 budget reductions of \$500,000 which the Committee had requested at the last meeting. There are five tiers with each totaling \$100,000. Cuts included equipment and supplies, professional development, athletics, staffing, and programs. These cuts will affect students and there will be fewer programs next year with fewer teachers, and class sizes will increase. Six administrators worked on developing the list but the final say is the superintendent's. High School athletics will be reduced by scheduling fewer games, no pre-season away games, supplies and uniforms. Art at the Middle School will be reduced by one day, team leaders' stipends will be eliminated. Mr. Conrad will look at class signups to determine what will be cut to eliminate one day of teaching at the High School. In Tier III, tutorials will be reduced, music and applied arts will be reduced and Mr. Conrad will meet with teachers to decide what can be reduced by \$15,000. Consumer science will be eliminated which will have an impact on the Middle School schedule. Project Access will be reduced and fewer School Choice students will be accepted. Summer school for special education students will be affected. If these cuts are voted, it will bring the budget to 3.75% over FY 09. Supt. Gradone then talked about the Federal Stimulus Package and what it may mean to the district. In '09, construction won't affect the Nauset Region. Title IA = \$44,400; IDEA = \$222,900 for a total of \$267,300. in '10, Title IA = \$44,400 and IDEA = \$245,600 for a total of \$301,000. To bring the budget to 2.5%, \$212,500 is needed which will leave \$88,500 that can go to E&D. It's important to keep reserves in E&D.

- Citizens Speak – Budget

At this time, Chair Jones opened the meeting to anyone who wished to speak to the budget. A Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher addressed the Committee as her position will be cut if these proposed cuts are made. Another person asked why this situation was not foreseen. Mr. Gradone said it is the state of the economy and it was not anticipated that it would be so bleak.

- Committee Discussion

It was asked what alternatives there might be to making these cuts and if staff had been advised if their position is being cut or reduced. The principals talked with those who may be affected before this public discussion. Mr. Dugan asked about wage freezes as a possibility. Supt. Gradone explained that the Joint School Committees had taken not action on this at their last meeting when this was brought up. The Chair allowed Town Officials present to answer questions from the Committee. In answer to the question of overrides, Mr. Fiegel (Orleans Fin. Com.) said they would not favor an override, their departments are living within the 2.5% and are making cuts to do so. Mrs. Fulcher said to go for an override the schools would have to make more cuts and even then, she would hate to see the school system going against the Town. Mr. Levasseur (Brewster Selectman) said their departments are keeping to 2% and cannot afford to go for an override in this economy. Mr. O'Connor said he'd like to see a more detailed listing of

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positions that have been targeted in possible cuts before making a decision. Mr. Jones said he'd like to see the budget down to 2.5% over '09 and have the administration make further cuts to get there. Another \$212,500 would have to be cut. Mr. Jones expressed concern over special ed cuts and meeting the goals of IEPs as they are written. Mr. O'Connor moved and Mr. Brookshire seconded to have administration give more detail on the cuts, and to have administration add more tiers and what the impact on staff will be. There was more discussion and the secretary asked for clarification of what Mr. O'Connor's motion is. Mr. O'Connor clarified his motion to be *"for the administration to come back with Tiers VI, VII, and VIII in the amount of \$212,000."* Mr. Brookshire seconded. Mr. Jones was not in favor of deferring this section. Mr. Gradone said he will give the Committee a detailed list of cuts and that no motion needs be made for that to happen. **Voted: 6 Aye, 2 Opposed (B. Nunheimer, G. O'Brien)**

OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

- Set Meeting

The Committee agreed to meet on February 19, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- *It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of January 8, 2009. Voted: 7Aye, 1 Not Voting (B. Nunheimer).*
- *It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of January 22, 2009. Voted: 7Aye, 1 (J. Porteus)*

ADJOURNMENT

- *It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



B.J. Newmier,  
Secretary, NRSC

