

APPROVED

NAUSET REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of August 6, 2009
Held at the Nauset Administration Office

SEP 3 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chair Bob Jones

ROLL CALL:

- For the committee: Sarah Blackwell, Ed Brookshire, Dion Dugan, Marie Enochy, Bob Jones, Bonnie-Jean Nunheimer, Greg O'Brien, Jon Porteus, Fred Walters (Absent: Jean Souther)
- For the administration: Richard Hoffmann, Gail Briere, Ann Caretti, Hans Baumhauer, Tom Conrad, Greg Baecker, Kathy Schrock, Paul Markovich
- Also present: Town officials, interested citizens, members of the press

CITIZENS SPEAK

- None

PRIORITY BUSINESS

- Administrators' Reports
Asst. Supt. Briere reported on curriculum work being done this summer beginning by giving a history which began in the fall of 2004 with K-4 teacher representatives working on grade level writing benchmarks/expectations, rubrics and writing prompts; in the fall 2005, teachers grades 5-7 did a similar process focusing on expository long composition writing. This summer MS and HS ELA teachers worked on the writing curriculum to include benchmarks for grades 8-10 focusing on character analysis and long composition writing. After piloting this work this year, it will be fully implemented in 2010-2011.

Dr. Caretti was pleased to deliver no "bad news" and we are on track for the beginning of the school year.

Principal Baecker distributed the enrollment figures for next year which is up from the 513 students at the end of 2008-09 to 554 and the registration day is August 19 so there may be more; there are 44 Choice students; 6th grade class sizes (CORE subjects) are at 23-24 and 24-25 for grades 7 & 8. He explained the change in the exploratory rotations which has resulted from the elimination of an art teacher; students will have PE one day a week.

Principal Conrad reported that 70 teachers signed up for training in electronic grading (they will post grades electronically); Einstein Institute continues this summer on the campus with over 200 people involved, 150 from foreign countries, we realize \$10,000 for facilities use fees; Dr. Markovich is working on solar energy, not to replace the turbine proposal, he hopes to have more information for the October meeting.

Supt. Hoffmann reported on the two-day leadership institute for the administrators included getting the most out of employees, fit the right person to the right task, emotional needs – purpose, intimacy, appreciation. They read "Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way" on making data driven decisions, planning for the future; and they looked at different leadership styles. It's important to use your heart and head in making decisions.

- FY 10 Budget Update
Bus. Mgr. Baumhauer reported that he contacted MARS to see if any of the transportation funding might be increased and was told there was no chance of restoring funds. Unemployment benefits claims, in hand, total \$120,000 but could possibly be \$250,000 because many of the affected employees have not filed for unemployment yet.

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TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
K. Perkins

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There is hope that some may gain employment reducing our costs. Health insurance rates were estimated at 11% and are down to 8% increase; 42 employees were on Master Health Plus, if all moved to another plan the savings would be \$120,000-\$200,000; half of these employees moved off Master Health Plus. The savings realized by these moves was \$75,000 (those who moved received a one-time incentive of \$500 for changing).

OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

- Region Bus Transportation Subcommittee

Dion Dugan reported that they met with Glenn Lindell of First Student. They felt that if the starting time at the Middle School was changed by ten minutes one bus route could be saved; the School Committee Policy on transporting students should be reviewed; bus routes should be reviewed and suggested that a representative from Orleans be added to this subcommittee, Fred Walters volunteered; that the subcommittee continue inasmuch as the current contract will end; the committee discussed transportation of high school students; review special ed transportation; and consideration of bus fees for Choice students.

Mr. Baumhauer pointed out that we are required to transport all students in case of emergency; Choice students have to get to existing stops and may ride the bus only if there is room, parents are responsible for getting their child to school. Ridership of high school students varies because students get their license during the year, parents put them on buses in inclement weather, costs of gasoline, etc. Jon Porteus said it doesn't look like there is anything that can be done short term. It was agreed that the 3-tier system needs to be looked at which means looking at school starting times.

It was moved by Ed Brookshire and seconded by Greg O'Brien to have the Transportation Subcommittee analyze the Region school bus contract and possible savings. Voted unanimously.

Mr. Conrad will contact students and parents to see what may be done to reduce empty seats on the buses and see if any reduction in bus route(s) can be made. Mr. Baumhauer pointed out that the bid needs to be done before the end of December. It was decided that the Policy Subcommittee needs to meet to review the transportation policies and that this should be on the Joint School Committee Agenda for September 10.

- Wind Turbine Update

Mr. Conrad reported they are continuing discussion about the Brewster site, we are still looking at having a 75' turbine on campus.

- Budget & Finance Subcommittee Report

Mr. O'Brien reported on their meeting where they developed the proposed FY 11 Budget Policy. They recommend that the policy include the following in light of needing to sustain quality education at Nauset: *The Committee in its budget review will consider all responsible alternate sources of revenue including a Proposition 2 ½ Override in order to sustain current programming.* The School Committees need to continue to analyze line items for additional savings but further cuts of teachers or programs should be made by the voters; it should go to Town Meetings. An override has to be passed in three of four towns for the Operating budget; for the Capital budget, it needs to be passed in all four towns (last paragraph of policy). Mr. O'Brien clarified that they are not recommending an override but are recommending looking at the need of an override so we don't lose the fine education program Nauset has. Selectman Lewis was recognized and he said that no one wants to see any more cuts or damage to the schools and that the Towns will have needs as well. *It was moved by Marie Enochy, seconded by Ed Brookshire and*

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voted unanimously to approve the Nauset Regional School District – FY 11 Budget Policy as presented.

- School Committee Roles and Responsibilities

There was discussion on what a Public Record is; whenever a committee member communicates with each other via Email, it is a public record and should to be copied to B.J. Newmier (keeper of records). Kathy Schrock will set up a separate mailbox for that purpose. Mr. Jones reminded members to fill out the Self-Evaluation document which is part of the Benefits of School Committee Self-Evaluation that members received. The Committee will identify what is working well and areas that need more attention. He asked members to write down their top 2-3 issues for discussion. They will be given to the administration for them to review.

ADJOURNMENT

- *It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



B.J. Newmier,
Secretary, NRSC