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NAUSET REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday February 4, 2010

Held at the Nauset Middle School

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Bob Jones

ROLL CALL:

For the Committee: Sarah Blackwell, Ed Brookshire, Dion Dugan, Marie Enochy, Bob Jones, Jon Porteus, Jean Souther-Greg O'Brien arrived at 7:33 p.m.

For the Administration: Richard Hoffmann, Gail Briere, Ann Caretti, Hans Baumhauer, Tom Conrad, Greg Baecker

Also present: Town officials, interested citizens

CITIZENS SPEAK

RECOGNITION

Dr. Hoffmann recognized the following Nauset Regional Middle School students who will represent Nauset in the Junior Southeast Music Festival:

Katie Bragdon, Kelly Chase, Andrew McKenzie, Camille Robison, Scott Glynn, Julia Harmon, Shannon Killala, Carolyn Walker, Maggie Leland, Hannah Trott, Rachel Gomez-Peck, Nicole O'Leary, Annika Ericsson, Paige Johnson, Saskia Keller, Isabel Souza, Kallie Hannon, and Ben Walker

Dr. Hoffmann also recognized the following Nauset High School students for receiving gold and silver keys in the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards:

John Erickson, Alexa Geraniotis, Austin Jacobs, Sara Roderick, and Murphy Rutledge

Dr. Hoffmann informed the School Committee that Mr. Martin Nerber, a former Wellfleet resident, recently passed away and bequeathed to Nauset Regional High School a \$100,000 scholarship for students going on to college and a \$50,000 donation to the Haiti Club. Lisa Brown and Valerie Bell were in the audience, acknowledged the most generous donation, and talked about the Haiti Club.

Kathy Schrock, Marcia Cameron, Greg O'Brien, and Ryan Birchall were recognized and thanked for their creative efforts in putting together the Nauset Regional Middle School brochure.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Student Representative Report

Brandon Bausch reported that the boys' hockey team defeated Marshfield in the ACL, the Nauset Warriors Winter Grand Prix Team won in the mixed division, and the drama club is preparing for their upcoming competition. Plans are currently underway for the "Cape and Islands Quidditch Cup." This fundraiser will benefit the senior class and will be held March 27 and 28 at Nauset High School. Teams from throughout the state will be participating.

Administrators' Reports

Assistant Superintendent Gail Briere and Dr. Maggie Mack reported on the grant proposal from the Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation. This grant will target preschool curriculum designed to improve the academic preparedness and social development of preschool children. They have been asked to submit for the \$33,600 which will be spread over two years. Dr. Mack further reported that the district just held a very well attended professional development day on using "Tools of the Mind" curriculum which helps young children develop self regulation skills.

On a motion by Marie Enochy, seconded by Jean Souther, it was voted unanimously to accept the project.

Kathy Schrock just finished a series of professional development for teachers on Web .02 Tools which involved creating a Google Doc web page, going to Google sites, skyping and twittering.

Ann Caretti reported that on February 10th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. there will be a workshop on Asperger's Syndrome put on by the Asperger's Association of New England to help families facilitate friendships with kids who have Asperger's Syndrome.

Principal Baecker thanked Abigail Reed and Bonnie Brackett, co-chairs of the Social Studies Bee that was recently held, noting Camille Gibbons as the winner. Catherine Harvey, Library School Media Director was thanked for her assistance in organizing the "Book Bowl Event" which has a number of staff and students reading to compete in the "Book Off" that will be held at a later date to determine a winner. Students are also involved in Destination Imagination, Mock Trial, Model UN and fundraising for Haiti.

Mr. Baecker also recognized John Krenick who organized the second annual Arts Day. The Jazz Band from the high school kicked off the day followed by students rotating through workstations and culminating with an exhibition by Mark Prall, from the Academy of Performing Arts.

Principal Conrad recognized Mimi Butts, Advanced Placement History Teacher, who was chosen to be a reader of the AP exams and will travel to Indianapolis to do that job for Nauset. The high school is moving ahead with electronic grading, preparing report cards and will continue to use the program for the rest of the school year.

Mr. Conrad thanked Brandon Bausch for coming up with a great fundraising idea, going forward with initiatives to make the "Quidditch Cup" happen and also for realizing the potential economic benefit not only to the senior class but to our communities as well. Mr. Conrad noted that the winter sports are doing tremendously well with Girls' Basketball in the playoffs, Hockey is #1, the Wrestling Team is doing great, and the Swim Team is going to the States.

MCAS re-testing as just been completed at the high school for the third time this year. Some students have to take these tests in order to graduate so the test is given at various times during the year. Sophomores will take the test in the spring.

Mr. Conrad brought to the attention of the Committee the piping issue at the high school. (dropped 500 gallons of water overnight) After an elaborate search, they found the problem under Building C and had to cut through cement to get to the problem. They found two more piping problems and a 4' section in the domestic water supply needs replacing. There is \$15,000 in a contingency plan for heating pipes and Mr. Conrad believes repairs will be taken care of with that line item. They will re-examine the next few years of the Capital Plan to address plumbing issues.

Superintendent Hoffmann reported that he continues to address "goals and priorities" and will hold the second session of a seminar for administrators relative to teacher support, supervision and evaluation on February 24th. He visited schools on the professional development day noting how engaged teachers were and what a good job Gail Briere did in the planning. He visited the Nauset Middle School for "Arts Day" and enjoyed seeing teachers and students having fun with the arts.

FY 10 Budget

The Committee was in receipt of the January expense report. Mr. Baumhauer reported that Principals continue to keep a tight reign of their budgets. In March there will be transfers to offset overages. Mr. Baumhauer also reported that the District is still waiting for the state to issue Circuit Breaker checks and hopes to get this by the end of March at the latest. (May have to borrow money for payroll, until checks arrive.)

FY 11 Budget

Dr. Hoffmann updated the committee on the various components of the budget and reviewed the operating and capital budget. It was noted that school administrators are making salary concessions and agreed to give back 1.5% of their potential raises this year. They will receive a 2% wage increase and take one furlough day which averages about \$2,000 for each administrator. Nauset Middle School has to reduce their budget by \$60,765. Dr. Hoffmann does not recommend any further reductions to the Middle School or to the Region Only budgets. The Central Office budget was reduced by \$67,000, including salary concessions. The high school must reduce their budget by \$315,000. Mr. Conrad reviewed the reduction list with the committee. The high school has four teachers retiring so far and he plans to replace them with lower salaried teachers. Mr. Conrad stated that they will move forward with the understanding that they will make \$73,000 in additional cuts. They will be looking at the master schedule which will be completed before students leave in June and will be taking a look at sections with less than ten students.

Revenues – Dr. Hoffmann was trying to be optimistic but does not know many of the numbers. (anticipating \$257,000 for Chapter 70 but that could be wrong) The school choice tuitions will be on the March 4th agenda. ARRA funds are still targeted for specific use. Revenue off 5.1% = \$357,000. Net budget increase is 3.8%. The towns are looking for a 2% increase. The committee must cut another \$313,000 to get to the number that the town administrators are carrying in the four towns. Mr. Conrad noted that \$320,000 = 8 staff members. Dr. Hoffmann stated that there is only \$50,000 left in the unemployment account. If 8 people are rid'd, there won't be enough money to cover their unemployment and more cuts may be required.

Dr. Hoffmann reported that he met with the NEA. Mr. O'Brien indicated that the teachers want an override, but after talking with town officials, believes an override will not be considered. Chairman Jones hopes that at the March 4th meeting decisions will be made and he requested a list of cuts and the impact on student achievement. Chairman Jones also indicated he would like to finalize the numbers without an override and hopes when the budget is certified, it will be at 2%. The committee will move forward, as difficult as it is going to be.

Dr. Hoffmann thanked all the teachers who have met with him regarding the budget. He stated teachers work hard and earn every penny of what they are paid. He read a letter from the NEA indicating that teachers "desire to be a part of the solution." The Executive Board of the NEA asked for specific numbers and asked that there be a continued dialog on options to address shortfalls in the region and the four towns. Gail Briere reported that the Chatham Schools indicated they are taking 5 furlough days in 2010-11, which would have been in-service days. They were scheduled to receive a 4% increase in 2011 but agreed to a 2% COLA and step increases. In 2012 they will carry forth the 2% and not have any furlough days. Their administrators agreed to a 2% increase as well and generally receive an increase of about 5%. The other bargaining units in Chatham are slated to start negotiations in 2010 and nothing is happening with those units.

Dr. Hoffmann indicated that they are exploring options such as making donations, retirement incentives, eliminating professional development days and use as furlough days, reduce amount of money in the professional development account, transportation, athletics and charging tuition for kindergarten.

Chairman Jones indicated the next meeting is Feb. 25th in the cafeteria at NRMS, 7:00 p.m.

OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Budget & Finance Subcommittee

Mr. O'Brien reported the Budget & Finance Subcommittee has been working with Dr. Hoffmann and is facing a final deadline. He agrees there are dedicated teachers and staff in Nauset School District and feels that everyone has to solve this problem together.

On a **motion** by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Dion Dugan, it was **voted unanimously** to establish a study committee that will be made up of representatives from the superintendent, principals, school committee, town representatives, NEA representatives and the public and the committee be charged with looking at the vision of the Nauset Public Schools, reviewing budget items, and looking at the template that we have, well in advance of decisions in the coming year.

Transportation Subcommittee

Mr. Dugan reported that the transportation bid process began in August and they developed a new transportation proposal in December. A mileage study has been done by the Collaborative analyzing 2 tier and 3 tier scenarios. The 2 tier study saves about 200 miles but additional buses might offset any savings. A rider ship study is taking place at all schools. The committee is reviewing the transportation bid specifications and they will be sent out on February 8th. A preliminary bid is scheduled for Feb. 16th and the opening of bids will be February 25th. At that point they will know if the 2 tier system will save money over the 3 tier system.

Wind Turbine Subcommittee

Mr. Conrad reported that they continue to move forward on constructing a 75' turbine on campus that hooks into the concession stand. He met with the town administrator from Eastham, Sheila Vanderhoef, and they are looking into how to proceed in the process to obtain the parcel of land across from the high school. She suggested that an article be put together and put forward at town meeting. Mr. Conrad also reported that there is a Boston Company that is interested in investing in a wind turbine project.

Approval of Minutes

On a **motion** by Greg O'Brien, seconded by Jean Souther, *it was voted unanimously, to approve* the minutes of the January 7, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Alan Castellano addressed the committee regarding a bill he wrote that would allow teachers to leave a little early for retirement. The bill is House Bill #3733 and can be researched on the web.

Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Ms. Enochty, it was voted to go into Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. for the purposes of collective bargaining. On a roll call the vote was as follows: Sara Blackwell – aye, Bonnie-Jean Nunheimier – aye, Ed Brookshire – aye, Dion Dugan – aye, Marie Enochty – aye, Greg O'Brien – aye, Jon Porteus – aye, and Jean Souther – aye.

Adjournment

On a motion by Greg O'Brien, seconded by Dion Dugan, it was voted unanimously to adjourn At 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Tefft
Recording Secretary