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Meeting of March 4, 2010

Held at the Nauset Regional Middle School

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Bob Jones.

ROLL CALL:

Sarah Blackwell, Ed Brookshire, Marie Enochy, Bob Jones, Bonnie-Jean Nunheimer, Jean Souther, Fred Walters and Jon Porteus

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

Also present: Town officials, interested citizens

AGENDA CHANGES – There will be an executive session following the regular meeting to discuss collective bargaining. Items E. and D. will be discussed together.

CITIZENS SPEAK –

Several citizens spoke against the budget reductions and in favor of asking the people in the towns for an override. Speakers included Nancy Waldron, Kate Stone, Scott Steber, Dawn Steber, Jody Craven and Peg Boyd. Some items mentioned: computerized athletic scheduling program, administrators salaries, cutting assistant principal positions at the high school to 80%, cutting the excellence of our schools, and increased class sizes impacting student achievement.

Selectwoman Margie Fulcher acknowledged that the School Committee has made some very hard decisions but have kept the children in mind while trying to bring in a budget. She mentioned what other municipal employees have done to help the budget and also shared her concern of the impacts of cuts on Nauset's exemplary programs. Selectmen Ed Lewis echoed Ms. Fulcher's sentiments and stated that they are asking the teachers to take a 2% raise, not a pay cut.

RECOGNITIONS –

Dr. Hoffmann recognized the following students for participating in the Massachusetts Senior District Music Festival: Allison Concra, Scott McLellan, Alexandra Nelson, Jordan Parris, Raisa Riikonen, Emily Faris, Rowan Cornell, Lily Harrington, and Anna Hirst.

The following students were recognized for being inducted in the National Honor Society at Nauset Regional Middle School: Molly Benjamin, Patrick Clinton, Haley Collins, Kallie Hannon, Chloe Heidepriem, Saskia Keller, Jarek Lenda, and Nicole O'Leary. These students were recognized for their scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Student Representative Report – Brandon Bausch reported that the Nauset Hockey team defeated Hanover – 4-0 and the crowd was outstanding! Finals coming up this weekend. The Drama Club is going to the Bromfield School Finals as the reigning state champions. The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive on March 3rd. March Madness Week coming up with many events scheduled after school such as the faculty student basketball game.

Assistant Superintendent Gail Briere reported on the PK-12 Literacy Professional Development Partnership Grant which provides funds to school districts for implementing professional development on critical K-12 literacy issues.

Principal Tom Conrad informed the committee that they will be kicking off the pre-registration process and that Middle School and Charter School students are moving forward with course selections at the high school. The Green Club is making a big difference on campus with their recycling efforts. A volunteer parent is helping record over 5,000 community service hours for students at Nauset High School. Will Conway initiated a fundraiser to help the people of Haiti and raised \$1,200.

Principal Baecker thanked Brenda Vecchione and Majen Hammon who traveled to Bentley University with the Model United Nations Club. Sean Cahill from Barnstable and Assistant District Attorney Jen McNulty gave a presentation at the Middle School on Cyber Bullying. Middle School staff and students are prepping for the MCAS tests which will be administered March 22nd to March 26th.

Superintendent Hoffmann reported on the decline in the dropout rate from 07-08 to the present. Project Access has made a difference. He also reported that he received a communication from Mass. Assoc. of Regional Schools regarding Chapter 70 State Aid indicating the need to be cautious about the Governor's House One budget relative to revenues. He also reported that Massachusetts has been selected as one of 16 finalists for the Race to the Top grant. Massachusetts is in the running and announcements should be made in April. Dr. Hoffmann extended an invitation to the School Committee members to attend the "Pops" concert to be held at Nauset High School with both the Middle School and High School musicians participating and teachers collaborating to put on this wonderful evening performance.

FY10 Budget –

Mr. Baumhauer recommended transfers between accounts. On a motion by Ed Brookshire, seconded by Jean Souther, it was **voted unanimously** to approve the transfers.

Public Hearing – Superintendent Hoffmann made a presentation on the FY11 budget, then opened it up for public comment. He reviewed version 3 of the budget dated 2/4/10 as well as Tier 1 and Tier II budget reductions for the high school totaling \$618,207. He also reviewed Tier 1 and Tier 2 budget reductions at the Middle School totaling \$114,069. Excess and Deficiency Fund was reviewed. He went on to report that they still do not know about state aid and that FY11 transportation costs are up for the region about \$100,000, if we provide services at the same level. Chairman Jones clarified the additional \$100,000 in transportation means another \$100,000 in budget reductions.

The athletic director position was discussed noting that the position services over 1,000 students and travels all over the region to athletic events. The position is already in the FY11 budget for \$66,000. The Superintendent noted that the athletic director in Ashland services 725 students and is paid between \$68,000-78,000. The person in this position works approximately 60 hours per week with all the clubs and activities. Chairman Jones, Greg O'Brien, and the Superintendent will rewrite the job description, change the salary to \$62,000 - \$72,000 and post the job. The work year is 203 days approximately 8-10 hours per day. The Superintendent believes it is necessary and wants to know that the kids are in good hands. Ms. Enochy asked that once the position is established, Administration show the committee how the donation is being spent as it is a restricted gift.

Chairman Jones asked that the Committee look at the Tier II cuts for consideration and vote. Ms. Enochy asked that the committee certify the budget tonight and approve all of it. The Committee can change the figure if concessions come from the union. Chairman Jones reiterated that cuts could be restored if additional money comes in to the budget. (can lower the budget, just cannot raise it) Principal Baecker's new Tier II plan was reviewed which included reducing the Spanish teacher to .8 FTE, eliminating the early morning bus, and reducing athletic supplies, totaling \$50,054. Chairman Jones thanked Principal Baecker for doing such a good job. Principal Conrad's reduction list did not change but could change slightly based on enrollment in courses. Courses with 10 or fewer students and those with 25 or more will be reported back to the School Committee. Principal Conrad said he plans to look at course selections, staffing, and then move forward.

A member of the audience, Mrs. Steber, asked if the Charter School could pick up early morning band students. Mr. Steber asked that cuts be related to something other than teachers and perhaps be administrative cuts.

Mr. Walters stated that the school community has not received proper credit and what they do is "above and beyond the call of duty." He was talking about the parents who help out with coaching, volunteer, and go out of their way so that children can be provided advanced training. He suggested the committee get their minds off themselves and think about the students, the teachers, school administrators, and the families on the home front that deserve and awful lot of credit.

On a **motion** by Maire Enochty, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was **voted, 7 yeas, 1 nay** (Jean Souther) to approve the FY 11 budget in the amount of \$24,414,748 which includes \$6,651,438 in revenue and \$17,680,860 – total assessment to the four towns.

Committee members voiced their sincere upset about the budget situation indicating that they did not think they would ever be in this position making reductions instead of building programs. The committee members realized that they had to face up to their responsibilities and vote the budget.

School Choice –

Massachusetts Department of Education requires that the School Committee hold a hearing to look at School Choice. 208 students attend the district from other towns not including Truro. Truro has 63 students in the district. This program provides significant revenues. Tuition remains \$5,000 for choice students. In FY10 this program will provide about \$1,000,000 in revenue. Students come from all over the Cape to attend our excellent schools.

On a **motion** by Ms. Enochty, seconded by Mr. Porteus, it was **voted unanimously** to participate in the School Choice Program.

Capital Plan – Tabled until April 1st meeting.

Other Reports –

Budget and Finance Committee – Mr. Porteus reported the committee is just going on with the regular budget discussions.

Transportation Subcommittee – Mr. Baumhauer reported that the bids were opened. Bids up 16% regular bus and 30% for special education. Transportation subcommittee will meet to look at changing routes, changing start times, and various options to realize cost savings.

Wind Turbines – Mr. Conrad reported they are waiting. Negotiations continuing on \$400,000 grant that are tremendously favorable with good discussion in Brewster. Once they know what they can do with the \$400,000, will push for the project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

On a **motion** by Ms. Enochty, seconded by Ms. Nunheimer, it was **voted unanimously** to approve the minutes of January 14, 2010. (not voting: Mr. Walters)

On a **motion** by Ms. Enochty, seconded by Ms. Nunheimer, it was **voted unanimously** to approve the minutes of January 20, 2010.

Executive Session –

On a roll call vote, it was voted to go into executive session at 8:45 p.m. (Mr. Porteus – aye, Mr. Walters – aye, Mr. Brookshire – aye, Ms. Souther – aye, Ms. Enochty – aye, Chairman Jones – aye)

ADJOURNMENT –

On a **motion** by Ms. Nunheimer, seconded by Mr. Brookshire, it was **voted unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Tefft
Recording Secretary

