

NAUSET REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of November 17, 2010

Held at the Nauset Regional Middle School

APPROVED

10 DEC 13 PM 12:57

TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
K. DeLuca, Assoc.

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

ROLL CALL:

For the Committee: Sarah Blackwell, Bob Jones, Jon Porteus, Fred Walters, Frank Cummings, Dion Dugan

For the Administration: Richard Hoffmann, Bonny Gifford, Ann Caretti, Hans Baumhauer, Tom Conrad, and Maxine Minkoff

Also present: Town officials, interested citizens

AGENDA CHANGES

Add to the agenda: "Consider short-term borrowing"

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Hoffmann recognized John Krenik, exemplary art teacher at Nauset Middle School, for receiving grants from the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod and the Eastham Cultural Council to enhance Arts Day at Nauset Middle School. The following students were recognized for being inducted into the National Honor Society: Patrice Michael, Katie Bragdon, Shaye Ellard, Reed Jenkins, Noah Johnson, Rachel Lagasse, Colton Leach, Jane Marks, Amanda McGrath, Camille Robison, Karley Rojas-Vienneau, Claire Roycroft, Isabel Souza, and Kaylee Wallace.

CITIZENS SPEAK

Shelby Williams, guidance counselor at Nauset Middle School, shared the significant impacts counselors are having on students and programs, thanks to the Committee restoring the positions from 80% to 100%. They are able to be proactive in many circumstances, instead of reactive.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Chief Ed Kulhawik

Chief Ed Kulhawik from Eastham addressed the Committee regarding the need for a School Resource Officer. He shared a brief history of his background, stated the critical need for a school resource officer who will properly and professionally handle situations as they arise in the schools. The Chiefs of all four Towns asked that this be a high priority for School Committee consideration. Principal Conrad spoke to the issue as well indicating the need and the critical piece of "partnering" with the police to keep staff and students safe.

Mary Ministeri Garden

Mike Moore and Chris Roberts addressed the Committee regarding the creation of a memorial garden for former NRMS, Special Needs Teacher, Mary Ministeri.

On a motion by Jon Porteus, seconded by Frank Cummings, it was voted unanimously to approve of the garden, which will be funded through donations.

Student Representative Report – no report

Administrative Reports

Principal Conrad reported that Professional Development will take place at the High School and several intense, well-planned workshops are being offered that will be tremendously beneficial for staff and students. He also reminded the School Committee of the upcoming Thanksgiving Day Nauset Football game against DY as well as the Winter Festival that is taking place on December 4th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Principal Minkoff reported on the Math Initiative and extra help scheduled to begin after Thanksgiving for students who are under proficient in Math. Parents will be notified of the tutorial effort taking place to assist their child in the area of Math. Term 2 has just begun and advanced ELA and Math classes have started. Other topics of interest: Middle School Newspaper, 7th Grade trip to the Secret Garden at the Harwich Jr. Theatre, fifth grade tours, Builders Club raking leaves, and 8th Graders are fundraising for their DC trip by selling wreaths. Intramurals are beginning in December at the Middle School and the students let it be known that they want more activities and more sports at Nauset Middle School. Dr. Minkoff informed the Committee that she has set up monthly meetings for parents to come in, have coffee, and an informal discussion with the Principal.

Dr. Minkoff indicated she was in receipt of \$1,000 donation from the Soccer League. On a motion by Mr. Dugan, seconded by Jon Porteus it was voted to accept the \$1,000 donation from the Soccer League.

The School Committee was asked to accept the grants received by Mr. Krenik. On a motion by Mr. Dugan, seconded by Mr. Porteus, it was voted unanimously to accept a \$1,500 grant from the Cape Cod Arts Foundation.

On a motion by Mr. Dugan, seconded by Mr. Porteus, it was voted unanimously to accept a \$400 grant from the Eastham Cultural Council.

Chair Jones addressed the Math Initiatives asking if enough resources were available to reach the challenges. Principal Minkoff stated that there are 143 students in need of services but that only 50 students can be included in the tutoring effort. (the need is greater than the resources) Chair Jones encouraged Dr. Minkoff to build a budget that includes what is needed to attain goals for student achievement in Math. Dr. Caretti indicated that the extra class in math instruction was added a few years ago and Special Needs students did well, because some of the students just need more time. Members of the Committee indicated they would like to see a plan developed at the elementary level to get to the root of the problem. Dr. Caretti indicated that a concentrated math initiative is happening throughout the District.

Dr. Bonny Gifford, Assistant Superintendent, indicated that a great deal of work has been done in Literacy, and Nauset has reaped the benefits and that is why they are going to do the same with Math, district-wide. In grades K-12 a plan is being created as to how to assess students that need help better, provide initiatives for them, and define the expectations at entry level for grades 6 and 9. Professional Development is being offered through the Cape Cod Collaborative. Educational Assistants are willing to volunteer for more training. Everyone is committed

to seeing our students succeed. Each team at the Middle School is working on strategies for different students/learners differentiating the target needs of students and how to help them. Chair Jones reiterated that the Principals should identify their needs in their budgets and the School Committee will advocate aggressively.

The School Committee expressed concerns that students are missing other subjects and wondered if the extra help could be offered before or after school. Dr. Minkoff indicated that both situations created problems for students. Chair Jones asked that this be aggressively advocated for in the budget.

Dr. Gifford reminded the Committee of the Professional Development Days for staff taking place on November 22 and 23 with Bullying Prevention and Intervention the focus on November 22nd. Dr. Gifford reported on Teaching and Learning Literacy Plan and the K-12 Math Initiative, classroom visits and grant updates.

Superintendent Hoffmann reported that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (Green Program for roofs and windows) has invited Nauset to proceed to the next level in the application process. Dr. Hoffmann indicated they will be very aggressive about this for the high school, will get cost estimates and possibly bring a plan to town meeting in May, if given the opportunity,

MCAS RESULTS

This was an opportunity to ask additional questions regarding MCAS results. At this time the Committee had no further questions.

FY11 Budget Update

The Superintendent indicated that the line item transfers will be brought to the next meeting after the Budget/Finance Subcommittee reviews them.

Mr. Baumhauer reviewed the enrollment projections based on census data with the Committee.

Short Term Borrowing

Dr. Hoffmann asked that the Committee authorize the District Treasurer, William Dugan, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue beginning November 17, 2010 to June 30, 2011 and to issue a note or notes therefore when necessary after notifying the Chair of the need in advance.

On a motion by Mr. Cummings, seconded by Mr. Dugan, it was voted unanimously to approve the short term borrowing as explained.

FY12 Budget Update

Dr. Hoffmann reviewed the budget format with the Committee. He indicated that salaries funded through ARRA and the Federal Jobs Bill will have to be funded by another source next year. He asked the Committee to look at things that had been cut over the last 3-4 years as some items may need to be restored to maintain excellence in our schools. The first draft of the budget will be ready on or about December 6th. The Superintendent asked the Committee to review the fiscal guidance from the Towns. Selectmen are asking that budgets stay within 2.5%.

Dr. Hoffmann would like the Committee to advocate for what is necessary and for budgets to show what is actually needed.

Review Policies (First Reading)

Dr. Hoffmann asked the Committee to approve the Bullying Policy and Harassment Policy. This will be voted on for a second reading at the Joint School Committee meeting on December 9th. It was noted that the policy was drafted by MASC and the Policy Subcommittee recommends its approval.

On a motion by Mr. Dugan, seconded by Ms. Souther, it was voted unanimously to approve the Bullying Policy 5147 at a first reading.

On a motion by Mr. Dugan, seconded by Mr. Porteus, it was voted unanimously to approve the amendment to the Harassment Policy 4111.2/5146.

The Policy on Facebook, 4112, was tabled. The MTA and MASC are working on a revision.

Two Tier Bus Transportation

Mr. Dugan, Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee reported attending all elementary School Committee meetings and making a presentation regarding the proposed two tier bus transportation system. Principal Conrad led the charge 5-6 years ago to change the start times at Nauset High School based on research of the sleep habits of adolescent teenagers. The district wide initiative to reach the highest production levels, is to have our youngest students go to school first and the oldest last. The two-tier bussing will save money as well as decrease the carbon footprint. Mr. Dugan is preparing a PowerPoint Presentation for Middle School and High School public forums. Dr. Hoffmann indicated that substantial input is needed from parents, as there are possible issues. The Superintendent will be receiving the final figures from First Student regarding the cost savings.

On a motion by Mr. Cummings, seconded by Mr. Porteus, it was voted unanimously to express support for the concept and continue to explore it.

MASC Conference

Mr. Dugan shared highlights of the MASC Conference. He indicated that grants are available for people to attend the National Conference. (NSBA.org)

OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

- Policy Subcommittee -see above
- Transportation Subcommittee - see above
- Wellness Subcommittee - Ms. Blackwell, Chair of the Wellness Subcommittee reported that the committee is in the process of rewriting the Wellness Policy using the John Stalker Institute Wellness Policy Model as a guide.
- Cape Cod Collaborative- no report

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Dugan, seconded by Mr. Jones, it was voted to approve the minutes of January 28, 2010. (Frank Cummings-not voting)

On a motion by Mr. Dugan, seconded by Mr. Jones, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2010 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Dugan, seconded by Mr. Cummings, it was voted by roll call to go into Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union employees and other litigation. At this time the Committee indicated they would not come back into open session.

On a roll call the vote was as follows:

Dr. Cummings - Aye, Mr. Porteus - Aye, Ms. Souther - Aye, Mr. Dugan-Aye,
Ms. Blackwell-Aye, Chair Jones - Aye

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. Tefft, recording secretary

