

Nauset Regional School Committee
November 3, 2011
Nauset Room, Orleans Town Hall

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK
APPROVED

'11 DEC 27 11:39AM

CMay

Present for the Committee: Frank Cummings, Greg O'Brien, Jon Porteus, John O'Reilly, Sarah Blackwell and Brian Kavanaugh

Present for Administration: Tom Conrad, Hans Baumhauer, Bonny Gifford, Ann Caretti and Richard Hoffmann

Others: Sheila Vanderhoef, Margie Fulcher, Ed Lewis, Greg Levasseur

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cummings called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA CHANGE

Establish accounts in the Middle School Student Fund Account – Item G. Priority Business

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Hoffmann recognized Marcia Cameron, Assistant Principal at Nauset Middle School for taking charge of organizing buses and enabling the development of an efficient transportation system in a very short period of time, in light of the new two-tier plan.

Dr. Hoffmann also congratulated Nauset Middle School Foreign Language Teacher, Amy Roberts, who defended her dissertation and is now Dr. Amy Roberts.

CITIZENS SPEAK

Ed Lewis, Selectmen from Brewster thanked Dr. Cummings for changing the protocol at the School Committee meetings as far as allowing citizens to speak to various issues. He also told the Committee that he voted against the Green Repair Project but will not speak against it at Town Meeting. He supports the assessment formula but when it comes to major capital plan dollars for facilities, he felt there needs to be a different method of assessing. He mentioned that 20% of the students at Nauset High School are not from the four towns. He would like to see money from the School Choice Revenues be used toward capital expenditures. He asked that this be changed in the future.

Dr. Cummings indicated that the School Committee formally voted to include capital costs as well as per pupil costs in future agreements with other towns.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Eastham Wells

Sheila Vanderhoef, Eastham Town Administrator and Mark White, consultant from Environmental Partners addressed the committee with a formal easement request for developing a well for the Town of Eastham.

Many questions and concerns were voiced by Committee members as well as Selectmen and Finance Committee members from the town of Brewster and Orleans. Some of the questions included: volume of water pulled from the facility (1,000,000 per day after approval), the net value of the water (calculation has not been done – Town of Eastham has not set price for water), supplying the high school with potable water, recovery on well (well within the limits of D.E.P.), the high school would not have to worry about maintaining the well, the town will have municipal water for all citizens, savings to Nauset \$13,000 per year, 400' radius not specifically outlined in map-what type of infringement, would impede on back two fields. (use of athletic fields would not be in conflict with the use of the high school).

The School Committee asked if something could be drafted indicating that the school could keep current use and would not have to change it in the future. Sheila Vanderhoef indicated they could add additional language to the easement document. A question was raised regarding weed and fertilizer use in that area and it was indicated it would be allowed.

A question was raised as to whether or not the School Committee looked at the Region Agreement because it is a change in the use of the property and that the other three member towns should have an awareness of the project. Will the Town of Eastham have control over that whole area? It was suggested that town representatives speak with Town Counsel regarding this issue in all three towns.

Chair Cummings indicated that this request was granted by a previous School Committee.

It was indicated by Eastham Selectmen, Amee Eckman, that this is not a profit to Eastham. The cost will cover the infrastructure, operations, and distribution. There will be no cost to the high school. The school would save on operating costs and equipment costs. She also noted that every town is represented on the Regional School Committee.

Chair Cummings asked that the item be tabled.

Motion: On a motion by Jon Porteus, seconded by Brian Kavanaugh, it was voted 5 yeas and 1 nay to table the item.

John O'Reilly indicated he recently met with Sheila Vanderhoef and the project engineer. He received background information on School Committee votes and he thought they decided to move forward with permitting and monitoring. He was surprised that towns have concerns. He asked the Brewster residents with concerns to contact him as he would like to hear their concerns.

Dr. Hoffmann asked that questions be collected from members and have Counsel at the meeting when this is discussed, then a vote can be taken at that meeting or the next. Chair Cummings asked if school committee members or board members had questions to email them to Dr. Hoffmann.

Margie Fulcher indicated that the other three towns do not know about this and no vote should be taken until the other three towns are made aware of this. This should be reviewed by Town Counsels. Ed Lewis stated it is an inter-municipal agreement and that legal counsel should be consulted. Boards of Selectmen cannot make the decision but should be given an opportunity to know what is going to be done, and explain what is happening.

Chair Cummings indicated there were several aspects of this agreement: (1) Is there a requirement in the Nauset Agreement between the four towns, what kind of issues need to go before Selectmen? (2) How frequently should School Committee go before the Board of Selectmen in order to have proper communication with them? (3) Do we need to go before all the towns or do the towns come to us to become informed?

Mr. O'Reilly raised the question does this impact the inter-municipal agreement? Need an answer to this question. Once this question is answered he suggested contacting Selectmen and Finance Committees. Do we need four town meeting votes to allow easements to go forward?

Chair Cummings asked Sheila Vanderhoef for the timeline on the project. She indicated that she thought they had moved passed this stage and that she needs to go back to the Eastham Board of Selectmen. She indicated that they have done so much work and spent several hundred thousand dollars on this location. Sheila Vanderhoef stated that they do not want to continue to invest in a site that may not be useful.

The question was raised if legal counsel was obtained in 2002 and 2006?

Mr. O'Brien indicated that "communication" was key and he did not want to have bad feelings with the towns.

Chair Cummings closed off debate. Sheila Vanderhoef thanked the Committee for their time.

School Resource Officer

Principal Conrad introduced Chief Ed Kulhawik of the Eastham Police Department who thanked the Committee for funding the School Resource Office for the district. He introduced Officer Dianna Back to the Committee indicating she was doing a marvelous job. Officer Back addressed the Committee giving them a sense of what her job entails at the school. The School Committee thanked Officer Back for all her efforts on behalf of the Nauset community.

Student Representative Report

James McLeod reported on Homecoming Events, Fine Arts Department, Fall Concert, Twelfth Night Performance, varsity soccer and football. He noted football has had a very successful season and will play DY again at Thanksgiving. The Boys Varsity Soccer has had a very successful year and has had more student participation and consistent crowds at all their games. Academically, the students are in a very tough academic season.

Chair Cummings invited James to participate in the school committee discussions.

Administrators' Reports

Principal Conrad reported on the success of the Boys Soccer Team, third in the state and they were awaiting a playoff game on Monday. He also mentioned that everyone will be available to vote at Brewster Town Meeting as the game was pushed back to 5:00 p.m. to make that happen. He also noted that over 60% of the seniors have sent their applications in for college and 70% of those will probably get early acceptance which puts a great deal of pressure on the counselors.

Principal Conrad stated that on November 7th the portable classrooms were scheduled for demolition but with power outages, it had been delayed. He will keep the committee informed. He distributed a brochure from the Nauset Garden Club and thanked Gretel Norgeot and Betsy Lebow for all their assistance with this project which will move forward once the portables are removed. The studio is up on campus at Nauset Regional High School but they have had some technical difficulties. Everyone is very anxious to go to Channel 22 but in the meantime Channel 17 is where you can get a great deal of information on events at the high school. Principal Conrad indicated that he has a half hour show.

Principal Minkoff thanked Willy's Gym for their tremendous generosity in entertaining 120 Middle School students at a Halloween party. The partnership with Willy's Gym has been wonderful. Principal Minkoff reported that the Data Teams are just beginning and will be looking at protocols for looking at data and using data, the Math Team is looking to improve scores with this program, and they are piloting a new Connect Program. The Connect Program will start with a small group of 8th graders which will be an exploratory course outside studying the environment and the culture of Nauset. On November 14th staff members and forty students will have a flag football game. The first greenhouse meeting is Tuesday where they will discuss the vision and the design.

Dr. Caretti reported that since September she has been running an Asperger's Workshop for parents and staffs and felt our kids were already benefitting from this workshop. She has been busy with IEP meetings and FY13 budget.

Barbara Lavoine addressed the committee and highlighted her new publication, "Tic Toc News" which is a good opportunity to share resources. She also indicated that Nauset will be unveiling a new website very soon.

Dr. Gifford report on the continuation of the Literacy Action Plan and the key practice of family and community. A year-long project, one book one community read, will take place next year and hopes the committee will be involved in the project. Dr. Gifford also reported on Professional Development offerings, Tiered Instruction, Data Use and Assessment, Standards Based Education, Data Coaching Teams, STEM, and professional development opportunities to advance our math initiative. On November 15th she will attend the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Curriculum Summit.

Dr. Hoffmann thanked the citizens of Orleans and Wellfleet for their overwhelming voting for the Green Repair Project at Nauset High School. Snow's in Orleans will once again be selling the Nauset bead. Last year Snow's donated \$950 to subsidize the Music Program at Nauset High School. Dr. Hoffmann informed the Committee that he has been invited to be an expert panelist at the National Food Management Institute in January. One of the sessions will be how do you evaluate the implementation of the Health and Wellness Policy in schools. He will report back in February.

FY12 Budget Update

Hans Baumhauer reviewed the monthly expense reports and recommended transfers. John O'Reilly asked that he be given a chance to look at this in depth.

Motion: On a motion by John O'Reilly, seconded by Brian Kavanaugh, it was voted unanimously to table the item until December.

FY13 Budget Update

Dr. Hoffmann reviewed the agenda for the Budget and Finance Committee meeting that was postponed. He requested that the Committee look at the budget book and see if anything is missing or if they would like something enhanced.

Enrollment information was forwarded to NESDEC and when it is returned, Hans will make comparisons, prior year vs. actual enrollments.

Dr. Hoffmann reported that he has given Principals a guideline to stay within Proposition 2 ½. They may come forward for unmet needs but will be asked to see if they can fund these within the 2 ½ limits. There will be a page in the budget entitled, "Revenue Sources" and Principals will create a page including their highlights as well as a list of where override dollars were spent. Dr. Hoffmann would like to link dollars to goals. Members of the Committee indicated they would like to see more visuals and more detail on building rentals, gifts, fees and Medicaid reimbursements. Dr. Hoffmann indicated Revolving Accounts would be included. Dr. Hoffmann also indicated that the Per Pupil Costs show all funds spent by the schools.

Motion: On a motion by John O'Reilly, seconded by Greg O'Brien, it was voted unanimously to establish a sub account in the Student Fund Account for the 8th grade Washington, DC trip.

On a motion by John O'Reilly, seconded by Greg O'Brien, it was voted unanimously to establish a sub account in the Student Fund Account for the New York City Spanish Trip.

Reports and Information

Sustainability Subcommittee – Greg O'Brien reported the committee had a good first meeting with representation from all towns except Wellfleet. Perceived strengths and weaknesses were discussed. Dr. Hoffmann and Dr. Minkoff were thanked for facilitating the forum.

Policy Subcommittee – Dr. Hoffmann would like to schedule a Policy Subcommittee meeting for December before the Joint meeting to discuss hiring MASC to review the Nauset Policy Manual.

Wellness Subcommittee – Sarah Blackwell indicated that the Wellness Policy was approved and the subcommittee will begin to work on rolling out the plan, review menus, food service and revamp the high school cafeteria. They are in the process of forming a new Wellness Subcommittee that will follow up and monitor the plan. The goal is to make the cafeteria self-funded.

Transportation Subcommittee – Jon Porteus indicated they had a meeting on October 25th and reviewed information on the two-tier system. He indicated the process is ongoing and they are looking at preliminary billing. Principal Conrad will bring a report about how it is working at the high school. Monetarily it is not as good as they hoped but they continue to fine tune the routes. He will have full report in December.

Green Building Repair Subcommittee – Chair Cummings reported that they held a public forum on October 12th with the architect and the project manager. The forum was well attended by Orleans and Eastham representatives. Everyone is looking forward to Brewster vote.

Cape Cod Collaborative – no report

Middle School Liaison – Sarah Blackwell reported that Dr. Minkoff is holding a meeting on November 7th at 5:30 regarding the greenhouse project. They are looking for people that can design, build and manage a greenhouse.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by John O'Reilly, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was voted 4 yeas, 2 abstentions (Kavanaugh, Blackwell), to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2011 meeting.

Executive Session Minutes –

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was voted to approve the November 5, 2009 Executive Session minutes. (Abstaining: Frank Cummings, Greg O'Brien, J'Oreilly, Brian Kavanaugh)

On a motion by Jon Porteus, seconded by Greg O'Brien, it was voted to approve the February 4, 2010 Executive Session Minutes. (Abstaining: Frank Cummings, Brian Kavanaugh, John O'Reilly)

Hold – Executive Session minutes of March 4th were held.

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Greg O'Brien, it was voted to approve May 6, 2010 Executive Session minutes. (Abstaining: Frank Cummings, Brian Kavanaugh, John O'Reilly)

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was voted to approve the June 3, 2010 Executive Session minutes. (Abstaining: John O'Reilly, Brian Kavanaugh)

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was voted to approve the November 17, 2010 Executive Session minutes. (Abstaining: Brian Kavanaugh, John O'Reilly, Greg O'Brien)

On a motion by Greg O'Brien, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was voted to approve the January 27, 2011 Executive Session minutes. (Abstaining: Brian Kavanaugh, John O'Reilly)

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was voted to approve the April 7, 2011 Executive Session minutes. (Abstaining: Brian Kavanaugh, Greg O'Brien, John O'Reilly)

On a motion by Greg O'Brien, seconded by Sarah Blackwell, it was voted to approve the May 5, 2011 Executive Session minutes. (Abstaining: Brian Kavanaugh and John O'Reilly)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by John O'Reilly, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was voted by a roll call vote to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. On a roll call the vote was as follows: Frank Cummings - aye, Greg O'Brien - aye, Jon Porteus - aye, John O'Reilly- aye, Sarah Blackwell-aye and Brian Kavanaugh-aye

The Committee went into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. and indicated they would not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. Tefft

