

Nauset Regional School Committee  
December 1, 2011  
Nauset Room, Orleans Town Hall

APPROVED

Present for the Committee: Frank Cummings, Jean Souther, Brian Kavanaugh, John O'Reilly, Jon Porteus, Daniel McEnaney, and Sarah Blackwell

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

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

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

*K. O'Reilly*  
'12 FEB 27 2:13PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cummings called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

AGENDA CHANGE

None

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Hoffmann congratulated three students from Nauset Regional Middle School whose art work will be displayed at the Cape Cod Museum of Fine Arts. WHO?

CITIZENS SPEAK

Ed Lewis, Selectmen from Brewster, addressed the Committee with concerns regarding the building use fees for the renting space at the Nauset Middle School, especially with regard to the Artisans of Cape Cod group. Dr. Minkoff indicated some charges were an error, and she will contact the group.

Mark Mathison addressed the Committee with concerns about the School Reach PowerPoint Presentation that was sent to all parents regarding the Food Service Program. It was his opinion that this was too one-sided and that it hurt Nauset's credibility. Dr. Hoffmann responded that every document is public information and that a number of parents wanted information. This was sent in an attempt to inform parents and did not suggest or support either insourcing or outsourcing of the program. Parents were invited to attend the Joint School Committee meeting.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Food Service Presentation

Jennifer Rabold, Chair of the RFP Food Service Subcommittee, highlighted the problems, deficits, benchmark expenses, meals per labor hour, participation and solutions. The subcommittee would like to change the way Nauset does business, change the culture, hire a new director from Aramark, and increase participation. In the RFP it was indicated that Nauset would keep all staff as Nauset employees. The only staffing changes would be the food service director and the bookkeeper. The contract with Aramark would be for one year with a 60 day notice to opt out of the contract at any time.

The Subcommittee recommended that the School Committee consider whether to authorize the Business Manager to enter into contract negotiations with Aramark. (The first vote of the subcommittee was unanimous and the second vote of the subcommittee was 5-2 in favor of outsourcing.)

A Point of Sales System was discussed. Committee members voiced concerns regarding the contract with Aramark and it was indicated that legal counsel would review the contract carefully before it was signed. Other comments included if present director has been evaluated, had there been a local effort to hold costs down, what are the real solutions, and questions regarding in-house expertise, personnel issues, need for better food, changing Nauset's operating methods, and actual savings if outsourced.

Jennifer Rabold stated that the school's expertise is in education and not in food service and just as in the transporting of students; the food service should be outsourced to a company with experience and expertise.

Concerns with outsourcing to Aramark included having their manager in the Nauset system, legal responsibilities, law suits, our organizational design problem, value of community based and run, and more nutritious foods being served.

The Subcommittee was thanked for all their research and hard work over the past year to bring this forward with a recommendation to the Joint Committee.

### Eastham Wells

Sheila Vanderhoef, Eastham Town Administrator, gave an overview of the historical background and committee votes relative to the Eastham wells. Eastham needs a formal vote and confirmation of the former School Committee votes and actions.

Questions and answers from the last meeting were read by Chair Cummings and Dr. Hoffmann. (see attached)

Chair Cummings indicated that he did not feel the Committee should charge Eastham for water as it is in the spirit of cooperation between towns and the Nauset School District. The Town of Eastham Department of Public Works has just finished dismantling the portables and hauling away all the debris at minimal cost to the district. He and other Committee members felt water should be available to everyone as a common resource.

Brian Kavanaugh submitted the following be recorded in the minutes:

*As committee members contemplate this weighty issue before us, I ask fellow members, during this time of great economic challenge, to seize this rare opportunity to develop this potential source of revenue in a way that is fair and equitable to all.*

*We are engaged today, nationally and locally, in a great debate between cost containment and revenue enhancement in a collective effort to determine how best we can utilize our own assets to solve our own fiscal challenges. Excellent educational opportunities are costly, and we have a duty to our respective towns as well as the students of our region, to work on both cost containment and revenue growth.*

*As we advance, I believe we need to consider the below:*

**\*NO AGREEMENT CURRENTLY EXISTS.** *The representatives of Eastham are seeking our approval and signatures on their proposed agreement because no formal agreement currently exists. In their letter dated November 30, 2011 they reference minutes of School Committee meetings, during March and April of 2006, where Eastham sought authorization to "Determine Sources of Water" and to "Explore" on the grounds of our High School. In their concluding paragraph, they advance, "It is hereby requested that the school committee sign the easement documents, which is the only responsible thing to do, as the town has followed an open and respectful process, and would like to move forward." I am not challenging their assertion that they have been open and respectful, instead I am noting that process of negotiating and codifying an Easement agreement designed to facilitate the taking of enormous volumes of water simply hasn't been completed. Eastham did seek and was granted access sufficient to "Explore" for the purpose of "Determining Sources of Water" but nothing more. The notion that the Town of Eastham would advance that the "minutes" offered are an adequate substitute for a signed binding written legal contract providing them the "expanded rights" they now seek is a variance with the record. The granting of such rights as is suggested by the need of the agreement to receive special State Level Legislative action, isn't an act that should be undertaken casually.*

**\*WE MUST VALUE OUR ASSETS BEFORE WE SELL THEM.** *The notion that we are capable of exercising equity and fairness, with respect to the granting of unique rights to one of our member towns, to the exclusion of all others until we have performed due diligence with regard to the value of the item to be granted is unsupportable. How can a pie of unknown size be fairly cut?*

**WE MUST PRESERVE OUR CURRENT USE.** *Any agreement that may be forged between our bodies should provide a provision that respects the notion that any such easement agreement shall not interfere with the School Committee's use of the entirety of the high school property as it is currently, even if new or current regulations, related to water collection, are reinterpreted or altered. The agreement should also contain a provision that automatically negates the agreement should the people of Eastham fail to support the development of site within some stipulated period, say 5-10 years*

Chair Cummings asked if any other members wanted to charge Eastham for water and there was no response. He went on to say the savings to the district is \$13, 000 and free water.

Dr. Hoffmann asked how the high school's 40 year old pipes would be attached. He questioned if these pipes could be dug up in the process and inspected. Could the Town's pipe be tapped into and the 40 year old pipe be left in the ground? Dr. Hoffmann would like this to be part of the agreement. Sheila Vanderhoef indicated the Town of Eastham will lay new pipe from the "T" into the building, Principal Conrad asked if the irrigation would be taken off line and Ms. Vanderhoef stated it was potable water and not irrigation. Mr. O'Reilly voiced concern about the new pipe running into the building and the pressure in the line - Would a DE pressuring device be part of the improvements? Ms. Vanderhoef indicated that would be done. Mr. Kavanaugh requested that this language be formally included in the contract. (accommodate a loss, water protection zone, preserve use) Also, if the Town of Eastham does not vote this, could it be negated? Dr. Hoffmann indicated that legal counsel would be contacted and requested that the committee not vote on this matter.

The Committee questioned their authority to approve this agreement. Mr. Kavanaugh indicated that no formal agreement exists and the Committee should not undertake the vote casually. Chair Cummings asked if any of the four town members would like to address

the Committee. Margie Fulcher, Selectwoman from Orleans addressed the Committee inquiring that if the plan did not go forward at Eastham Town Meeting, would the easement revert back to the Committee and would the Region Committee consider writing that into the agreement. She also requested that the Committee consider Mr. Kavanaugh's suggestions and put them in the agreement as well. Ed Lewis, Selectmen from Brewster addressed the Committee indicating he was in support of the proposal. He would also like to see a clause in the agreement that reverts it back to the school system, if not voted at Eastham Town Meeting.

Chair Cummings indicated he would ask the Superintendent, the Eastham Administrator and legal counsel develop the easement agreement and put in the things that are agreed upon that are not in present agreement.

Student Representative, James McLeod stated that during the summer there will be a lot more water being drawn from the wells because it is tourist season. He requested the Committee ask that water is provided for the irrigation system.

Margie Fulcher indicated that Orleans charges the Middle School for the water and that Eastham has chosen not to charge.

John O'Reilly questioned what would happen if the line suddenly bursts and there is extensive damage. Sheila Vanderhoef indicated that the insurance would pay for repairs.

#### Student Representative Report

James McLeod reported it is a busy time of year. Fall and Winter sports are getting underway as well as hockey, basketball, wrestling, swimming, and winter track. He felt that it was commendable that the high school has found a way to have winter track which increase winter participation and enables students to participate in three varsity sports, if they chose to do so. The Fine Arts Department is busy getting ready for the winter festival tree sale where the jazz band, concert band and ensembles perform. It is a great event! The winter and holiday concerts are coming up. This is a good opportunity for the Committee to see what everyone is working on and what Nauset is offering students. Many clubs are fundraising right now for trips with bakes sales, selling calendars, and raffles. Atmosphere at school is very positive.

Principal Minkoff reported that the staff did participate in a flag football game with students. This was a wonderful event! The Human Rights Academy in the High School is working with Middle School students. It is a wonderful collaboration. High School students have also volunteered to be tutors to Middle School Students after school. Wreaths are being sold at the Middle School with proceeds offsetting the Washington D.C. trip.

Dr. Caretti indicated that the Professional Development Days were exceptional and she thanked Dr. Gifford for all her hard work in organizing and planning the offerings.

Dr. Hoffmann reported budgets are being compiled. He also reported that the MASC Joint Conference was very well done this year and committee members in attendance found many of the sessions to be very informative. He met with Tom Conrad, Bonny Gifford, and members of PAAM, Provincetown Art Association to enhance our partnership with them. Principal Conrad is working to see if Nauset can offer credit to some of the students who attend. Dr. Hoffmann thanked Ginny Ogden, Tom Conrad and Bonny Gifford for the participation in the partnership. Dr. Hoffmann recently met with Police Chiefs and Principals at the Middle School and High School. They are presently refining the MOU Agreement with the Police as this has not been reviewed since 2002. The Assistant District Attorney's office is rewording the agreement.

Dr. Gifford highlighted curriculum mapping in her report. Teachers who attended curriculum mapping on November 22<sup>nd</sup> continued working in grade level or content teams to begin mapping their courses and content areas. Several groups of teachers including High School science worked together on developing maps using the ATLAS curriculum management system. Dr. Gifford reported that she worked with the science teachers at the high school who were very proactive and jumped right into the process enthusiastically.

Principal Conrad thanked Sarah Blackwell who volunteered to look at the plans for the cafeteria. He continued with his report noting that no money is being taken from the operating budget for winter track. By offering this sport, 40-50 students will be able to be involved. Mr. Conrad also thanked the Town of Eastham for doing such a phenomenal job dismantling the portable classrooms and removing them from the premises. It is a terrific partnership with the town of Eastham and an example of how we can all work cooperatively. Mr. Conrad indicated he will attend the Selectmen's meeting to thank them personally. The space will be used for a garden where vegetables will be grown to be used for salads and soups in the cafeteria.

#### FY12 Budget Update

Hans Baumhauer, Business Manager, reviewed the monthly expense report which included transfers from last month. The Region Budget and Finance Subcommittee reviewed the transfers and recommended the committee's approval of transfers.

MOTION: On a motion by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by John O'Reilly, it was voted unanimously to approve the transfers. Members of the subcommittee were thanked for all their work.

### FY13 Budget

Dr. Hoffmann provided preliminary information on the following: calendar, priorities, enrollment projections revenue sources and staffing and is working on an executive summary. The Strategic Plan is scheduled to be discussed at the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dr. Hoffmann also indicated he and the Principals will working on enrollment projections and will talk about apportioning school choice students in grades 6 and 7. Administration does not want classes to get too big and will continue to monitor this. Presently there aren't any major increases or decreases. Principals will also look at how many students are leaving the Nauset District and how Nauset market itself. One of the priorities for next year will be how to increase the quality of our programs at both schools. NESDEC projections will be reviewed. The Superintendent would also like to have Region Revenues including revolving funds, gift accounts and athletic revolving accounts included in the budgets. Excess and Deficiency Fund was discussed at the subcommittee meeting. Presently there is \$600,000 in the balance. Special Needs programs continue to be outstanding Mr. Kavanaugh stated the student population was down 6% over ten years and the staff was down about 4%.

### Provincetown Tuition Agreement

Dr. Hoffmann indicated it was time to renegotiate the Provincetown Agreement, as it is a one year agreement. Provincetown presently sends 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders to Nauset. Dr. Hoffmann hopes to meet with the Chair of the Region Committee and the Superintendent from Provincetown, Beth Singer. Provincetown indicated they would like to have a more permanent agreement. The tuition fee is based on three factors: per pupil cost from the prior year, escalator clause, and the per pupil charge for the annual repair budget. It was asked if Provincetown and Truro should pay for some of the \$6,000,000 Green Repair Project. Chair Cummings also thought the agreement should require Provincetown to pick up extra costs, particularly Special Education costs. Jon Porteus will work with the Superintendent on the agreement.

Ed Lewis, Selectmen from Brewster, spoke regarding apportioning the money from school choice tuitions and putting it toward capital.

### OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Sustainability Subcommittee - Greg O'Brien reported that the subcommittee will meet after the holidays.

Policy Subcommittee – no report

Health and Wellness Subcommittee – Sarah Blackwell reported that the subcommittee met on December 14<sup>th</sup> to make plans for the official roll out in January of the Wellness Policy.

Transportation Subcommittee – Jon Porteus indicated that at the Joint School Committee there will be a presentation as to how the two tier system is doing and how we look going forward.

Green Repair Project Subcommittee – Frank Cummings reported that the architect has started drawing up plans.

Hazardous materials are being tested and they will look for lead, pcp, and asbestos. Presently they are considering saving the cost of a general contractor because there are only two major components, windows and roofs.

Cape Cod Collaborative – no report

Nauset Regional Middle School Liaison – no report

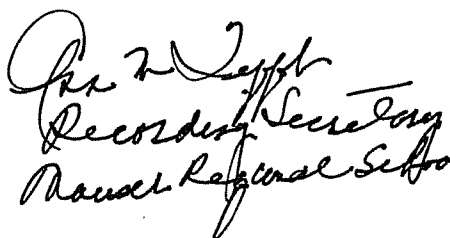
### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by John O'Reilly, it was voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 3, 2011. (Abstaining: Jean Souther) Note correction in location.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Executive Session was not held.

### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by John O'Reilly, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

  
Recording Secretary  
Nauset Regional School Comm.