

APPROVED

Joint Meeting of the Nauset School Committee
Nauset Regional Middle School
January 25, 2012

Present for the Brewster Committee: Marie Enochy, Dave Telman, Donna Kalinick

Present for the Eastham Committee: Ann Crozier, Joanna Stevens, Sean Fleming, Joanne Irish

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

Paul J. Asser
12 MAR 19 2:06PM

Present for the Orleans Committee: Mary Lyttle, Gwynne Guzzeau, Eric Ehnstrom

Present for the Wellfleet Committee: Jan Plaue, Elizabeth Pointius, Mort Inger, Jill Putnam, Terry Frazier

Present for the Region Committee: Frank Cummings, Ed Brookshire, Sarah Blackwell, Brian Kavanaugh, John O'Reilly, Marie Enochy, Jon Porteus, Jean Souther, Dan McEnaney

Present for the Administration: Superintendent Richard Hoffmann, Assistant Superintendent Bonny Gifford, Hans Baumhauer, Business Manager, Ann Caretti, Director of Student Services, Barbara Lavoine, Director of Technology

Others in Attendance: Principals Conrad, Carreiro, Minkoff, Rodman, Fronius, and Gauley

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Guzzeau called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

AGENDA CHANGES

Item G. was added to the agenda – Transportation.

CITIZENS SPEAK

The Chair informed Citizens they could speak to the Integrated Preschool issue when it came up on the agenda. No other citizens wished to address any other issues at this time.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Update – Integrated Preschool Program

Dr. Hoffmann gave the Committee some background information and explained how the Nauset Integrated Preschool works. He also indicated that he met with Dr. Ann Caretti, Director of Student Services, and Dr. Maggie Mack, Director of the Integrated Preschool, and they made a recommendation to eliminate one of the four classrooms due to extra capacity over the last 5 years. It was further stated that no one would make the recommendation if they thought it would have the slightest impact on the quality of the program or hurt the students in any way. The Superintendent further stated that the issue before the school committee is whether the school committee feels that the capacity to meet the needs of the students with special needs in the Integrated Preschool can be met with three or four classrooms. Reinstating the fourth classroom (a.m. and p.m. session) would leave 14 available seats for students with special needs and add 16 more seats for community friends. Dr. Hoffmann also indicated that the costs were apportioned in each town through a formula using special needs children enrollment over the past three years and taking an average. Dr. Hoffmann reviewed the handout showing special needs children enrolled in each class and the capacity. Dr. Hoffmann indicated they reviewed the enrollment last year and years prior that showed the program ran with consistently unfilled seats. By proposing to eliminate the classroom he was showing his fiscal responsibility to the towns. The Superintendent, Dr. Mack, and Dr. Caretti thought the program could run with three classes as it had in the past, without jeopardizing the integrity of the program. He also stated that if unanticipated special needs children enrolled, a half day session, or full day session if needed, would be

Dr. Mack cautioned about raising the tuition rates as some parents can barely afford the cost now. She also indicated that it was the norm to plan for 7 special needs students in a classroom and that Nauset has served far fewer students in most years. There will be 11 open spots that may not be filled over six sessions (3 classrooms). She stated that this is a fair and prudent plan. If the screening identifies a few more students then propose a ½ session.

Motion: A motion was made by Joanna Stevens, seconded by Joanne Irish, to reinstate a ½ classroom in the Nauset Integrated Preschool Program for 2012-13 and revisit this after the upcoming screening to look at the numbers once again.

At this time several citizens including Patricia Hill, Jeanne Snyder, Brenda Cazeault, Greta Montgomery, Steve McKenna addressed the committee stating concerns about the process, credibility, and the need to reinstate the fourth classroom.

Mort Inger from Wellfleet indicated that this was not an issue about the process but an issue as to whether or not the fourth classroom should be reinstated. Parents sounded as if the committee was eliminating the program but the conversation should be about reinstating the fourth class.

Allison Paine addressed the committee asking how many community friends are turned away each year and could there be a preschool for non-special needs students. Dr. Mack indicated she would try to get that information for them. Tricia MacDonald, Cynthia Baron, Patricia DeWitt, and Peter Norton (Chair of the Board of Selectmen from Brewster) also addressed the committee with concerns about class size, priorities, state mandates and funding for an additional classroom.

Jan Plaue, Chair of the Wellfleet School Committee, noted that the school committee is always looking for ways to save money and that is what the School Committee asks Administration to do when preparing a budget. She also stated that School Committees do not want to ask for an override year after year. She indicated that Administration tries to balance the budget for the committees. She stated she has 100% confidence in Dr. Caretti and Dr. Mack who are in charge of the preschool program. She feels everyone should go with the recommendation of the experts who feel we can have a quality program with the three classrooms. She also stated that if more children were identified, we would accommodate them. Administration is not hurting the program or saying that anyone's child will be hurt with the change.

Amended motion: Mr. Telman made an amendment to the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Enocty to add both a.m. and p.m. sessions, with the understanding that after the screening in March, if we can service the kids with one classroom, we would do that.

Dr. Hoffmann indicated that usually the maker of the original motion must be willing to accept the friendly amendment and that the motion on the table takes precedence. Ms. Enocty felt the committee should vote on the amendment and whether or not they were allowed to make the amended motion.

Chair Guzzeau asked Joanna Stevens (maker of the original motion) if she would accept this motion. Joanna Stevens indicated she did not accept the amendment. Ann Crozier called the question. Dave Telman asked for clarification of the process.

The vote was taken on the first motion - to reinstate a ½ classroom in the Nauset Integrated Preschool Program for 2012-13 and revisit this after the upcoming screening to look at the numbers once again.

Eastham: Joanna Stevens – yea, Ann Crozier – yea, Joanne Irish – yea

Wellfleet: Jan Plaue – nay, Jill Putnam – nay, Mort Inger – nay

The Chair closed discussion on the Integrated Preschool.

Concussion Policy

Dr. Hoffmann indicated that the policy is mandated for the high school and Administration will come back with an addendum for the Middle School and elementary schools. The policy was reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee and they recommend it for approval with our trainer, Michele Pavlu's amendments.

Dr. Hoffmann also indicated that the committee must suspend the policy for a first and second reading in order to approve at this meeting.

Mr. Kavanaugh indicated that the committees take the extra time on the policy and not to suspend the rules for the second reading. This has a March 1st requirement when we will need a full policy.

Ms. Pontius indicated that she is on the Policy Subcommittee and indicated that the trainer, Ms. Pavlu, did a tremendous amount of work on the policy and answered any and all questions. The only questions that were raised regarded the middle school and elementary schools. Mr. Fleming, also a member of the Policy Subcommittee, indicated that the school nurse refers children out to their physician with head injuries.

Motion: On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted unanimously to suspend the second reading and accept the endorsement of the Policy Subcommittee.

Motion: On a motion by Ann Crozier, seconded by Joanna Stevens, it was voted unanimously to suspend the second reading and accept the endorsement of the Policy Subcommittee.

Motion: On a motion by Marie Enochy, seconded by Dave Telman, it was voted unanimously to suspend the second reading and accept the endorsement of the Policy Subcommittee.

Motion: On a motion by Frank Cummings, seconded by John O'Reilly, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay (Brian Kavanaugh) to suspend the second reading and accept the endorsement of the Policy Subcommittee.

Motion: On a motion by Mary Lyttle, seconded by Eric Ehnstrom, it was voted unanimously to suspend the second reading and accept the endorsement of the Policy Subcommittee.

Motion: Adopt the new concussion policy as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

On a motion by Jan Plaue, seconded by Mort Inger, it was voted unanimously to adopt the new concussion policy as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

On a motion by Joanna Stevens, seconded by Ann Crozier, it was voted unanimously to adopt the new concussion policy as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

On a motion by Mary Lyttle, seconded by Eric Ehnstrom, it was voted unanimously to adopt the new concussion policy as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

On a motion by John O'Reilly, seconded by Sarah Blackwell, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay (Brian Kavanaugh), to adopt the new concussion policy as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

On a motion by Dave Telman, seconded by Marie Enochy, it was voted unanimously to adopt the new concussion policy as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

The Concussion Policy was adopted.

letters to families, and expanding the drop off times. It was noted that some families are habitually late and Principals are trying to educate families regarding the impact this has on their child. It was also noted that tardies show how many students are not taking the bus. Mr. Conrad was asked to give the committee information regarding the vast majority of grades and not just the decline in the number of students with D's and F's. It was also noted that parents have shared concerns about their athletes.

Principal Conrad gave a brief history of the research regarding the benefits of later start times for high school students and he addressed the athletic program questions. Principal Conrad indicated he would bring more data to the committee next month.

Donna Kalinick asked that Administration keep tracking this data. She is concerned about the middle school and elementary schools. She suggested a survey be sent to parents to ask the question why can't you get your child to school on time.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mort Inger, seconded by Brian Kavanaugh, it was voted to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2011 meeting, noting Terry and Sean were absent.

Adjournment

It was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Tefft, Secretary to the Joint School Committee