

Nauset Regional School Committee
April 5, 2012

APPROVED

Present for the Committee: John O'Reilly (chair pro tem), Brian Kavanaugh, Jean Souther, Jon Porteus, Dan McEnaney, Sarah Blackwell, and Greg O'Brien (arrived at 8:05 p.m.)

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

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AGENDA CHANGES – None

RECOGNITION –

The Superintendent recognized Marie Chamberlain, Nauset High School sophomore, for capturing the 100-yard backstroke title for the second straight year and did so in a time that earned her the National Interscholastic Swim coaches Association all-American award. This is the most elite honor a high school swimmer can achieve and only the top 100 times from across the country in each event are recognized. She made a state-record time of 55.2 seconds, beating the old mark, set in 2005, by almost 2 seconds. She is scheduled to compete in her third straight YMC Short Course National Championship in Greensboro, NC and will swim in a meet to try to qualify for the US Olympic Trials in the 100-meter backstroke. It is her dream to be an Olympic Swimmer.

The Superintendent also recognized the following Nauset Regional Middle School students who are Cape-wide winners of The Cape Cod Times' Classroom Times Essay Contest:

Victoria Ganss, Grade Eight, First Place, News/Features
Eliza Fitzgerald, Grade Eight, First Place, Opinion
Bridget Larson, Grade Eight, Third Place, Opinion
Chloe O'Neal, Grade Seven, Second Place, Sports
Katie Hannon, Grade Eight, Third Place, Sports

CITIZENS SPEAK-

Alan Castellano, Chair of PEC (Public Employee Committee), addressed the Committee regarding the implementation date of the Flexible Spending Account which will start on 9/1/2012. He is looking for clarification of the start date, as he thought it was July 1st.

ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

Principal Maxine Minkoff recognized the following Nauset Regional Middle School students who attended the junior southeast District Music Festival on March 9th and 10th: Michael Cabral, Kathleen Codair, Isabelle Eastman, Victoria Ganss, Katie Hannon, Karli Herwig, Taylor Hughes, Josh Lane, Phoebe Liebling Chloe O'Neal, Abigail Pollock, and Joy Pye. Abby Pollock was also recognized for being an eighth grader playing with the Junior Jazz Band. Principal Minkoff also reported the Mock Trial took place this week against Barnstable with NRMS prevailing. She also reported the Model United Nations club traveled to New York City for the recent Model UN Conference. William Powers and Will Brooks received an Honorable Mention for the representation of Burkina Faso in the UN Development program's discussion on Democratic Governance. Tyler Cremins and Jonathan Montano received the Best Position Paper Award in the Historical Security Council for their paper on China's position on the situation in Haiti in 1992.

Principal Conrad reported that James Macleod, student representative to the School Committee, was at a Lacrosse meeting in Marshfield and could not be at the meeting. Nate Scalise received the National Merit Scholarship and has been accepted to Harvard, Williams and Swarthmore Colleges. He also reported that the Advisor/Advisee Program is taking place at the high school thanks to the effort of 20 staff members. 265 individual meetings are happening on campus with students and parents. Each meeting takes about an hour with a tour of the campus, building schedules and getting a feel for Nauset. Eighth grade parents appreciate this program. Presently on campus are 45 Belgian students through the efforts of John Fuller and the Sports Ambassadors Program. He also reported that Dee Smith, Director of Guidance, is overseeing the Advanced Placement Program and will coordinate approximately 500 AP exams this year (\$45,000 in fees). Fifteen years ago there were only about 25 AP tests being taken.

Dr. Ann Caretti, Director of Student Services reported that she is working on a video with Middle School students to show others students what it is like attending the Nauset Middle School. This will be placed on the Nauset Website.

Dr. Bonny Gifford included sample tasks of Illustrative Math Projects for Grade 3 and Grade 8 in her report. This helps students gain a deeper understanding of the meaning of the numbers and the concepts. It was also noted that Grade Eight is moving into Algebra. She also reported that mapping initiatives are proceeding quite well and hopes to have some drafts to show the Committee in September. She noted that these initiatives have brought positive growth to the system in Professional Development. She attended the ASCD Conference in Philadelphia showcasing top rated speakers and authors in the field of education. She left with the quote: "We're in the business of changing lives."

Principal Minkoff requested that the committee accept a donation of a piano from Eldredge Auction House and declare the current piano surplus.

Motion: On a motion by Sara Blackwell, seconded by Brian Kavanaugh, it was voted unanimously to accept the donation of a piano from the Eldredge Auction House with gratitude.

Motion: On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Brian Kavanaugh, it was voted unanimously to declare the present piano at the Middle School surplus.

Dr. Hoffmann announced that Habeeb Associates have been awarded the bid to conduct the long range facility study at the Middle School, High School, and Central Office. (work will begin on April 17th) He also attended PAAM with Principal Conrad to continue to fund a very important after school program. He recently held a Food Service Staff meeting to review recommendations from consultant, Lisa Beaudin. The food service staff wants to take on the task of being efficient and effective. They would also like additional training and time for managers to meet together to discuss best practices. He is presently working with Dr. Gifford, a few teachers and principals using a collaborative approach to come up with a good system for teacher evaluations. He met with the Finance Committees and Selectmen recently to discuss health insurance costs, School Choice, the Food Service Program, and Special Needs costs. He is meeting on April 10th with the Eastham Finance Committee regarding Preschool Enrollment, Capital Plans, and the Green Repair Project.

CVEC (Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc.) PV Solar Energy

Maggie Downey, Liz Argo, and Ron Collins reviewed the RFP process, vendor selection (Broadway Electric), project structure and the net metering credit value. Also highlighted in the presentation were the Power Purchase Agreement price as well as the Annual Production and the Guaranteed Annual Production showing the net benefit that the community will receive from the project each year. It was also noted that Eddy Elementary School, Stony Brook Elementary School and Eastham Elementary School already have very successful PV systems. Questions were raised about CVEC's financial

position and it was indicated this information could be found on their website and they will provide further information as necessary. It was also noted that the vendor, Broadway Electric, is responsible for all aspects of the project as well as the financial surety. The level of potential risks, purchase options and savings were discussed. The district's legal counsel will review all the documents. It is expected that the district, pending approval, will execute the contract within the next 30 days as the vendor is looking to begin the permitting process. Ron Collins indicated that it is critical that the project is coordinated with the roofing project and that working with a new roof installation is the best case scenario.

MOTION: On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was voted, 5 yeas, 1 nay (Brian Kavanaugh) to proceed with the project.

Mr. Kavanaugh shared concerns that included involving more people in the project, owning the solar panels and getting free electricity, lack of financial backing, roof and window project being jeopardized, and getting the most competitive bid. Chair O'Reilly asked that CVEC remind the committee of the process and history of the project from September/October until now. It was also noted that there are 31 A sites and Nauset is one of them. Many municipalities not interested or do not have the capacity/staff to manage and maintain facilities and that is why they chose CVEC. There were also so numerous properties involved in the RFP that vendors notice. Many have already participated with CVEC.

Eastham Wells

The Superintendent reported that he negotiated the final components of the agreement with Sheila Vanderhoef, Eastham Town Administrator. Items in the agreement that were clarified included:

- The agreement clearly states that the easement shall be in place for 99 years and potable water shall be provided to Nauset High School at no cost.
- The agreement clarifies that the Town of Eastham is responsible for all monitoring of water quality and maintenance of the new well systems.
- The plan is to connect the High School to new pipes from the new well. Included in the agreement is wording that the Town will ensure that the pressure of the water at the point of entry into the High School will be the same as the current pressure. Modifications to any internal plumbing at the High School are not included.
- Our legal counsel, Nancy Campany, recommended against a provision that the easement would only be in effect after the Town's citizens voted to approve the project, as it could hamper the Town's ability to get required legislation of the easement approved. In addition, it is unlikely that the project would move forward without citizen approval of the project. Further, the agreement prohibits the Town from assigning its rights under the agreement to another party without the prior written consent of the School Committee.
- The agreement states that the Town, at its own expense, will restore any areas that are disturbed to their original or near original condition.

MOTION: On a motion by Jean Souther, seconded by Sarah Blackwell, it was voted 6 yeas, 1 nay (Brian Kavanaugh) to approve the agreement between the Nauset Regional School Committee and the Town of Eastham on the Well Easement.

Mr. Kavanaugh expressed concerns regarding the value of the water, giving away an asset worth a great deal of money, leasing the land and jeopardizing our facility/fields. Mr. O'Brien stated he supported the agreement as we are all part of a community and should not charge one another town for water on Cape Cod.

Eldredge Water Remediation Plan

The Superintendent reported that the Firebirds are having problems with water seeping into their dugouts

and seek remediation to the problem. The remediation plans involve a small piece of NRMS property near the leaching field. Seeding of the area to provide a more attractive grass covering than what is present in also included.

MOTION: On a motion by Jon Porteus, seconded by Jean Souther, it was voted 5 yeas, 1 abstaining (Brian Kavanaugh), to accept the plan for remediation submitted by the Orleans Firebirds.

FY12 Budget Update

Hans Baumhauer updated the committee regarding the FY12 budget. Dr. Hoffmann indicated that the Budget and Finance Committee have reviewed the transfers and decided to hold off until they have a forecast for the FY12 budget. There will be more information at the next Budget and Finance Subcommittee meeting. Chair O'Reilly indicated that the Budget and Finance Subcommittee wanted an extra month to verify the numbers being reported and what is to be purchased at the Middle School and High School. Mr. Baumhauer indicated that there has been a spending freeze since December in anticipation of overages in transportation and health insurance costs. Mr. Baumhauer reviewed the revenue portion of the budget indicating it more than likely will not change. He also indicated that the final revenue figure does not come from the state until June 30th.

Dr. Hoffmann stated the rationale behind having a more robust E & D Account including reserve for emergencies, unanticipated facility needs, special needs tuitions, etc., Provincetown tuition of over \$200,000 could be eliminated in 1-2 years as they continue to negotiate with other Districts, School Choice enrollment could decline dramatically when Monomoy High School opens in two years, more Nauset students are selecting Sturgis High School and they are building a new campus with 200 more seats and funds could be used to offset town expenses when the MSBA debt service changes from a credit to a debit in future years. Chair O'Reilly indicated there would be more information on the FY12 budget next month.

Mr. Baumhauer reported that the Middle School and High School cafeterias are running at a profit, once Eastham was removed from their account. Eastham is running in a deficit.

FY13 Budget

Dr. Hoffmann reviewed Charter School Preliminary enrollment figures with the Committee.

Lighthouse Charter School – 71 students enrolled

Sturgis Charter School – 19 this year and 31 students next year

(Based on FY12 tuition rates the cost to the district is \$17,900 for students who attend Sturgis)

Dr. Hoffmann stated that the Sustainability Subcommittee is talking about marketing our school better so that people know the quality in their local public schools. Principal Conrad indicated that about 98% of students in the Nauset Middle School are attending Nauset High School. He also noted that it is perceived that Sturgis students are very serious about education. He also noted that he has heard parent like the small and intimate atmosphere at the Lighthouse Charter School. (600 students compared to 200 students) He also stated it is hard to compete with that and the Nauset faculty is talking about it.

Dr. Hoffmann indicated he would send letters to the Charter School Parents asking why they chose a charter school over Nauset.

Green Repair Project

Dr. Hoffmann shared good news with the committee stating the window project came in at 2.4 million and the roof came in at 1.78 million with the combined project being about \$5,000,000. (about \$800,000 below budget) He acknowledged the architect for doing such an outstanding job on the specifications. Ron Collins is on the Green Repair Project Subcommittee so they are aware of the solar panels.

Motion: On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Jean Souther, it was voted unanimously (6 – 0), That we hereby determine, in accordance with G.L.c.70B, that the amount of the cost of the District's High School project authorized by a vote of the Committee passed on October 5, 2011 not being paid by the school facilities grant is \$4,106,116 and we hereby approve of the issuance of notes and bonds in such amount under said G.L.c.70B.

Motion: On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Dan McEnaney, it was voted unanimously (6-0), That each member of the Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by the, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing vote.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Transportation Subcommittee – Mr. Porteus reported on the Ridership Study, Bus Survey, Update on Tardiness & Absences, Student Performance and the feasibility of making certain changes next year. The Subcommittee will continue to look at start times, offering an after school program at the middle school, morning athletic practices (which defeats the purpose of the later start time) and transporting choice students. He indicated they will continue with the Two-Tier System in 2012-13 and will also continue to monitor the positive and potential negative impacts of the system on our students and their families. They will continue to review all of the routes and in the fall each School Committee can review ridership and the number of buses and determine if they can reduce costs by eliminating mileage or routes.

Principal Conrad suggested that the committee proceed very carefully and review all the data. He stated if the high school goes later into the day it has a direct relationship with afterschool programs.

Sustainability Subcommittee – Mr. O'Brien reported that Dr. Hoffmann and Dr. Minkoff deserve a lot of credit in working with the Sustainability Subcommittee. He recognized that it is a slow process but it gets people talking having a common language and a focus. They are looking at how to create new revenue and also building credibility with the public.

Health and Wellness Subcommittee – no report
Cape Cod Collaborative – no report
Middle School Liaison – no report

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was voted 6 yeas, 1 abstention (Jean Souther) to approve the minutes of March 1, 2012.

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Dan McEnaney, it was voted 6 yeas, 1 abstention (Jean Souther) to approve the minutes of March 8, 2012.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Jean Souther, it was voted by roll call vote to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. The Committee went into executive session at 8:45 p.m. and the Chair announced the Committee would not come back into public session.

Mr. O'Brien-aye, Mr. Kavanaugh – aye, Ms. Blackwell – aye, Mr. Porteus, Mr. McEnaney-aye, Dr. Souther-aye, and Chair O'Reilly-aye

The Committee went into executive session at 8:46 p.m.



