

Nauset Regional School Committee
January 3, 2013
Eastham Town Hall

APPROVED
JAN 3 11:56AM
TOWN CLERK
Conley

Present for the Committee: Sue Skidmore, Chris Galazzi, Cheryl Codair, Ed Brookshire, Sarah Blackwell, John O'Reilly, Jon Porteus, Jayne Fowler and Brian Kavanaugh

Present for the Administration: Dr. Hoffmann, Dr. Gifford, Dr. Caretti, Ms. Lavoine, Ms. Venditti, Principal Conrad and Principal Minkoff

CALL TO ORDER

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

RECOGNITION

Chair O'Reilly recognized new school committee member from Orleans, Chris Galazzi and reminded everyone to make every effort to attend the Joint School Committee meeting on January 31, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nauset Regional Middle School.

CITIZENS SPEAK

None

PRIORITY BUSINESS

School Security

The Superintendent discussed security in the schools and the district's response to the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut that included; a School Reach call to parents, an email to parents noting resources (which was also posted on the website), an email to parents relative to what would happen on Monday morning and how the District would move forward helping students feel safe in school, school staffs came in early and stayed late to be briefed on how to help students throughout the day, Superintendent Hoffman and Director of Student Services, Ann Caretti, visited every school. The Superintendent was also in contact with the Police Chiefs in all towns and will meet to review safety procedures and security in all schools. Focus areas include: Prevention, Security and Preparedness. Police visited the schools. Dr. Hoffmann thanked the Police Chiefs, Dr. Ann Caretti, the Principals and faculty for helping out to help students feel safe at school. The Police Chiefs and Dr. Hoffmann will work behind the scenes to come up with recommendations for security in all the district schools. The Regional response will be to consolidate crisis plans, use best practices throughout the district.

Chief Scott MacDonald, Chief Ed Kulhawick, Chief Tajakian, and Chief Dick Koch attended the meeting. Chief Scott MacDonald read a statement about the tragic events in Newton, Connecticut and recommended that the Nauset Regional School Committee support a School Resource Officer at the Nauset Regional Middle School and asked that the committee authorize funding for such a program as soon as possible. Chief MacDonald indicated that security strategies would include facility security, threat assessment and response. He also noted an independent consultant be hired to address building security concerns. All Chiefs supported the idea of having a School Resource Officer at the Middle School and gave their rationale for such a position. Everyone, Chiefs, Principals, and School Committee members praised the work of

Officer Diane Back, School Resource Officer at Nauset High School. The School Committee thanked the Chiefs for attending the meeting and for their partnership with the schools. Chair O'Reilly read a statement from Greg O'Brien, who could not attend the meeting, indicating his support for a School Resource Officer at the Middle School. Other School Committee members stated their support of the position at the Middle School. Mark Mathison, President of the NEA, stressed the importance of keeping the schools open to the public and noted a SRO allows the function of the school to continue in a safe manner as well as be part of the community.

Russ French, Chair of the Finance Committee from Eastham shared concerns about SRO officers in elementary schools and noted funding was not unlimited. Chief MacDonald reiterated that the SRO was for the Middle School, understanding the financial constraints of the towns. He concluded that officer visits would be part of an assessment team at the elementary schools.

Superintendent Hoffmann noted that Chief Fisette from Wellfleet, had a scheduling problem and could not attend the meeting but will be a part of the future meetings on security with the Superintendent. The arrangement with the Town of Eastham and the when in which the SRO is paid was discussed. Presently the schools pay her salary for 10 months while the town picks up the salary for two months plus the benefits. It was noted the officer will be a part of the Orleans Police Department and it would be a similar type of arrangement.

FY13 Revenue

Dr. Hoffmann reviewed the report noting that he received the actual figures on which students are coming to the district through school choice, what students left the district for school choice, and who is attending a charter school as reported by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at the end of December. The Superintendent reviewed changes in revenues and discussion ensued. Revenues, actuals, and how to show these in the budget were discussed. Foreign student tuition should be included in revenues as well.

FY14 Budget

Superintendent Hoffmann gave the committee an overview of what was in their budget books. He indicated the Central Office Budget subcommittee was reviewing the Central Office Budget and that the Joint School Committee will review it on January 31st. On January 10th, the Regional School Committee will review the Central Office Budget, the Capital Plan, and the Steve Habeeb Asset Assessment Report relative to the High School, Middle School, and Central Office. A handout was distributed of students attending the Middle School and High School for members to place in section 3 of their budget book.

Principal Tom Conrad reviewed his line item budget and justifications answering questions after each section as needed. Mr. Kavanaugh requested a list of actual salary costs for teachers this year and what percentage the salaries actually increased. The budget discussion included potential retirements, virtual high school, technology line item, electronic books, the Advisor/Advisee Program, Naviance System, Athletics, and mention of other various budget accounts.

Principal Maxine Minkoff reviewed her line item budget and justifications answering questions after each section as needed. The budget discussion included retirements, textbooks for math

and foreign language, technology line item/capital expense, Athletics, cost of electricity, and special needs students/educational assistants.

Discussion ensued about the teachers who are being funded through School Choice and the need to put them back into the operating budget. Mr. Kavanaugh requested the minutes of the meeting where these positions were removed from the operating budget.

Chair O'Reilly is unable to attend the Cape Cod Collaborative Meetings and asked if another member would attend the meetings. No one volunteered.

Ms. Blackwell would like to see a line item for technology included in the budget. Barbara Lavoine addressed the committee relative to technology needs and indicated she would prepare a report for the January 24th meeting. Wireless Internet access at the high school was discussed.

Dr. Hoffmann indicated that at the January 10th meeting the following would be discussed: Region Only budget, Central Office budget, and the Capital Plan for FY14.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Jayne Fowler, it was voted to approve the minutes of December 6, 2012. (one abstention - Chris Galazzi)

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Sue Skidmore, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Tefft

