

Nauset Regional School Committee
February 7, 2013
Eastham Town Hall

APPROVED

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ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

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

Present for the Administration: Principal Thomas Conrad, Dr. Ann Caretti, Ms. Giovanna Venditti, Dr. Bonny Gifford and Dr. Richard Hoffmann

C. Meely

Others: Russ French, Dave Dunford, John Knight, Greg Levasseur, and Tom Rhinehart

Call to Order -

Chair O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

The Nauset Honors Chorus and choral director Allison Beavan opened the meeting with a performance medley of wonderful songs and voices.

Agenda Changes - None

Citizens Speak - None

Administrators' Reports

Principal Conrad reported it was the end of the second semester and students did a good job with their mid-terms. Report cards were being sent home. Kevin Fitzgerald, a junior at Nauset High School has been battling cancer in is in Children's Hospital having just received a lung transplant. Students had a fundraiser and will be donating \$7,000 to Kevin and his family to offset costs.

Dr. Ann Caretti addressed the audience about a program she is working on regarding giving incentives and locations where people can turn in their violent video games in an attempt to reduce exposure to violence, as well as physical and verbal aggressive behavior.

Dr. Gifford reported on the February 6th ½ day curriculum development for staff. She thanked the School Committee members who voted to provide the staff with 3 half days for the time. The work that has been done and progress that has been made is invaluable toward curriculum work. The ESL corrective action plan has been submitted. She welcomed a new ELL teacher, Svitlana Stepanchenko who is servicing approximately 25 students from many different countries. Dr. Gifford visited Eastham Elementary School, Ms. Brown's class who were involved in the science program. The new science standards will be adopted in March.

Dr. Hoffmann gave a brief report on safety issues and security at the schools. He indicated he was meeting with the Chief of Police from all towns and the Principals to work together and have a comprehensive plan for the Nauset Schools. He attended a performance put on by high school students regarding bullying and being yourself which all K-2 students were invited to attend throughout the district. The District is also doing some updating of intervention programs happening in our schools such as Advisor/Advisee Programs, Character Ed Programs, Second Step and the Responsive Classroom.

FY13 Budget

Giovanna Venditti reviewed the monthly expenditure reports with the committee highlighting changes since last month. Ms. Venditti also reported on the balances in the Region Shared, Region Only, and Middle School. The High School balance is \$144,770 and Principal Conrad anticipates spending the entire amount.

Ms. Venitti met with principals to address needs between now and the end of the school year. Mr. Conrad indicated he will set \$50,000 aside for emergency funds. It was noted a potential return of funds of approximately \$130,000 from the Middle School (\$50,000 set aside for robotics and the purchase of whiteboards).

Food Service Update

Giovanna Venditti reported she is working with the Food Service Director looking at costs and participation figures. She indicated the number of lunches being purchased is reduced and the costs have increased. Administrators had a brainstorming session to see what could be done to be proactive to lower costs and increase participation. Some ideas included; bag lunches for athletes, focus groups at each school to see what students want to eat, and reduce variety of lunches being served.

School Committee members stated that cafeterias are not profit-making operations, are serving healthier foods that cost more. Schools also have to meet unfunded mandates. It was also indicated that schools should be willing to pay something to offset costs and make sure we have a good program. It was suggested that the Director of Nutrition and Food Services focus on having healthy meals that students will eat and reducing the wait time in lines at the high school and middle school.

Public Hearing on FY14 Budget

Chair O'Reilly called the Public Hearing open on the FY14 Budget. Dr. Hoffmann reviewed his PowerPoint Presentation with the Committee. He hopes the Committee will approve the bottom line and approve the assessments to towns on March 7th. It was noted that 1.5 million dollars is lost to students who leave the district and that we have to market our schools better. Nauset also has the lowest drop-out rate in the state. Dr. Hoffmann and the Principals met regarding school choice and the recommended number of seats available. They would like to have no more than 21 students on average in a classroom at Nauset Middle School.

Dr. Hoffmann also indicated the district would like to expand the pre-vocational and transitional services for high school students. He would like to get more students into the community and would also like to build more partnerships.

Dr. Hoffmann indicated that the budget had a 5.7% increase before applying revenues. It was noted that \$555,000 would be taken out of E & D to offset costs. The budget is \$19,691,519 or 2.75% increase.

Questions were taken from the public and committee members. The School Resource Officer at the Middle School was discussed.

Chair O'Reilly closed the public hearing on the FY14 Budget.

FY14 Budget Update

Giovanna Venditti walked the committee through the Operating and Capital Budgets Summary Sheet as well as the History of the Excess and Deficiency Account. She indicated she is still reviewing revenues and expenses and that the health insurance figure is not solidified yet.

Chair O'Reilly indicated the Committee would like to see a report that includes free cash accounts, revolving accounts (school choice, grants, athletic accounts, and food service), Circuit Breaker, and E & D in next year's budget. Any money used for calculating per pupil expenses should be tracked and assimilated. Comparisons were made with the budget and the DESE reports and it was noted the committee would like to know where the differences are. Giovanna Venditti indicated she will invite the auditor to a meeting in March or April to review per pupil costs. Committee members shared concerns about using E & D money.

Motion:

On a motion by Greg O'Brien, seconded by Sue Skidmore, it was voted 8 yeas, 2 nays (Brian Kavanaugh and Sarah Blackwell) to move \$555,000 out of E & D. (it was noted the committee will need to find that amount next year)

Capital plans will be discussed at the next meeting. Chair O'Reilly acknowledged movement on the capital projects and reported that good strides are being made in this area.

5 Year Technology Plan

Barbara Lavoine gave a PowerPoint Presentation on technology currently in the District, what upgrades have been made and the need for improved technology. Next month the committee would like to have a cost breakdown/actual devices, district's vision for technology, implementation plan sense of professional development for staff, and how we measure the impact of technology on our students. Is it making a difference? It was suggested that Ms. Lavoine show the committee some of the technology that students are using.

Mr. Galazzi asked that local contractors be made aware of the bidding process and help them with this process.

Move Region School Committee Meetings

Vice Chair, Sarah Blackwell, introduced the idea of moving back to the Central Office for School Committee meetings because she felt the committee talked and communicated better in that location. Nauset Students taped the meetings and then they were aired on TV. Many members were opposed as they felt the broadcasts were beneficial to the community.

Mr. Kavanaugh read a statement that was entered into the records: "One major responsibility of all school committee members is to ensure that various points of view are encouraged and respected. Personal attacks should not be permitted against colleagues who present different ways of thinking or request open disclosure of information. Committee members should not be stifled because they move beyond the self-imposed boundaries of "But that's the way we have always done it." Various points of view and tough questions are necessary for quality decisions that are in the best interests of the children, parents and taxpayers we serve. Different ways of thinking increase our understanding and make us more likely to be tolerant of those who differ from the familiar. It is important to me, and I hope to you, that tactics designed to limit intellectual freedom have no place on this elected school committee."

The TV studio at the high school was discussed but Principal Conrad indicated it could not hold the large committee. Other members indicated that they liked going to the four towns for the meetings so that everyone feels included. It was noted that Wellfleet does not have a facility for the meetings.

Mr. O'Brien suggested that school committee members be careful what they write in emails and members should also choose their words carefully when at a meeting, and encouraged members to use restraint. Mr. Porteus appreciated comments from members and indicated that committee member's questions were not being stifled. He asked that members be respectful of one another and Administration. He reiterated respect is how we present ourselves and the way we ask questions is respectful.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Ed Brookshire, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 10, 2013.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ed Brookshire, seconded by Sarah Blackwell, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. Tefft

Included in the Packet: Principal Conrad's report, Principal Minkoff's report, Asst. Supt. Report, Food Service Report, monthly expenditure reports, FY14 PowerPoint Budget presentation, Draft of Operating and Capital Budgets, Certified E & D History, End of Year Spending Plan, minutes of January 10, 2013.