

Nauset Regional School Committee
December 12, 2013
Nauset Regional Middle School

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK
14 FEB 28 3:40PM
APPROVED

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

Present for the Administration: Principal Thomas Conrad, Principal Maxine Minkoff, Dr. Ann Caretti, Keith Gauley, Giovanna Venditti, and Dr. Richard Hoffmann

Chair O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Agenda Changes – Policy G. - discussion

Recognition

Principal Tom Conrad introduced Lukas Hernandez, sophomore and resident of Provincetown who recently received an award on behalf of PAMM, a program offered to Nauset students. He was chosen to receive this award with the Director of PAMM from First Lady Michele Obama in Washington D.C. Lukas explained how he works in digital media and graphic design, particularly games, and has been affiliated with PAMM for seven years. He shared his wonderful experience and indicated he began learning coding at Nauset High School by taking a HTML course and Robotics.

Mr. Ed Lewis recognized Allison Bevan and the Treble Chorus for their phenomenal performance at the Brewster Men's Club. He also noted that 25% of Nauset students are involved in the music program.

Dr. Hoffmann recognized the Bayside Skippers, Adam Jernberg, Kahla Jussell and Jilly Stevens who performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. He also recognized Snow's in Orleans for donating some of the proceeds from their cut Christmas tree sales to the Nauset Middle School. They were thanked for their generous and continued support.

Citizens Speak

Russ French, Chair of the Eastham Finance Committee shared his concerns with the Committee relative to the cost for replacing the Middle School roof being so much greater than the initial estimate in the Capital Asset Report dated October 2012. He asked for clarification.

At this time Chair John O'Reilly addressed the Committee and the audience with the following statement:

"I am in my 12th year as a school committee member in this district, 9 years at Brewster Elementary School and 3 in the Region, over half of which I have served as a chair for a committee. I have held on to one primary belief during these years. It is what pushes me to continue to be involved with the Schools, justifies the many hours I have given for the various committees and sub-committees I have sat on that provide me with some satisfaction at the end of the day. It is my belief that the life blood that runs through these schools is the teachers and the staff of the Nauset Region. My opinion is that the teachers and staff are the main reason our District has done so well in the past, is doing well in the present and will continue to outperform in the future. As when I began in Brewster, I continue to take great pride in being a very small part of the Nauset Regional School District. I am saying these things because I am hurt, bothered and find it particularly upsetting, that there may be a belief out

there that I as part of this committee do not support the teachers and staff within this Region. I urge my fellow committee members to in join me in the Committees' continued support of the teachers and staff. Therefore, I would like to make the following motion and have it placed in the record that:

I move that the Nauset Regional School Committee and the Administration continue to actively support the teachers and staff while functioning within the scope of their job especially when they are following school district policy in the performance of their job.

This motion was seconded by Ed Lewis and voted unanimously, 8-0, in favor of the motion.

Other members applauded and praised the staff with numerous accolades and voiced their support.

Priority Business

Middle School Roof

Mel Overmoyer, OPM, Strategic Building Solutions, gave a brief overview of the project indicating that all MSBA requirements have been carried out as required thus far. He also indicated they have specified the best roof with the longest life and upgraded the roof from black EPDM to white PVC. The construction cost is just shy of 2.1 million dollars totaling 2.4 million dollars with fees and contingences. Included in the cost estimate was the replacement of 20 fans on the roof which will have to be removed during construction anyway and noted the MSBA may or may not opt to pay for the fans. He also stated that the estimate of October 2012 in the Habeeb Report was a visual estimate and that their estimate was after examination with field cuts into the roof. The deck in most areas is gypsum decking and he shared a concern about adhering or mechanical fastening.

He outlined submission dates for MSBA (with 2 months in between submissions) and the target date so as to get this project done during the summer months. He reviewed different scenarios relative to pursuing this project. He asked if there was a possibility to allow the designer architect to proceed to the design phase with anticipation of the approval. This would allow the work to be completed during the summer. At town meetings in April and May the School Committee would have to get voter approval. They could get practically through the bid process, so that if all towns approved the project, it would be ready to go.

There were many questions regarding the \$800,000 difference in the Habeeb Capital Asset Report dated October 2012 and Mr. Overmoyer's estimate. The roof at the high school is the exact same material, warranty is the same but there is a difference in the way of adhering it.

The Chair asked what the very latest date would be to give authorization to go ahead on the design so that the project could get done this summer and can the program offered by MSBA be extended to the following summer? Mr. Overmoyer noted that the MSBA likes to have all their projects completed in 2014. He noted if the committee waited until after the holidays they would have to put pressure on the design team. If the Committee does not give approval in January and it went to the March meeting and the design had not proceeded, there is no way the project could be done in the summer. Dr. Hoffmann stated that Jim Nowack corresponded with the MSBA about an extension and they indicated that would not approve an extension. The school would have to reapply next year.

Russ French, Chair of the Finance Committee in Eastham questioned the \$800,000 difference in cost, if the other material is adequate, why are you using the white and explain it to the public.

The Administration will try to get better information from Steve Habeeb. It was also noted that the high school roof came in less because there was a great bid environment. Mr. Overmoyer will check on the warranty and if it is the same for the PVC and EPDM. This item was tabled until January 2nd.

Student Representative's Report

Nicole O'Leary reported that the Music Department is showcasing their talents at various venues throughout the towns and elementary schools. There are two holiday concerts coming up at the Middle School and she encouraged everyone to attend. She also indicated that winter sports have started and the student council is hosting a Toys for Tots program at Orleans Town Hall. Mr. Lewis inquired if there was a program where citizens could purchase a tree and donate it to someone who cannot afford one.

Administrators' Reports

Principal Conrad congratulated Valerie Bell for being the state winner for the Turtle Migration Project. As a result the High School will receive \$20,000 in technology for the school. He also updated the Committee on the progress of the tennis courts indicating an application has been submitted to the CPC Program. A subcommittee with Jon Porteus and Ed Lewis as members will work toward moving the tennis courts forward and will keep the Committee informed.

Principal Minkoff noted that one of the teacher is offering to hold 3 summer courses in coding to Middle School students. This will be part of the STEM Institute this summer. She also reported that the Middle School concerts were wonderful, parent conferences took place and the drama club did a wonderful performance. The spring musical will be "Annie." Dr. Minkoff indicated that she has 28 students who cannot afford to go to Washington, D.C. without financial help. A benefactor has given \$5,000 to help these students but that is not enough. If they cannot get the finances, they will have to look at other options for a trip. Dr. Minkoff noted how generous the community is reporting that \$95,000 has been raised for the greenhouse to date.

Assistant Superintendent, Keith Gauley, and Director of Technology, Barbara Lavoine, presented a draft Technology Plan to the Committee for their review at the January 9th meeting. Mr. Gauley indicated that the Technology Subcommittee received feedback from faculty at the Middle, High, and Elementary Schools, 20 students at the high school, the middle school student council, the citizens' forum, Nauset graduates, Theresa Martin, MASS CUE Conference and a conference/workshop at Cape Cod Tech. Mr. Gauley asked that the Committee review and send questions to him prior to the meeting on January 9th.

Dr. Hoffmann reported that he and Dr. Caretti met with Nauset Middle School students to talk about bullying and will do the same at the high school. He also indicated that he and Sarah Blackwell are negotiating tuition agreements with Truro and Provincetown. He hopes to have more information on January 9th. He recently met with the Assistant Superintendent and the Police Chiefs regarding a comprehensive crisis plan, with Mr. Gauley leading this effort. The Breakfast Café was well attended by School Committee and staff. School Committee members were amazed at the program and the students capabilities. He also visited classrooms in Grade 6 and Grade 2 in the district and observed math lessons.

FY14 Budget

Ms. Giovanna Venditti, Director of Finance and Operations reviewed the Dashboard Reports with the Committee. It was noted that less students were attending charter schools which made a difference in projected revenue. The cafeteria report did not include federal and state reimbursements as they were not received in time for the report. The committee would like to have a more detailed report regarding the losses. Ms. Venditti indicated that Susan Murray will be attending the next meeting and will answer some of their questions. Additional costs included a staff member for maintaining technology at the high school and middle school.

FY15 Budget

Dr. Hoffmann reviewed the budget process and procedures for upcoming budget meetings. Principals will discuss their budget priorities at the next meeting. It was noted that Dr. Hoffmann would like to bring the budget in as close to 2.5% as possible. They are in the process of getting a House Doctor on retainer to help with capital projects. The Superintendent stated that enrollment projections will be difficult because of school choice and the sequestration may lower the grant amounts. Town Assessments were given to the Town Administrators. All budget policies have been received from the towns with the exception of Brewster. On January 2nd the middle school and high school will review their budgets and the Region Only and Region Shared budgets will be reviewed on January 9th.

MOTION:

On a motion by Sue Skidmore, seconded by Jon Porteus, it was voted unanimously, 8-0, to set up a revolving fund for the Rome trip at the high school.

Policy Update

On a motion by Sue Skidmore, seconded by Ed Brookshire, it was voted unanimously, 8-0, to approve Section H, Negotiations, of the policy manual "in form" for a second reading.

Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, Sue Skidmore, addressed the Committee regarding the votes that were taken at the last meeting relative to changing the wording of a policy without going through the proper process, according to the school committee's own policy. Changing policy requires that changes go to the Policy Subcommittee for review prior to bringing them to a meeting for approval. Approval takes two readings, first and second reading and then adoption. Procedure was not followed and after speaking with Jim Hardy, MASC, he did not feel that the additions belonged in a policy as this is included in the State Ethics Laws. Mr. Hardy was very concerned about the wording, in particular, the word, "assailed." He suggested seeking legal counsel on that term. Ms. Skidmore would like the Committee to find a way to move forward in a manner that stays within our own policy. If these changes are requested, they should be brought to the Policy Subcommittee for review. Chair O'Reilly indicated that the Committee may have voted improperly and that the course of action would be to rescind the vote or ask Mr. Kavanaugh to go to the Policy Subcommittee with his suggested additions to the policy. Members of the Committee were in agreement to vote to rescind their previous vote on the matter.

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Blackwell, seconded by Ed Brookshire, it was voted unanimously, 8-0, to rescind the two votes taken as identified in the minutes of November 14, 2013 on page 5 regarding staff support.

It was suggested that Mr. Kavanaugh contact Sue Skidmore to go through the process and after that the Chair will place the item back on the agenda.

NEA president, Mark Mathison asked for clarification on the vote. Chair O'Reilly indicated they were not forbidding the language, just asking that School Committee policy and process be followed. The Chair of the Policy Subcommittee investigated it and it was determined that the Committee should eliminate the changes that were adopted on November 14 because the changes had not been submitted to the Policy Subcommittee in advance. He noted that the motion has no effect on the policy that is presently in effect.

Reports and Information

Policy Subcommittee – Sue Skidmore reported on the status of the policy manual

Transportation – Jon Porteus indicated no report

Technology Subcommittee – Sarah Blackwell and Jayne Fowler are representatives for the Committee

Capital Asset Subcommittee – Chair O'Reilly reported on the reviewing of bids for the House Doctor

Cape Cod Collaborative – No report

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Ed Lewis, seconded by Sarah Blackwell it was voted unanimously, 8-0, to approve the minutes of November 1, 2013.

Executive Session

On a motion by Sue Skidmore, seconded by Ed Lewis, it was voted by roll call vote to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel, not to return to open session. On a roll call the vote was as follows:

Sarah Blackwell- yea, John O'Reilly-yea, Jayne Fowler-yea, Ed Brookshire-yea, Cheryl Codair-yea, Sue Skidmore-yea, Ed Lewis-yea and Jon Porteus recused himself from this portion of the meeting.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. Tefft

Included in the packet: Administrators' reports, Dashboard reports, FY15 budget update, policy updates, and minutes of November 14, 2013.

