

Orleans School Committee
Monday, September 21, 2021
Orleans Town Hall

All Participants Are In Person

Present for the Committee: Chair Gail Briere, Ian Mack, Hank Schumacher, Sassandra Roche, Ginger Marks

Present for the Administration: Interim Superintendent Brooke Clenchy, Director of Finance & Operations Giovanna Venditti, Principal Elaine Pender, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Robin Millen, Assistant Director of Finance & Operations Jim Nowack

Call to Order/Agenda Changes: Chair Gail Briere called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM. Chair Gail Briere notified the committee of one agenda change: to move the Update on Orleans MSBA Project into the priority business as the first item.

Citizens Speak: No citizen speak.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Update on Orleans MSBA Project: Ron Collins and Jim Nowack updated the committee on the project. The official vote for acceptance into the MSBA program will be October 27th. Mr. Nowack gave an overview of the process once acceptance is received. Chair Briere asked Mr. Nowack to outline funds and timeline of project and present at the next school committee meeting in October. Ian Mack asked in regards to funding of the American Rescue Act whether the roof/windows/doors might qualify. Mr. Nowack replied that he could look into that grant and see what the steps are and if the grant may pertain to the project. Mr. Collins provided the committee with photographs of the building's K-2 wall, as well as pictures of the rooftop air handlers that are in need of updating for efficiency. He then gave the breakdown of the Building & Facilities Stabilization Fund which includes repair to Room 10 windows, drinking fountains with bottle filling stations, cutting back trees on the south side of the K-2 wing, and replacement of the K-2 wing roof top air handler. Sassandra Roche wanted to recognize both Ron Collins and Seth Pearson for all their hard work.

Robin Millen, Director of Curriculum, Assessment, & Curriculum: Dr. Millen shared her presentation on the work during the start of the school year and the upcoming ESSER III grant. She began with her entry plan and three key objectives (Dedicated Time for "Listening and Learning Tour", Establish Relationships, and Minimize the Impact of Transitional Change). She then went onto speak about the Strategic Plan and building a solid base and leveraging strategic actions, the goal being improved learning outcomes for all students. Dr. Millen spoke about our curriculum cycle to ensure the outcome of improving learning for students (new programming vs more professional development for instruction). Dr. Millen discussed the ESSER III Funding Plan for our district and the guidelines DESE has set for the use of funds. A community input survey was distributed to the school community, town offices, and local civil rights organizations, and there are 750 respondents to date. Dr. Millen also gave a brief overview of the past COVID-19 related grants and the status of those grants. Interim Superintendent Brooke Clenchy wanted to recognize Orleans resident Jessica Lamperti for her work designing and painting "Nauset Believes....Every Child Matters" in the vestibule at the Nauset Administration Office and commend her on the beautiful job she did.

Administrators' Reports:

Chair Report

Chair Gail Briere stated the MASC Conference is November 3-6 and we are entitled to send two representatives from the Orleans School Committee to the conference. The title of the event this year is "Rebuild Reimagine Relationships". Ginger Marks and Sassandra Roche stated they were interested in attending. Chair Briere also gave an update on the Universal Preschool Opportunity Article. September 1st the Select Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the article, and on September 16th, the Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 in favor of the article. This article will be listed as Article 9 "Fund Universal Preschool Support Program". There have been 49 identified Orleans preschool students through contact with licensed preschools in our area and this does not account for any children not associated with the current preschool. Chair Briere discussed next steps before town meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Interim Superintendent Brooke Clenchy reflected on a great first day back for staff. She recognized Ian Mack and Ralf Kremer's efforts with setting up the technology for the hybrid presentation. Brooke also wanted to credit the families, students and staff for a wonderful beginning to the school year with all that is still going on with the pandemic. She did mention the issue of lack of bus drivers and that we cannot run the same programming as we normally would, recognizing the Cape Cod Collaborative, Lori Newcomb and Giovanna Venditti for their efforts to run a smooth bussing program. Superintendent Clenchy closed her report with her plan to update the Nauset Schools website, and the addition of a Twitter account to post important information and events for Nauset.

Principal's Report

Principal Pender indicated the students are off to a great start to the school year. The school and teachers were more than ready to begin the year, as they came in over the summer to organize and set up their classrooms. Orleans has small classrooms, and that enables a very tight knit circle of support and ensuring being responsive to the needs of the students, so they can succeed academically. Mrs. Pender is very happy to have a full-time adjustment counselor and full-time psychologist at the school this year to help manage supports. She wanted to recognize the nurse leader, custodians, teachers, and the secretaries who have all worked tirelessly to get the school ready to open and welcome students. The literacy theme this year is "Dream Big", and a big thanks to Martha Jenkins in her efforts. Principal Pender wanted to thank The Farm for donating mums that are at the entrance to the school, the Homeless Prevention Council for donating backpacks, notebooks and supplies to students in need. Finally, she wanted to thank the bus drivers for all they do. Principal Pender reviewed the open staff positions and the status on hiring process.

FY22 Budget: Salaries have not been encumbered as of yet. Expenditure reports will be reviewed at next meeting in October.

Declare Surplus: List included in packet. It was moved by Ian Mack, seconded by Sassandra Roche and voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the surplus inventory plan dated 9/13/21.

Policies – Review for Second Reading:

ACAB – Harassment

IJNDB – Responsible Use of Technology – Student

It was moved by Hank Schumacher, seconded by Ginger Marks and voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the above policies for a second reading.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

- A. Cape Cod Collaborative – Hank Schumacher reported the enrollments are similar to last year. There are no Orleans students at Star Program and the Region has three students enrolled at Waypoint Academy. The future location of Waypoint Academy is in discussion, as they have one more year on the lease at the Henry Wing School in Sandwich. The Collaborative is working with the Town of Yarmouth to secure a lease at the MacArthur Building in Yarmouth, which is also home of Bridgewater State University Cape Cod.
- B. PTC – No report.
- C. School Council – No report.
- D. Policy Subcommittee – Ian Mack reported the subcommittee met on August 17th. They looked at harassment policy, voted to continue to support the face covering policy in place, and are currently working on the Staff Responsible Use Policy.
- E. Behavioral Task Force – No report.
- F. Preschool Enrollment – Included in packet.

Approval of Minutes

With one revision, it was moved by Sassandra Roche, seconded by Ian Mack and voted unanimously (5-0) to approve August 16, 2021 minutes.

Adjournment

It was moved by Ian Mack, seconded by Ginger Marks and voted unanimously 5-0 to adjourn at 5:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Miller
Recording Secretary