

**MEETING MINUTES of the
NAUSET REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING DATE AND TIME:
Thursday, January 23, 2025 @ 6:00PM
Nauset Regional Middle School 'Nauset Room' & Via Zoom**

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Judy Schumacher, Moira Noonan-Kerry, Richard Draper, Katie Cole, Cathryn Lonsdale, Chris Easley, Kari Hoffmann, Heather Michaud, Tom Fitzgibbons

ABSENT: Josh Stewart

NON-MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Superintendent Brooke Clenchy, Director Matt Kravitz, Director Giovanna Venditti, Principal Pat Clark, NRHS Teacher Genna Margotta

Call to Order & Declaration of a Quorum, Meeting Participation Statement and Recording Statement:

Chair Schumacher called the meeting to order at 6:05PM, declared a quorum present and read the recording statements.

Agenda Changes:

Item F: Financial Quarterly Report will be postponed to a later meeting.

Public Comment:

None.

Consent Agenda:

Approve the Minutes of January 9, 2025 and Gifts/Grants: Cape Cod Five Grants, Special Olympics, Hot chocolate Sparrow, Provincetown PTO, Nauset Newcomers, Red Barn Pizza, Seamen's Bank, Go Green

The Committee thanked all Community Organizations for their generous support of the Nauset Public Schools.

MOTION: It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously via Roll Call Vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Priority Business:

PUBLIC HEARING – SCHOOL CHOICE:

MOTION: It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to move into a Public Hearing regarding 2025-2026 School Choice:

Robert Tobias, Brewster resident, requested the Nauset Regional School Committee study the fiscal effects of the School Choice program, and add an item to a future agenda in which they have a data driven discussion on the benefits/drawbacks of the program.

Chair Schumacher reminded the Committee it is assumed all school districts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will participate in School Choice, the only vote required would be to opt out of the School Choice Program for 2025-2026.

MOTION: It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to move out of Public Hearing and into Open Session.

Kari Hoffmann indicated School Choice is misunderstood by many as it is a complicated program, and referenced MGL Chapter 76, Section 12B (G.L. c. 76, § 12B) which explains the School Choice Law. Additionally, Ms. Hoffmann suggested the Committee explain how School Choice impacts the district to Town Officials and taxpayers.

Special Education Director Matt Kravitz – Special Education Update:

Director Kravitz presented a slide deck presentation to the Committee, detailing Special Education populations in Nauset Middle and Nauset High Schools. Mr. Kravitz indicated there has not been much change from the previous school year. At NRMS Special Education Students make up 19% of the population, at NRHS 18%. Both schools fall below the state average. Mr. Kravitz then broke down the population by disability category, and detailed the out of district placements. Out of District placements were compared with other school districts across the Cape. Mr. Kravitz then reviewed all separate programs in both schools. Discussion was held on number of school counselors, Project Forward at Cape Cod Community College, out of district placements and how those can be unpredictable. Discussion was held on the work being done by the Health & Wellness Committee in the areas of social emotional needs of students.

A copy of the slide deck was provided to the Committee after the meeting via email.

Foreign Student Program - Educatius

Superintendent Clenchy explained the discussion and process involved in revising this program, which has been inactive since the COVID19 Pandemic. The final step in this is obtaining School Committee approval.

Principal Pat Clark explained that in the past this was a very robust program at NRHS. Currently Genna Margotta is the International Student Program Coordinator, and she is working to revise this program.

Genna Margotta indicated there are some valuable opportunities for international students to come to NRHS. Additionally there is a lot of interest in the community to be host families for these students.

Principal Clark indicated annual tuition will be set at \$17,000, and half-year tuition will be set at \$8,500 per semester. There are additional costs international families pay to have their student come to NRHS. Ms. Margotta indicated there currently is interest through Educatius for students to attend Nauset High School.

Discussion was held on insurance for these students, in which Director Venditti indicated they are covered by school insurance carriers. Discussion was held on where the funds for these students are held, how they are spent. Director Venditti indicated all funds are deposited in a separate revolving account, and used towards general school costs (ie: technology, etc). Discussion was held on what happens when the host family is not a good fit for the visiting student. Ms. Margotta indicated she will be the liaison between students and host families. Additionally Educatius would be involved in that situation as well.

The Committee thanked Principal Clark and Ms. Margotta for reviving this program.

After discussion, MOTION: It was moved by Tom Fitzgibbons, seconded by Chris Easley and voted unanimously via roll call vote to approve Educatius tuition at \$17,000 annually and \$8,500 per semester.

Budget Primer – Review and Approval

A copy of the Budget Primer was included in the Committee packet. Mr. Robert Tobias, Brewster resident and Finance Committee member, took the time to research and put together this document which explains the Nauset Public Schools budget process and procedures. The Committee thanked Mr. Tobias for his hard work on this document. The Budget & Finance Subcommittee reviewed the Budget Primer and made some minor updates/changes. The Budget Primer will be distributed to all town boards and committee members, and the interested Community at the upcoming Budget Workshop on January 30th as a Nauset Regional School District document. Additionally the Committee suggested a few corrections and suggestions for additions to the document.

After discussion, MOTION: It was moved by Kari Hoffmann, seconded by Moira Noonan-Kerry and voted unanimously to adopt and distribute the Nauset Regional School District Primer as edited.

NRSD Treasurer Position

Chair Schumacher reported Connie Boulos, Nauset Treasurer, will be leaving at the end of June 2025. HR Director L'Italien will be developing a job posting with the hope of having someone onboard to train prior to June 2025.

Financial Quarterly Report – Giovanna Venditti **Postponed to a later meeting**

FY2026 Budget Review

Director Venditti reviewed the Nauset High School 2026 proposed budget. Currently at Version 2, the NRHS budget is at \$13,809,794 reflecting a 5.76% increase. Changes resulting in a reduction from Version 1 included use of Rural School Aid, reductions for retirements/stipends, and a reduction in fuel oil/gas. Superintendent Clenchy indicated work is ongoing for these budgets with the goal of a 3%-4% increase. Clarification was requested on the NRHS retirements. Superintendent Clenchy indicated for NRHS there are two retirements, one will be filled at a lower rate, the other will not be filled.

Director Venditti reviewed the Nauset Middle School 2026 proposed budget. Currently at Version 2, the NRMS budget is at \$9,970,089 reflecting a 3.56% increase. Changes resulting in a reduction from Version 1 include use of Rural School Aid and a retirement savings.

Superintendent Clenchy thanked all School Committee members who serve on the finance subcommittees stating it is a significant effort and time commitment. Additionally she thanked the town liaison who attend these meetings as well.

Superintendent Clenchy reported to the Committee that they will see some major shifts in the region budgets, as they are in the process of making sure all items are in the correct budget and budget lines. Preschool and staff/retirement benefits are examples of items that could see some shift. Chair Schumacher indicated the shift in Region Only budget will include health care costs for Central Office, pension costs and retiree benefits for Central Office, which will move into the Central Office budget. This will give a good picture of what CO costs actually are. The Region pays 60% of CO costs, the remaining 40% is allocated to the elementary school budgets.

Tom Fitzgibbons, Chair of the Budget & Finance Subcommittee, reported work is still ongoing in all budgets.

Declare Surplus (Recurring Item)

None

REPORTS and INFORMATION

Tom Fitzgibbons reported on the Budget & Finance Subcommittee. Mr. Fitzgibbons indicated the Committee is working on budget forecasting for our member communities, and continuing to work on the FY26 Budgets.

Discussion was held on the Superintendent Search Feedback Forms

Future Agenda Items

Immigrant concerns within the Community and how the Nauset District will respond to those concerns. Superintendent Clenchy indicated that there is work being done in this area. Nauset Administrators are working with DESE and legal counsel.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously via Roll Call Vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlynn Consiglio
Recording Secretary

Documents Included in the Committee Packet:

Minutes of December 9, 2024, Gifts & Grants, Special Education Update, Nauset Budget Primer, Draft 2026 NPS Budgets