



Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School
195 Route 137, E.Harwich, MA 02645
phone: 774-408-7994

Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Date & Time: **Monday May 16, 2022 at 6 p.m.**

Location: **Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School,**
195 Route 137, East Harwich, MA 02645

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Jim Foley called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm

Present: Paul Niles, Kathryn Wilkinson, Pat Johnson, Tracy Murphy, Laura Gill, Lauren Elliott-Grunes, Jim Foley

Present on Zoom: Catherine O’Leary

Absent: Seth Rolbein, Thomas Langway, Rachel Lake, Andy Murphy, Jim McAuliffe

II. Declaration of a Quorum

A quorum was established at 6:07 pm

III. Public Forum - Doreen Leggett, Chris Wise, Ellie Smith, Warren Smith, Jenifer Cahoon

IV. Approval of Minutes for April 25, 2022

Move to be approved by Jim Foley, seconded by Laura Gill, all in favor. Unanimous approval.

Lauren Elliot-Grunes and Laura Gill would like to have mentioned that they tried for 45 minutes to connect to the Zoom, but could not connect.

- V. Presentation of the status of Hall's Path replanting plan by Chris Wise.
Presentation of the status of development of land behind the school by Chris Wise and former Harwich Town Planner John Idman. This presentation may include a walk to the replanting site if the Board finds this helpful.

Chris Wise introduced himself. He is happy with the plantings that he is installing now. Apologizes for what happened on the road. There was a public apology that was posted in the newspaper. He would like to backtrack 2 ½ years ago and discuss his developing plans. Years ago, he had plans to use the students at CCLCS to help plan development of some of the property. Then, COVID hit. He would like to provide the school with 4 ½ acres of land. His intent is to build acre lots on the other property. His landscaper is ready to plant the grass and the tree on the road, as planned, if that is what the school wants. However, if the tree is planted where it is planned, when it blooms, it will obstruct passing. Is this what people want?

Board Questions -

Pat Johnson - When the damage was done to the school's property, what was the crew working on?

Chris - Chris states that the owner of the property went ahead and cleared land to widen the road. Chris stated that he was opposed to this. That act "blew the alarm" and attracted the attention of the school, the town and neighbors. Right away, Chris knew it was a mistake. Chris called the owner and asked him to stop. There was a stop work order from the town that lasted a few weeks. The order was removed and work started up again farther down the road, and then the stop work order was reinstated.

Paul Niles - Can you update us on the replanting plan?

Chris - The forsythia, one tree and irrigation system are in.. There is an 8 ft section of rocks that will be removed and planted with grass and a tree. This has not happened yet.

Chris -This whole area has questionable titles.

Ellie - Best you could get is partial title on the land back behind the school.

Jim Foley - If the tree was planted, the 8ft is very restrictive.

Laura Gill - Was the tree that was removed hanging over before?

Chris - It was not. It was mainly brush. Chris stated that the plan was thoughtful and meant to beautify the area, not replace what was taken.

Jennifer Cahoon shows a picture of the area before the clearing to the Board members.

Lauren - What is your plan for developing the land on Hall's Path.

Chris - There will be 8 lots, with 7 or 8 houses.

Kathryn - As a teacher concerned about the safety of our students, what is your intention with Hall's Pass? Do you plan to use it during construction?

Chris - I am sure there will be trucks using Hall's Path during construction. They could come in the other way, but it's hard to control that.

Pat - Asked for clarification that Chris came here today and wants to clear the air, finalize the plans, and apologize. Pat asked if Chris is suggesting a scenario where he would purchase land from O'Connell and then give the school 4 acres.

Chris - Yes, Chris is very sorry about what happened to the road under the direction of the previous owner. Chris's dream is to give 4 acres to the school.

Ellie and Warren Smith - They were the first ones to build on Hall's Path 35 years ago. We love it just the way it is, but we can't be hypocritical and say that no one else can live here.

Jim F - If access is needed, there will need to be a change to the road.

Jen - What is Chris' plan for the bottleneck at the road? Has access changed since the last Town meeting?

Chris - The denial for an ANR is being appealed.

Ellie explained how Hall's Path is not a legal road. It is listed as "vehicle tracks". It was paved by the theater on their property.

Doreen Escher - If Chris can access his property by the other end, why would he need to bother this side of the road?

Chris - To make it a better plan and make it an acceptable layout. That choke point should not exist.

Pat read a letter from Seth Robein on his behalf. After it was mentioned that Seth will be able to watch this recording and some of his questions will be answered.

To the board of the Lighthouse Charter,

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend our meeting. Nauset High School is having senior awards night at the same time, both of our girls are graduating and receiving awards, and as you all know I'm so proud of them and amazed at what they've accomplished. I feel it's important and right to be there.

I also know that we as a board are crystal clear that further discussion this evening about the trespass on school property, clear cutting a swath at the side of the school with no authorization or approval to do so – facts I believe are not in dispute -- will be taken under advisement with no formal decisions reached should there be any proposals put forward tonight. So that gives me solace that we will revisit and discuss should that be necessary, when I'm able to attend.

Here are some thoughts and questions I would raise if I could be there, and would welcome any and all responses, clarifications, and corrections:

I don't understand how this clear cutting could have taken place, exactly who authorized it and paid for it. The intent seems to be to create access to land behind the school over school property. The board has never received a formal explanation or apology, to my knowledge. If I could get clarification on if this is accurate, how and why this happened, I'd appreciate it. Regardless, my understanding is that Chris Wise is taking responsibility, and promised the school he would pay for and accomplish replanting and reparations based on a plan we adopted months ago. Paul reported this to us at a previous meeting. My understanding also is that this has not been implemented. If that's true, why not? In my opinion if Chris is now the responsible party then he should also be reimbursing the school for legal fees and other ongoing costs, including staff time and effort, associated with trying to address this situation, out-of-pocket expenses and time-consuming engagement that the school could never have anticipated and should never have had to incur. Regardless of what does or does not happen going forward, I'd ask Chris to commit to that. If there is any proposal to change the reparation plan we adopted, or any other proposal related to the school's property, we as a board need to see a written statement and application. We would also need a plan with specifics we could review and the public could review as well, perhaps including town officials and neighbors. Perhaps others have seen something like this, but I have not and so assume other board members have not. Without those essential documents and good due process, in my opinion there is no legal or appropriate way we could discuss options. Thanks very much for sharing this at the meeting, and apologies again for not being there in person. Look forward to learning more, talking about this further, and to an amicable resolution.

Very best, Seth

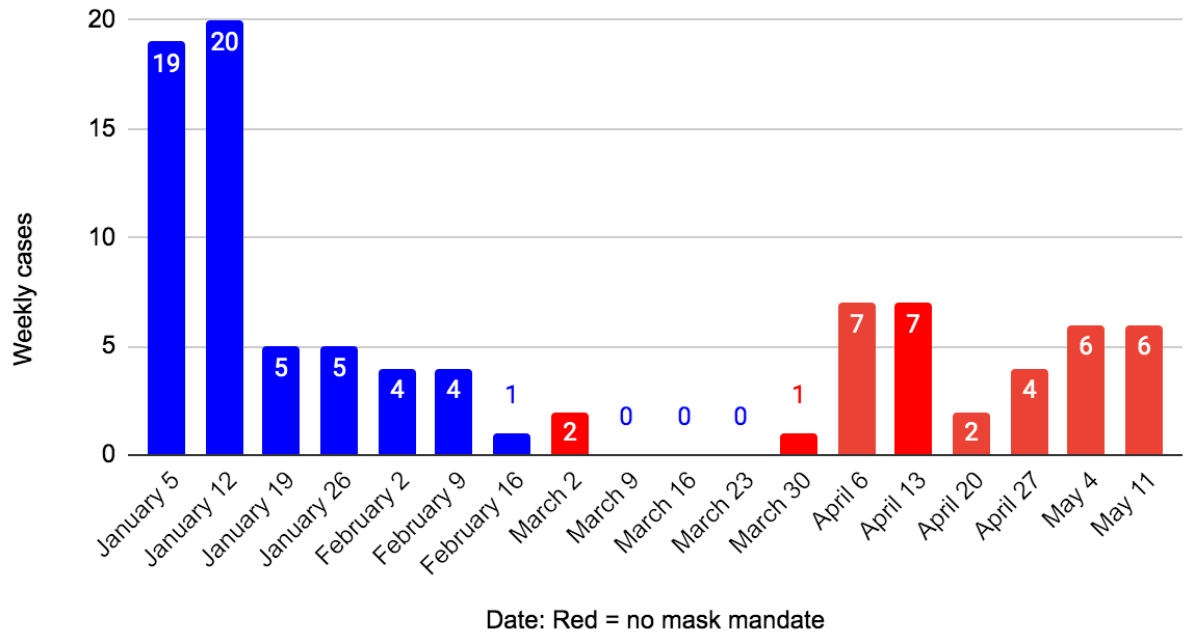
Chris - I am not asking for anything. Happy to complete his obligation.

Pat asked if he could get all the abutters' contact information, so that they could be contacted in the future.

VI. Director's Report

- a. COVID report - 15 positive students and 3 positive staff this month. Since the no mask mandate, we have been steady. We are encouraging masking, but not mandating masking. Not a lot of students are wearing masks. More teachers than students are masking. Shoutout to our school nurse. It was Nurse Appreciation Day the other day. This testing is funded through the rest of the school year.

Weekly COVID cases vs. Date



- b. Per Pupil Tuition - This is the per pupil costs for operation costs. The \$1038 is a guarantee. The Senate budget did not tie it to inflation. This will bring us a \$37,800 increase. 261k total facilities funding. This approximates what we spend for mortgage and basic occupancy costs, but does not address capital needs. This is a great advocacy win.

Budget	Per Pupil Tuition	Tied to Inflation?
Governor	\$1038	Yes
House	\$1038	Yes
Senate	\$1038	No

c. **Personnel report** - We have hired a new Associate Director, Beth Woelflein. She has been an Assistant Principal at Grafton High School. We had three finalists, two internal candidates and one external candidate. The hiring committee did an exceptional job. Very professional and high quality. All staff were allowed to participate and be a part of the hiring committee. Beth is negotiating with Catherine O'Leary for a start date. There is a possibility that she could start as early as July 1. She has negotiated a salary that is within our range.

We have three staff members that are on medical leave through the end of the year. We are assessing needs for next year through transition meetings with incoming students. By our next meeting, we will have clarity and a better understanding of the budget for the Board to approve.

There is no remedial summer programming this summer. However, there is an “extended year” program for students who get those services in their IEP. For students who fail, we offer services to help them pass. But, we don't know at this point if we will have any students in this situation.

VIII. Chair Report - No chair report

X. **Recruitment and Retention Committee** - The committee has thought that a good way to move forward is to increase the diversity of the Board. This will make it so much easier to network. Paul reported that for the incoming class 7.3% identify as Hispanic. Right now we are at 2.4%. 1.2% identify as Native, which is triple what we have now. 3.7% are black, more than double. So, this is an improvement.

Laura would like to develop a Board Diversity policy. Any help or input is welcome.

Paul reported that the school is about to contract with Cape Cod Voices for the staff this Spring for the next couple of Tuesdays.

XI. Nominating Committee Report - Tom Langway's term is expiring and so is Lauren's, but she is eligible to take another 3 year term. So, we should strategize now, so we can be active this summer and recruit. We are not well staggered in our terms, and this is not good for the strength of the Board. Paul would recommend that the Board chair reach out to Tom and Lauren to see their intent, and also to straighten out his slate of officers. Any Board members can recommend nominees.

XI. Finance Committee. Update on FY 2021 and FY 2022 budgets - The full budget will be reported at the next meeting. We will send out a proposed budget a week before our next meeting. We did go over a brief overview of our revenues during our last Board meeting. Our revenue information is really strong right now.

XIII. Faculty Report

CCLCS STAFF REPORT May 2022

Classroom Activity

Grade	Staff	Activity	How it Relates to Our Mission
6	Kathryn Wilkinson and Susy Remillard	In 6th grade Social Studies and ELA, we are teaching our traditional interdisciplinary unit on water. Students are reading the novel A Long Walk to Water in ELA class, while learning about the water crisis in Social Studies class. This is leading up to our 10th annual Walk for Water, which is scheduled for Friday, June 17.	social/emotional learning, rigorous curriculum, community building, global experiences
6	Annie Haven	We just finished our algebra unit on expressions, equations, and inequalities. We're looking forward to a fun geometry unit with geoboards, nets, surface area, and volume.	project-rich lessons, creative opportunities
7	Colleen Smith	7th Grade Spanish students are in the process of writing "Cuentos infantiles" (Children's Books) about a topic of their choice. They made their books by hand last week are working hard to write and illustrate their stories this week.	7th Grade Spanish students are in the process of writing "Cuentos infantiles" (Children's Books) about a topic of their choice. They made their books by hand last week are working hard to write and illustrate their stories this week.
7	Kate Ryan	Students are transforming themselves into gods and goddesses during our Greek Myth unit! They are writing their own original myth to explain current advancements and inventions of today's world to the	academic challenges, rigorous curriculum, project-rich lessons, creative opportunities

		Greeks back in 800 BCE. They will also be writing children's books modeled after Hercules 12 Labors, based on 12 difficult tasks in their own lives as middle school students.	
8	Emily Nowack	8th Graders are about half way through their Student-Driven Civic Action Projects. This week, students are compiling information on the systemic root causes of their focus issues through community surveys, interviews with experts and stakeholders, contacting local legislators, and good old fashioned research. The focus topics selected by each class this year are as follows: - 8W: CCLCS Facilities - 8X: Housing Insecurity on Cape Cod - 8Y: Charter School Funding - 8Z: Discrimination in Health Care As root cause research continues, students will build a measurable goal to focus on in the steps ahead. Be on the lookout for community feedback surveys from each group in next week's Notes-to-Home!	academic challenges, rigorous curriculum, project-rich lessons, creative opportunities, risk-taking for growth, personal responsibility, community building, local partners/resources

All-Grade/School Activity

Grade/Group	Activity	How it Relates to Our Mission
7	The Butterfly Project mural unveiling on 5/10 was amazing. A significant press release will be going out today to a host of national and international media outlets. We were honored to have a 91 year old Holocaust survivor with us via Zoom as well as Sen. Becca Rausch, Rep Tim Whelan and 2 representatives from the ADL join us. The event was standing room only! We have been asked to continue applying for more money from one of the funds which defrayed the cost of the project and have a pending partnership with the Defiant Requiem in Washington DC as a result.	social/emotional learning, academic challenges, rigorous curriculum, project-rich lessons, creative opportunities, risk-taking for growth, personal responsibility, community building, local partners/resources, global experiences
8	On April 15th, the 8th grade class ventured out to Nickerson State Park for a day of fun and immersion into nature! We used this trip as a community building day as well as a practice run for our White Mountains trip. Students participated in five separate activities throughout the day: a 2+ mile hike, pond ecology/sand castle building, campfire/s'mores/ 6 word memoir activity, playground time, and a personal reflection followed by basketball. It was an awesome fun day for students AND teachers. Looking forward to continuing this partnership w/ Nickerson State Park next year!	social/emotional learning, creative opportunities, personal responsibility, community building, local partners/resources
All School	Roots and Shoots is busy planting the school garden and working on our mini food pantry. We received another grant from the Jane Goodall Foundation the The Hershey Foundation to support our work. We are still looking for a donation of an outdoor structure to house our food pantry, so all suggestions welcome!	social/emotional learning, personal responsibility, community building, local partners/resources
All School	We had a very successful dance last Friday night. It was spearheaded	

	by an 8th grader, and the dance raised over \$1700 for World Kitchen in Ukraine.	
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Professional Development

Grade	Staff	Professional Development	How it Relates to Our Mission
6 & 7	Kate Ryan	Susy Remillard and I will be presenting at the annual AMLE conference in November down in sunny Florida. Our presentation will teach other educators different modalities/ strategies to engage students in lessons regarding hard history in the classroom.	academic challenges, rigorous curriculum, creative opportunities, risk-taking for growth, local partners/resources
6	Susy Remillard	Our team began our work with the 1619 Project's Education Network this past weekend. Over the next year, we will be working with the Pulitzer Center to analyze and modify curriculum to support all learners as they study walking democracy from the Civil Rights Movement to The March on Washington. Kate Ryan and I have been accepted to present at AMLE next December on teaching hard history in the ELA classroom. I have been accepted to present at NCTE in November on argument mapping as a tool to break down toxic polarization in discourse. I will be working as a summer scholar at NEH's seminar Ancient Stories, New Neighbors and will spend two weeks at Plimoth Patuxet for this work.	social/emotional learning, academic challenges, rigorous curriculum, project-rich lessons, creative opportunities, risk-taking for growth, community building, local partners/resources

XIV. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair - none

XV. Next meeting June 20, 2022

XVI. Vote to Adjourn regular meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded and unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm

Notification Date: May 11, 2022

Documents:  Director's Report- May 16 , 2022