

PAD Meeting:
May 20, 2015

Began- 6:32 pm

Ended- 8:01 pm

- Joyce began the meeting by recognizing elected officials in attendance: Martha Richards, Suzanne Smith, Mary Cooney, Kevin Maes, Chuck Townsend, and Susan Ford. Also recognized were Susan Moore, the new chair of the Northern Grafton County Democrats, Bill Bolton of the Plymouth Select Board, and former elected officials, Tink Taylor, Phil Preston, Catherine Mulholland, and Carol Friedrich.
- The minutes for April were approved
- Barbara Fahey gave a brief treasurers report.
- Joyce discussed Carolyn Mello's medical issue. She stated that if you want you to contribute to flowers to please put money in the donation bucket, if you would like to cook call Joyce at 5362856. Carolyn is doing well.
- Next meeting is with Mil Duncan to discuss rural poor. The meeting will be June 24th.
- Reports from elected officials o Mary Cooney (HD8) stated that revenues are up; the ways and means committee will be putting together revenue report.
 - o Sue Ford (HD3) reported that the House budget was terrible. In terms of service areas, things are being restored. There will be budget cuts. The Senate wants to add a business taxes. She told us to watch it. It may seem that the university system will be better off, but it won't. Casinos will come back. Many are saying that the Governor is responsible for cuts, but she is not.
- Announcements
 - o Commissioner Martha Richards announced that she will be donating her leftover campaign money to PAD.
- Speakers-Common Core
- Barbara Fahey Introduced the two speakers: Suzan Gannett and Kathy Boyle

- Suzan began the discussion by explaining that Common Core is a standard of what students are to learn at a given level. She clarified that it is not how to teach, but what is expected of the curriculum. It includes standardized testing in various forms. Suzan then explained how the Common Core was created through a bill from 1965, originally for low-income districts. This has been revamped 7 times. Regan believed education would fix the industrial system. It was found that the education system was behind the rest of the world. Students were not ready for college or work. Clinton's created the Goals 2000- Educate America. It was a grant and dried up when he left office. In 2001, the No Child Left Behind Act was written. The test was determined by each state. The hope was by 2014 all students would be at grade level. Any school that did not meet their goals would be sanctioned. Obama created Race to the Top, in 2014. The states have to meet requirements to receive funds. The Common Core came out of this.
- Kathy discussed more in depth about the Common Core itself. It was created from a study conducted by ACT. The study was completed in 2006 and found that many students had trouble with dense tasks, writing logically; use and understanding of academic language; and students were not ready for careers or 2-4 years colleges. The Common Core provides a rigorous curriculum, early monitoring, and a use of target goals, to help mitigate these issues.
- Susan explained the math standards. The standards are built on Common core state standards. It is nationwide. The unified standards assure that there is the same curriculum nationwide. If a student moves, the student should have an easy transition and should not be behind.
- Martha Richards asked how to help low income schools?
 - This is a serious concern. The standards do not cover all students; one size does not fit all. It is a long-term process. This has always been a problem.
- Kathy explained the English standards. She believes that they are good, it is not how or what to read, but rather what needs to be accomplished. English grammar must be held through each class. Non-fiction text is a heavy focused. This can achieve in multiple subjects science, history etc... Also, essays written with primary text examples, with logical arguments. There is also a focus in formal group presentations.

- Both women explained that the objections to the common core most often come from a lack of understanding of what it is. It is a living document and will continue to evolve.
- Joyce ended the meeting.

