

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

School Committee Conference Room  
Emerson School  
50 Mechanic Street  
Bolton, MA

December 16, 2015

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE:** Lorraine Romasco, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones, Kathy Codianne, Cathy Thier and Neal Darcy

**ABSENT:** Lynn Colletti

**ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Georg King, Acting Superintendent of Schools

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Romasco called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the School Committee Conference Room, Emerson School, Bolton, MA.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

None

**Student Advisory Report**

No report

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Committee went into Executive Session at 6:03 pm for the purpose of discussing negotiation strategies for Interim Superintendent's Contract, to reconvene to open session

**MOTION**

Nicole Odekirk moved to go into Executive Session at 6:03 pm for the purpose of discussing negotiation strategies for Interim Superintendent's Contract, to reconvene to open session seconded by Neal Darcy.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ms. Romasco	Yes
Ms. Odekirk	Yes
Mr. Jones	Yes
Mr. Darcy	Yes
Ms. Codianne	Yes
Ms. Thier	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

Reconvened to open session at 6:20 pm

**Interim Superintendent Contract**

Ms. Romasco advised the committee just held an Executive Session to discuss negotiation strategies for the Interim Superintendent's contract, which will be made public, and the committee is now going to vote on the contract.

**MOTION**

Mark Jones moved to accept the Interim Superintendent contract between the Nashoba Regional School Committee and Dr. Curtis Bates and authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the School Committee; seconded by Kathy Codianne **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Mark Jones, Kathy Codianne, Kathy Thier and Neal Darcy **OPPOSED:** Nicole Odekirk **VOTED AND PASSED. (5-1-0)**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NEASC Accreditation Letter Recommendations Presentation**

Ms. Romasco advised in the packet there is a NEASC Accreditation memo. Ms. Romasco provided a background of NEASC and shared that the letter indicates commendations, areas the visiting team were happy with and NEASC's concerns that the Principal and teachers are not given sufficient decision-making authority by the administration which led them to strongly consider putting the high school on warning. "Mr. Darcy stated that he must stress that this is a serious situation and he voiced concern that losing accreditation would impact housing values in all three towns, would devastate school rankings, as well as possibly the way colleges view our graduates. He also stated that he believes that with the change in the district landscape he has full faith and confidence in Dr. Graham, the staff and administration at the high school and believes they can turn things around prior to the September 1st deadline. Dr. Graham reviewed areas the NEASC committee has highlighted as concerns, School Culture/Leadership. Dr. Graham detailed proposed "next steps" stating a progress report will be due on 9/1/16 and a two year report due on 10/1/17 and will work with the new Superintendent and School Committee to clarify roles and responsibilities. Ms. Romasco will be the School Committee representative on the follow-up committee.

**NRHS Space Task Force – NESDEC Demographic Study Presentation**

Mr. Bob Czeskanski asked the School Committee to authorize Mr. King to enter into a contract with NESDEC for a demographic enrollment forecast study of the district. Mr. Czeskanski provided a review of the process and what information the study will provide to the Task Force. Mr. Czeskanski advised this study will have no bearing on any actions or decisions by MSBA as they will conduct their own study if needed.

**MOTION**

Mark Jones moved to engage with NESDEC for a population demographic study as proposed in their proposal for the amount of \$8740.00 ; seconded by Kathy Codianne **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones, Kathy Codianne, Kathy Thier and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

**NESDEC Superintendent Search Presentation**

Ms. Romasco advised representatives from NESDEC are here tonight to share a presentation on the services they provide for the Superintendent's search. Ms. Codianne introduced Carolyn Burke and Art Bettencourt who provided their background in the industry and provided a review of NESEC Superintendent Search services.

**District Wide Safety/Security Discussion**

Ms. Romasco advised she received correspondence from a Lancaster resident who has a unique view as he travels to school districts across the state as part of his professional life and had made a couple suggestions that were simple and smart. Ms. Romasco advised she spoke to Mr. King to inquire if the district currently has a district wide safety committee, Mr. King advised it is a component of the Emergency Response Task Force run by Donna Linstrom. Ms. Romasco advised she spoke to Ms. Linstrom about expanding this committee into a Safety Task Force to include more parent and resident participation. Ms. Romasco asked interested residents in all three towns who are interested in participating on the Task Force to contact Ms. Linstrom. Ms. Thier volunteered to be the School Committee representative on the committee and Dr. Darcy volunteered to be the back-up School Committee representative.

**MASC Superintendent Search Presentation**

Ms. Romasco advised representatives from MASC are here tonight to share a presentation on the services they provide for the Superintendent's search. Ms. Codianne introduced Dorothy Presser and Glen Koocher from MASC who provided an overview of the Superintendent Search services MASC provides.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Assessment Decision (MCAS or PARCC)**

Mr. King advised the topic was discussed at the last Admin Council meeting in which the consensus was to stay with MCAS for 2016 assessment. Mr. King advised no vote is needed unless the School Committee decides to adopt PARCC for the 2016 assessment tool. The School Committee consensus is to stay with MCAS.

**JKAA – Physical Restraint Policy**

Ms. Odekirk advised the Policy Committee met and is presenting this policy for second reading and policy adoption. Ms. Odekirk advised the only revision from first reading is the addition of the clause on the second page stating staff will review annually.

**MOTION**

Cathy Thier moved to accept the second reading and revision adoption of policy, JKAA-Physical Restraint as presented; seconded by Kathy Codianne **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones, Kathy Codianne, Kathy Thier and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance Subcommittee**

Mr. Jones provided two handouts from the meeting packet, NRSD FY2017 Preliminary Expenditures-Dec-16-2015 and NRSD FY2017 Preliminary Summary-Dec-16-2015. Mr. Jones reviewed both documents.

**Personnel Subcommittee**

Ms. Codianne reported the committee met with Dr. Graham and discussed the department chair positions at the high school. The committee also discussed collective bargaining strategies.

### **Policy Subcommittee**

Ms. Odekirk reported the subcommittee met and discussed the Restraint Policy presented tonight; the committee is working on several other policies which will be presented at a future meeting. Mr. Odekirk advised the members of NRAEA attended the meeting to discuss their concerns of implementation of the LTA policy and the elimination of verbiage from the original policy between the second reading and what was approved. Ms. Romasco asked that the LTA policy be returned to the Policy Subcommittee for further review. Ms. Odekirk advised they will be invited back to the January 6<sup>th</sup> policy meeting along with Donna Linstrom to continue conversations on this.

### **NRHS Space Study Task Force**

Mr. Jones reported the Task Force will be attending a January School Committee meeting to provide a summary of the final report.

### **SEPAC**

No report.

### **Tech Committee**

Mr. Darcy reported the Tech Committee met and reviewed the goals with the purpose of defining them.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. King reviewed his Superintendent's report; (*The Superintendent's Report is available in its entirety on the NRSD website, [www.nrsd.net](http://www.nrsd.net).*)

Topics included:

- Instructional Leadership
  - Teaching and Learning – Mr. King shared that the December 12<sup>th</sup> PD time was largely dedicated to teachers building units on Atlas Rubicon.
  - Accountability Report – Mr. King advised that DESE has delivered district accountability levels. NRHS and Center schools have both advanced to Level 1 making 5 of the district's 6 schools Level 1. The district remains at a Level 2 status.
- Management and Operations
  - Budget Work update – Budgets are due on December 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - NRHS Space Study – The Task Force shared its recommendation to begin the process for a demographic study tonight.
  - Bolton Lease Appendix A – Mr. King met with the Bolton Town Administrator and School Committee Chair to discuss allowing the district to use vacant space in the Emerson Building that is not part of the current lease. More information will be forthcoming in a January meeting.
- Family and Community Engagement
  - NRHS Football Team Superbowl Winners – Mr. King shared that the win was a great victory as Nashoba is one of the smallest schools in Division 2.
  - Nashoba Unified Sports – Mr. King hailed the efforts of Joan Finger in raising awareness of the program.
- Professional Culture
  - School Visits – Mr. King shared that he's visited all district schools and will do so again to discuss the budget.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Romasco advised there is a new procedure for posting correspondence. Ms. Romasco advised the Stow Selectmen use this procedure. Ms. Romasco would like the feedback from the committee and public about how they like the new procedure.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Topics on consent agenda included:

**December 18, 2015 Warrants**

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3536	12/18/15	VENDOR	\$ 655,082.72
3537	12/18/15	BENEFIT	\$ 53,954.89
3538	12/18/15	PAYROLL	\$1,390,804.31

Meeting minutes of November 23, 2015 and December 2, 2015

**Items to be considered for next agenda**

- Donna Linstrom, Safety Committee Update
- School Committee Meeting Scheduling

**Superintendent Search Firm**

The committee discussed the differences and pros and cons in NESDEC and MASC search services.

**MOTION**

Nicole Odekirk moved to engage with MASC for the Superintendent Search services; seconded by Mark Jones **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones, Kathy Codianne, Kathy Thier and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Committee went into Executive Session at 9:16 pm for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategies to include Acting Superintendent, George King, not to reconvene to open session

**MOTION**

Kathy Codianne moved to go into Executive Session at 9:16 pm for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategies to include Acting Superintendent, George King, not to reconvene to open session; seconded by Cathy Thier.

**Roll Call Vote:**

- Ms. Romasco Yes
- Ms. Odekirk Yes
- Mr. Jones Yes
- Mr. Darcy Yes
- Ms. Codianne Yes
- Ms. Thier Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.

**Roll Call Vote:**

- Ms. Romasco Yes
- Ms. Odekirk Yes
- Mr. Jones Yes
- Mr. Darcy Yes
- Ms. Codianne Yes
- Ms. Thier Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

Submitted by  
Aleta Masterson  
Executive Assistant

Meeting Materials provided tonight can be located at [www.nrsd.net](http://www.nrsd.net)

School Committee Meeting recordings can be viewed at: [Click Here](#)

### **Reference Documents/ Presentations**

Agenda  
NEAS&C Accreditation Memo  
NRHS NEAS&C Report Summary  
NESDEC Demographic Study Proposal  
NRSD Emergency Response Task Force update 12-2015

JKAA-Physical Restraint Policy

Superintendent's Report

November 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes  
December 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes

### Correspondence

Ms. Romasco received correspondence from Mr. Robert Miot , Lancaster regarding safety procedures in the schools and improvement suggestions.

Ms. Romasco received correspondence from Joel and Tracy Lindsay, Bolton regarding their support of the School Committee and it's desire to move the district forward.

Mr. Darcy forwarded correspondence to Mr. King regarding Mark Ayott, Bolton, owner of Security Firm, for suggestions to the HS security concerns.

School Committee received correspondence from Dr. Curtis Bates thanking them for the opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent.

Ms. Romasco and Mr. Darcy received correspondence from Qi Jiang, thanking them for their service and requesting to meet regarding LTA concerns.

School Committee received correspondence from Pam Day, Bolton regarding concerns of the November 18th correspondence.

Approved by NRSC 1/6/16