

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Budget Workshop

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

February 17, 2016

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Romasco, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones, Kathy Codianne, Lynn Colletti

ABSENT: Neal Darcy and Cathy Thier

ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Curtis Bates, Interim Superintendent of Schools, George King, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Su Qi, Bill Cleary, Tracy Conte

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

Ms. Romasco;

- a. Reminded everyone that the roundtable comments from Feb 11 were due next Monday,
- b. All three towns were represented with letters of interest for the Superintendent Screening Committee,
- c. Agenda for the night as follows
 - 1 Review of questions from Principal presentations
 - 2 Presentations by Tech, Facilities and SPED
 - 3 Mr. King's update
 - 4 MASBO
- d. Ground rules-This is a Q&A, ask questions but remain collegial

1. Questions from Principal presentations

- a. School Committee asked for an itemized plan and time line for the marching band at the high school including startup cost, competition cost, contracts, uniforms, buses, storage, space, insurance, maintenance, PD, sheet music, organizational costs, any and all ancillary cost for start up and yearly anticipated fees. What are the plans for the proposed HS band? Dr. Bates to follow up
- b. School Committee asked for an itemized plan for the district music program similar to the band above but include the all schools and the big picture plan for the district-wide music program and how it is to be funded. Dr. Bates to follow up
- c. School Committee asked if the music program and marching band can be part of a larger community effort. This is part of a request from earlier in the school year. The School Committee had asked if there were programs that could be community funded and pulled out of the budget. Are these options that could be review in this request? Dr. Bates to follow up
- d. Ms. Colletti asked that the Administration follow up on the SRO for the HS. Other district do not have the SRO in their budget. The state has supplied access to grants which keep the police associated benefits out of the district budget. Has the Police Department applied for grants associated with the SRO?

- e. Ms. Colletti asked Administration to follow up on the radio repeater and asked if this item also has grants associated with it.
 - 1. Has the Police Department applied for grants associated with the repeater?
 - 2. Have the Police and Fire Departments coordinated efforts in acquiring grants for the radio repeater since they both will need to utilize it?
- f. Ms. Colletti asked Administration to follow up on the ask for additional cameras, additional infrastructure, replacement of existing cameras and associated hardware. Administration acquired one estimate from vendor. Ms. Colletti asked for another opinion. Preferably from a manufacturer engineer.
- g. School Committee asked that the Nashoba Cup initiative be revisited. Although they applaud the effort, over \$1000 per month seemed high for what was being done.
- h. School Committee asked Administration to provide a list that identified SPED and paraprofessional support by school and programs.

Technology

- i. School Committee had questions on printing from Chrome books in the high school.
- j. School Committee asked about the possibility of the district purchasing the laptops in bulk and allowing the parents to purchase at a reasonable price. Not enough time to affect the current budget. This is the second request for this item.
- k. School Committee asked for explanation of rolling 3 year lease obligations. Mr. King informed the School Committee that since his arrival it has been the practice to spend approximately \$240,000 in Technology devices. They spread that over a 3 year lease every year for a steady influx of tech devices (labs, chromebooks, projectors, whiteboards, etc)
- l. School Committee established that the request for HR software was nice to have but could possibly wait a year.
- m. Su Qi informed the School Committee that Microsoft office leases will substantially increase next year.
- n. School Committee asked Administration for a list of all programs, subscriptions and licenses to understand which are being fully utilized, where they are being used, and to what depth are they being used.
- o. School Committee asked Su Qi if the technology staff was adequate for achieving the goals of the district. Su Qi responded – ‘yes’
- p. School Committee wanted to know why the Middle Schools were requesting IT personnel for more than 2 days per cycle. The School Committee was informed that the IT professionals they were requesting were for training not technology issues. Teaching and Learning will address at the next Budget meeting on Feb 25

Special Education

- q. Tracy Conte provided an overview of SPED – written descriptions to follow
- r. School Committee asked where the non special education line was for tutoring. Ms Conte replied that we are not equipped for hospital tutoring but all non special ed was covered by individual schools under 504
- s. School Committee asked if specialized PD for SPED was ever translated to the other non SPED student population. Ms. Conte replied yes.
- t. School Committee asked where the IEP summer school line item was. Was there a different rate for summer school? Was it outlined in Unit A contract? This item was moved for future discussion
- u. School Committee asked about entitlement grants. Ms Conte responded that the grants, if filled out properly, are initiative appropriate, and state requirements differ from year to year.
- v. School Committee asked if the SPED department had a comprehensive review since it represents about 20% of the budget and services about 13% of the student population. Ms Conte responded that the state reviews every 6 years with a mid review. See the website for CPR Coordinated Program Review. Ms Conte to send the School Committee a link
- w. School Committee asked if SPED needed more programming to accommodate the ever changing needs of the population. Is there a commonality in the placement of out of district students that we could address in district? Ms Conte stated that we need to improve training new readers at the lower grades. The School Committee asked Administration to provide out placement numbers by program.

- x. School Committee asked for a report on RTI and measurements of success and responses. Show how the program is working.
- y. School Committee asked why students are being evaluated for the first time in middle school? Ms Conte stated that the onset of social emotional starts to show in middle school.
- z. School Committee asked what the district is doing to recognize and deal with the issues of social emotional disabilities. Ms Conte suggested that the district start teaching coping skills as early as grade 1. The school Committee agrees this item should be explored.

Facilities

- aa. School Committee asked what the district does with retired equipment. Mr. Cleary informed the committee that he would sell them if there were value to them.
- bb. School Committee questioned the request for the additional turf field spend. Administration to advise.
- cc. Mr King informed the SC that the revenue from the turf field is an offset to the budget and that the debt service for the turf field will be completed in 2027.
- dd. School Committee asked Administration to provide a list of all debt service, bond and capital project expenditures with their amount and completion dates.
- ee. School Committee asked Administration for a listing of overtime activities from Facilities over the past 3 years.
- ff. Ms. Colletti asked Administration for a Fire Alarm system 5 year plan. Based on Mr Cleary's comment that the Fire Alarm system, although proprietary and old, will not need changing out in the next 5 years.
- gg. School Committee suggested that Facilities place the wooden playground on Craiglist instead of taking three years to demolish. (3 years incurs a cost of maintenance and wood chips)
- hh. Ms. Romasco asked Administration to provide a list of completed capital projects to the town of Bolton dating back to 2013 and close them out or return the money to the town.
- ii. School Committee and the town of Bolton to have a conversation regarding the 3rd floor of Emerson.
- jj. School Committee asked Administration to provide an accounting of expenses and where the monies were drawn from for the renovation of the 3rd floor Emerson Building
- kk. School Committee asked Administration for a breakdown of scheduled maintenance

George King

- ll. George King passed out 'Additional Budget Recommendations'
- mm. School Committee voiced the opinion that it was difficult to create positions when positions that were previously cut had not been resurrected, such as MS librarians and full time MS principal.
- nn. School Committee asked Administration to explain the impact of eliminating the custodial service manager's position which was created 2 years ago. Facilities to present on Feb 22 to personnel subcommittee.
- oo. Ms. Romasco asked Administration to revisit the recommendation to remove 1 kindergarten teacher in Bolton. Removal based on student population (incoming K = 46) and current policy. Dr. Bates to review the new housing development on Sugar Rd

Feb 25 is the next scheduled budget review

- a. Teaching and Learning presenting on Feb 25 with a 2 year plan (completed 2016)
- b. Lottery for superintendent screening committee
- c. Bus contract vote
- d. Policies moved to March 10

March 3 is the budget hearing

MASBO Financial Operations Review schedule for March 1 and March 2. School Committee asked to pick 3 priority areas of interest for MASBO review.

SPED	4 votes
District-wide Administration	4 votes
Purchasing Accts payable	3 votes
Facilities	2 votes
Technology	2 votes
Union contracts	1 vote

NRSD School Committee Meeting Minutes, February 17, 2016

Revolving accts 1 vote

Payroll process 1 vote

Athletics

Warrants

Leases Warranties Rentals

Transportation

Outstanding bonds and capital exp

School Committee gave the information to Dr. Bates and left the final decision up to him and the MASBO professionals.

Motion

K Codianne made a motion to move the February 25 meeting from 6pm to 5pm Seconded by M Jones Vote 5-0-0 Motion passed.

Adjournment

K Codianne moved to adjourn at 9:45pm M Jones seconded Vote 5-0-0 Motion passed

NRSC Approved 3/10/16