

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

School Committee Conference Room
Emerson School
Bolton, MA

September 23, 2015

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

ABSENT: Lynn Colletti and Kathy Codianne

ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools, Georg King, Assistant 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

Tom Bunnell, NRHS Student Rep. reported:

- The beginning of the school year has been a busy one. With everyone changing schedules and getting everything in order.
- Clubs are just getting started.
 - Nashoba PAC is starting up.
 - The Green team has been planning some big ideas with big ambitions and may even want to come in and present their ideas here.
- The sports have been doing well with Football getting off to a strong 2-0 start. The XC team is also doing well winning all their meets and field hockey is doing well too.
- Pep band and school bands are off to a good start.

NEW BUSINESS

**District Improvement Plan Benchmarks and Milestones
SC Goals, Benchmarks and Milestones**

Ms. Romasco advised the latest revisions are included in the packet tonight and asked if there were any questions or discussion on the revisions. No questions or discussion.

MOTION

Nicole Odekirk moved to approve the District Improvement Plan Benchmarks and Milestones and SC Goals, Benchmarks and Milestones as presented in the September 23, 2015 meeting packet seconded by Cathy Thier **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Cathy Thier, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

OLD BUSINESS

Liaison / Sub Committee Assignments

Ms. Romasco advised this year the subcommittees were approved by vote; however Ms. Romasco advised the bi-laws state a vote is not needed as one of the Chair's role is to assign subcommittee members. Ms. Romasco would like a vote to approve the Chair to reassign committee members as needed.

MOTION

Nicole Odekirk moved to approve the Chair to reassign subcommittee members as needed; seconded by Neal Darcy **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Cathy Thier, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

Math Pilot Presentation

Ms. Robin Benoit presented a presentation on the math pilot in the district. Ms. Benoit explained two programs are being piloted, of which one will be adopted and provided an overview of the pilot program, the pilot committee, the digital learning component, the district curriculum vs. Massachusetts common core and of the assessments that will be used and the timeline of those assessments. Ms. Benoit advised assessment data will be available in January and April and surveys to staff, administrations and parents will be given about their experience with the program they are piloting, all data will be compiled by May to make a decision by the end of the school year of what program the district will use going forward. Ms. Romasco asked for an explanation of the budget implications, Mr. Wood replied there were funds in the FY15 budget used to purchase pilot materials, Mr. Wood estimates \$150,000 of FY16 text book adoption funds to be used to purchase supplement materials. Mr. Wood advised the committee will have a tighter financial amount in January. Ms. Romasco advised she would have preferred that information before the pilot began. The committee asked clarifying questions regarding budget implications, digital learning components, and the phase in plan.

Rescheduling November 4th Meeting

Ms. Romasco advised due to members attending the MASC Fall Conference there will not be a quorum for the scheduled November 4th meeting and is requesting the meeting be rescheduled to October 28, 2015.

MOTION

Cathy Thier moved to reschedule the regularly scheduled November 4, 2015 meeting to October 28, 2015; seconded by Mark Jones **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Cathy Thier, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

Friends of Drama Transfer

Mr. Wood advised the committee there is a letter in the packet from the Nashoba Friends of Drama notifying the district of their intention to dissolve the independent group and partner with the NRHS as a support organization for the drama program and in such wishes to donated approx. \$25,000 to the drama program with the stipulation a separate dedicated student activity account be established for the use of the Fall and Spring Musicals only.

MOTION

Cathy Thier moved to accept the donation from the Nashoba Friends of Drama and creative a dedicated student activity account for this donation to be used for the Fall and Spring NRHS Musicals; seconded by Neal Darcy **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Cathy Thier, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

Refinancing HS Bond Authorization

Mr. King advised in January 2016 the district has an opportunity refinance (call) our 20 year debt at NRHS, of which half is left at just over 3 million dollars, Mr. King advised given the present interest rates he is proposing as of January the district refinance the bond, as per the document outlined in the meeting packet. Mr. King advised if the recommendation is approved and voted the bonds would be sold in the next two weeks and the school committee would be asked to sign those bonds at the next meeting, those funds would be held in escrow until the January payoff date at which time the new bonds would become the effective bonds for the project. Mr. King reviewed how this savings would be passed on to the towns via the assessments. Mr. King will research and see what the terms/ special conditions may be involved in the refinance such as pre-payments/ penalties should the towns decide to retire the bond early or restructure the debt again in the future.

MOTION

Mark Jones moved that in order to reduce interest costs on outstanding debt, the Treasurer is authorized to issue bonds or notes at one time or from time to time, under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 21A of the Massachusetts General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority for the purpose of refunding all or any portion of its \$6,605,000 General Obligation State Qualified Bonds, dated December 15, 2005 outstanding at the time of this vote, and that the proceeds of any refunding bonds issued pursuant to this vote shall be used to pay the principal, redemption premium and interest on the Refunded Bonds and costs of issuance of the refunding bonds; seconded by Neal Darcy **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Cathy Thier, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

NEASC Response Priorities

Dr. Graham reviewed the presentation included in meeting packet on the recommendations from the NEASC report. Dr. Graham reviewed those recommendations and his vision for addressing the recommendations, long term implication, next steps, the two and five year report back to NEASC. Dr. Graham advised he will work on a timeline for implementing a plan and report back to the school committee. Dr. Graham provided a review and his vision for the new Alternative Education program at the high school. Dr. Graham advised that currently Department Heads do not have institutional authority, which means they do not evaluate staff, something Dr. Graham would like to see changed but with that comes contractual and budget implications. Department Heads currently teach 4 classes a day with added responsibility that may be lower, but those classes would still need to be covered so that could result in added staff. Mr. Darcy requested a specific timeline for Dr. Graham's plan of action which was not available at the time of the SC meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Jones advised the committee is continuing the discussion on their committee goals and goal timelines. Mr. Jones advised the committee plans to meet on Monday, 9/28/15 to continue the goals conversation. The committee has started conversations on revenue and yearly calendar and will continue those at the next meeting as well.

Personnel Subcommittee

Ms. Romasco advised the committee had a productive meeting and the Superintendent's goals should be voted on at the next personnel meeting.

Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Odekirk advised the committee has met and adopted their goals and assigned leaders to each of the goals and are working on the timeline. The subcommittee is reviewing the list of policies that need to be reviewed due to age of the policies and will be bringing policies to the school committee for first readings. Mr. Darcy will be reviewing the district adoption of a chemical use policy.

NRHS Space Study Task Force

Mr. Jones advised the task force had a non-quorum meeting last week, the task force is modifying RFS and instead of a closed bid process this round will be a live RFS process so conversation can be held with each bidder. The task force is looking at dates for the next meeting.

SEPAC

Ms. Odekirk advised SEPAC had their first on September 16, 2015 and provided an overview of their vision for the organization for the year and upcoming events. Ms. Odekirk advised Ms. Wells was elected Chair.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wood reviewed his Superintendent's report; (*The Superintendent's Report is available in its entirety on the NRSD website, www.nrsd.net.*)

Topics included:

- Instructional Leadership Updates
- Management and Operations Updates
- Family and Community Engagement Updates
- Professional Culture Update

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Odekirk advised she received a correspondence regarding late starts at the high school. (Walden Correspondence in packet). Ms. Odekirk also advised she was approached by a parent who was in favor of the NRHS late starts.

Mr. Darcy provided a correspondence regarding the Technology Plan. Mr. Darcy requested Mr. Wood to provide the School Committee a technology specific presentation from our technology leader including an understanding of our infrastructure and any future plans for the next three years both so the school committee is best informed and prepared from both a policy formulation and a financial planning aspect.

Math Presentation Correspondence

Ms. Romasco advised she received a correspondence regarding the required 90 credits for graduation stated in the policy and program of studies which indicates 25 per year. Ms. Romasco advised she has forwarded the correspondence to Ms. Odekirk for the policy subcommittee to review.

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda included:

September 23, 2015 Warrants

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3518	9/25/15	VENDOR	\$ 606,562.67
3519	9/25/15	BENEFIT	\$ 55,244.10
3520	9/25/15	PAYROLL	\$1,368,209.40

Minutes of September 9, 2015
Private School Approval – Nashoba Montessori

Items to be considered for next agenda

Superintendent's Goals
Sub Committee Goals/benchmark report out

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Committee went into Executive Session at 8:06 pm pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21 (a)(7) in

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order to comply with FERPA as well as 603 CMR sect.23.00 et seq for the discussion of issues arising from the discipline of students.

MOTION

Nicole Odekirk moved to go into Executive Session at 8:08 pm, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21 (a)(7) in order to comply with FERPA as well as 603 CMR sect.23.00 et seq for the discussion of issues arising from the discipline of students to include Superintendent Wood, Assistant Superintendent King, NRHS Principal Dr. Graham, Athletic Director Tania Rich and Executive Assistant Aleta Masterson, student's parents to be invited for part of the session; seconded by Neal Darcy.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Romasco Yes
Ms. Odekirk Yes
Mr. Jones Yes
Mr. Darcy Yes
Ms. Their Yes

VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)

MOTION

Mark Jones moved to reconvene to open session at 9:11 pm; seconded by Neal Darcy.

Roll Call Vote:

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

VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)

MOTION

Mark Jones made a motion to adjourn at 9:11 pm; seconded by Neal Darcy **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Cathy Thier, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

Submitted by
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

Meeting Materials provided tonight can be located at www.nrsd.net

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

Reference Documents/ Presentations

Agenda
15-16 DIP Benchmarks and Milestones monitoring progress92315
School Committee 2015-16 School Year Overarching Goals - Final

NRSD School Committee Meeting Minutes, September 23, 2015
Elementary Math Pilot 2015-2016
NRHS NEASC Presentation
Friends Of Drama Donation Letter
Refinancing HS Debt Memo
Superintendent's Report
Meeting Minutes of 9/9/15
Nashoba Montessori Approval Request
Nashoba Budget Workflow.v3

Correspondence

Walden Correspondence
Technology Plan Correspondence
Math Presentation Correspondence

Approved by NRSC 10/7/15