

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

*Florence Sawyer School
Auditorium
100 Mechanic Street
Bolton, MA*

November 18, 2015

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

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 Auditorium in the Florence Sawyer School, Bolton, MA.

Student Advisory Report

Tom Bunnell reported: sports this year have done a great job. Volleyball had their best ever season but lost in the first round of the playoffs. The football team won the district title and will be competing in the state semis this weekend after a perfect regular season. They will be playing a tough game the rest of the way. The field hockey team had a fantastic season this year and won their district title last week. Unfortunately, they lost in the state semis this Wednesday to Longmeadow. We had about five players also play in the all-star game this Monday. The XC teams had a great season this year and the boys and girls will each be sending two runners to states. The girls came in sixth and the guys also had a great showing.

The band has been out there supporting our football each and every week and has been doing a great job. The concert band is preparing four pieces for the holiday concert and both jazz bands have fantastic sets. This weekend the play Fame is being put on and as always it sounds like it is going to be great

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Committee went into Executive Session at 6:05 pm to discuss negotiation strategies for Superintendent's Contract to reconvene into open session.

MOTION

Nicole Odekirk moved to go into Executive Session at 6:05 pm to discuss negotiation strategies for Superintendent's Contract to reconvene to open session; seconded by Kathy Codianne.

Roll Call Vote:

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

VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)

Committee returned to open session at 6:33 pm.

Ms. Romasco advised the public of the process for open School Committee meetings and executive sessions and public participation in the meetings. Ms. Romasco advised of the district policy BEDH and the guidelines for public comments.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

The following people made citizen comments regarding the Superintendent's resignation;

Don Adams, Lancaster resident
Nancy Flemming, Stow resident
Nancy Federspiel, Bolton resident
Amy Keough, Stow resident
Kim Geusadi, Stow resident
Linda Gothie, Stow resident
Troy Hatlevig, Stow resident
John Cannon, Lancaster resident
Mary York, Stow resident

Ms. Romasco thanked the public for their comments and stated the Committee thanks the Superintendent for his service and dedication to the district.

Superintendent's Resignation

MOTION

Kathy Codianne moved to accept the Superintendent Michael Wood's resignation effective June 30, 2015; seconded by Nicole Odekirk **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones, Lynn Colletti, Kathy Codianne, and Neal Darcy **OPPOSED:** Cathy Their **VOTED AND PASSED. (6-1-0)**

NEW BUSINESS

1:1 Initiative

Grade teachers from the district, Jennifer Campbell, LBMS, Cassie Sprague, FSS, and Michael Turpin, HMS along with a Grade 8 student from LBMS, Evan MacDonald attended the meeting to present a the 1:1 initiative and how the students are using the Chromebooks to interact in their everyday learning and curriculum.

High School SRO (School Resource Officer)

Ms. Romasco advised this topic is on the agenda tonight because she has heard positive feedback regarding the SRO, Officer Koukos at the high school. Dr. Graham and Chief Nelson provided an overview of the program. Dr. Graham shared that the SRO roll has been very well received. Chief Nelson stated he would like to see this funded to a full-time position in the next budget process. Bolton Town Administrator Don Lowe, advised he fully backs the position becoming a full time position. Chief Nelson advised the police radios do not work within the school to reach the station if assistance is needed. Dr. Graham stated that more cameras are needed. Ms. Codianne stated that she also sits on the high school Space Study Task Force and that additional cameras had been identified as a critical need. The Chief stated that new radios, more cameras and a laptop for use in monitoring the cameras are needed. School committee members expressed their concerns regarding the radio communication and video camera needs. Neal Darcy inquired about the quality of the cameras and how a theft of a knapsack and an act of vandalism was recorded but the people involved not identified. The chief said it was because of poorer video quality and Neal Darcy asked if either video had been further analyzed with the State Police or anyone using imaging software to which the Chief responded that he knows there are resources for imaging software but in the case of the vandalism he did not think it was done.

Action Item: The Chair asked the Administration to work with Bolton Police to expedite work on cost estimate on updating radio communication and other determined needs so the upgrades can be made quickly.

NRHS FY15 Expenditures

Mr. King advised there are two memos in the packet regarding three bills that were missed from NRHS they were expensed but not paid out of the FY15 budget and it asking the school committee to approve the payments from the FY16 budget. \$120 for a teacher reimbursement, \$350.to NEASC for editing services and \$552.00 to Boston Kiln for services rendered.

MOTION

Cathy Thier moved to authorize payment of FY15 invoices of \$120 for a teacher reimbursement, \$350.to NEASC for editing services and \$552.00 to Boston Kiln for services rendered to be paid out of the FY16 budget; seconded by Neal Darcy **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones, Lynn Colletti, Kathy Codianne, Cathy Thier and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

NRSD Proposed Mower Purchase

Mr. King advised there is a memo in the packet requesting approval for a proposed mower purchase agreement of two new ride-on lawn mowers for the district's facilities department. Mr. King advised financing has been secured for a 36-month loan for \$18,969.95 which includes the \$8500 down payment (trade-in allowance) 4.25% interest rate, and \$23.50 doc fees, the 36 months payments would be \$562.74, total finance cost including interest of \$20,258.64. The committee discussed the need and use of the machines and will vote at an upcoming meeting.

Superintendent Search

Ms. Romasco advised the committee has started investigating the process for a Superintendent's search. Ms. Romasco stated MASC has advised the School Committee now would be the time to start a search. Ms. Romasco advised there are several firms that provide search services. Ms. Romasco advised she would like the School Committee to approve the personnel subcommittee begin vetting search firms and report back to the school committee on their findings.

MOTION

Mark Jones moved to approve the personnel subcommittee to start vetting the firms to provide an interim and permanent Superintendent search and report back to the school committee on their findings; seconded by Neal Darcy **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones, Lynn Colletti, Kathy Codianne, Cathy Thier and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

Policies for First Reading

Ms. Odekirk advised the policy subcommittee is presenting two policies for a first reading, ADA – District Organization and DN – Committing Funds. The committee discussed the revisions. The policies will be brought back for a second reading.

OLD BUSINESS

Policies for Second Reading

Ms. Odekirk advised the Policy Subcommittee is presenting two policies forward for a second reading, JI – Student's Rights and CE – Administrative Councils, Cabinets and Committees. The committee discussed the revisions.

MOTION

Kathy Codianne moved to accept the second reading and revision adoption of policies JI and CE ; seconded by Neal Darcy **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones, Lynn Colletti, Kathy Codianne, Cathy Thier and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Jones advised when he sent out the preliminary report he received feedback that a slightly more comprehensive report was desired, which is provided in the packet. Mr. Jones advised the Committee has been discussing personnel, benefits contract for facilities, energy and special education costs. A summary will be reported at the next meeting. Mr. Darcy discussed the possible creation of a budget book and referred to the booklet he sent everyone from ASBO (Association of School Business Officials) titled: Smart School Budgeting: Resources for Districts and discussed how the development of a budget book would help to improve budget transparency in the district for all.

Personnel Subcommittee

Ms. Codianne reported the Committee met on November 9th and 16th. Ms. Codianne advised at the November 9th meeting that they requested information from the Superintendent to evaluate personnel needs to support student learning and areas he would recommend for enhancements. Ms. Codianne advised of the preliminary cost for a change in the role of the Dept. Heads at the high school and other staffing needs in the district. Ms. Codianne advised Ms. Visco provided a review of union negotiations at the November 16th meeting, negotiations for a new contract will begin in December 2016.

Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Odekirk reported the committee met last week with Jodi Specht and Dr. Graham from the high school to discuss the present NRHS graduation requirements. Ms. Specht and Dr. Graham will be reviewing and recommending revisions to the policy. Ms. Odekirk advised the work on the Chemical Health policy continues. Mr. Darcy interjected that the policy subcommittee has been trying to involve multiple stakeholders in the policy making process to create more thoughtful policies.

NRHS Space Study Task Force

Ms. Codianne reported the Committee created a spreadsheet to summarize all the surveys that were done on programmatic, mechanical, athletic, and student report issues and the committee is in the process of prioritizing needs the process will continue at the next meeting in December.

SEPAC

Ms. Odekirk reported SEPAC is holding open houses throughout the district and upcoming events can be found on the district website.

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
 - Teaching and Learning
 - Honor Roll
- Management and Operations
 - Budget Work
 - NRHS Space Study
- Family and Community Engagement
 - Parent/Guardian and Teacher Conferences
 - Change the Clocks
- Professional Culture
 - Educator Evaluation Committee
 - School Visits

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Romasco shared that the Committee received 48 letters of support of the Superintendent not resigning and a spreadsheet was included in the packet listing each individuals' name. Ms. Romasco advised all correspondence are public documents and if anyone would like a copy to contact Aleta Masterson.

Ms. Romasco also received correspondence regarding two inquiries: (1) if seatbelts are used on school buses. It was explained that having the children placed in seat belts each day during the commutes to and from school was not possible. Mr. Darcy inquired of Mr. Wood if it might be possible for students attending field trips to be required to wear seat belts especially when travelling distances. Mr. Wood responded it may in fact be possible.

2) how to send a group email to all School Committee members from the district website.

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda included:

November 6, 2015

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3527	11/6/15	VENDOR	\$ 489,699.14
3528	11/6/15	BENEFIT	\$ 682,926.12
3529	11/6/15	PAYROLL	\$1,318,842.50

November 20, 2015

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3530	11/20/15	VENDOR	\$ 312,967.49
3531	11/20/15	BENEFIT	\$ 51,278.87
3532	11/20/15	PAYROLL	\$1,572,925.83

Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2015 and November 12, 2015

Proposed Additional Meeting Date

MOTION

Kathy Codianne moved for the School Committee to add a regular School Committee meeting on Monday, November 23, 2015 at 8:00 pm; seconded by Nicole Odekirk **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones, Lynn Colletti, Kathy Codianne, Cathy Thier and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

MOTION

Nicole Odekirk moved to adjourn at 9:29 pm; seconded by Kathy Codianne **IN FAVOR:** Lorraine Romasco, Nicole Odekirk, Mark Jones, Lynn Colletti, Kathy Codianne, Cathy Thier and Neal Darcy **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

Submitted by
Aleta Masterson

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

1:1 Initiative Presentation
NRHS Teacher FY15 Reimbursement
NRHS FY15 Invoice - Boston Kiln
NRSD Proposed Mower Purchase
ADA - District Goals
DN - Committing Funds
JI - Student's Rights
CE - Administrative Councils, Cabinets and Committees
Revised Review of Prelim FYE2017-Nov182015
Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Goals Update 11182015
Middle School Honor Roll
STAT Team Update
Meeting Minutes of 10/28/15
Meeting Minutes of 11/12/15
Class of 2016 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients
First Quarter Assabet Valley Collaborative Report
NRHS 2015-2016 Profile
Commissioners Recommendation for Next Generation Assessment
Correspondence regarding Superintendent Wood's resignation