

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 26, 2013

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Reta Rupich, Jeff Odell, Julie Fay, Kara Keith and Lynn Colletti

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Federspiel called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM in the School Committee Conference Room

Public Hearing

FY 14 Budget as approved by the School Committee

Mr. Wood advised the hearing is an opportunity for the public to ask the school committee any questions regarding the FY14 budget that has been posted online. Mr. Wood advised, with the reductions made to the proposed budget, the approved budget is \$48,706,064.00 for an increase of 3.14% and with offsets the net budget is \$45,550,976.00. Mr. Wood stated this budget is a very sound budget that affords the district the opportunity to move forward. Mr. Wood reviewed the staff changes in the budget.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No citizen comments or questions on Public Hearing

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda included:

March 29, 2013 Warrant

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3312	3/29/13	VENDOR	\$ 334,695.21
3313	3/29/13	BENEFIT	\$ 616,564.86
3314	3/29/13	PAYROLL	\$1,422,831.77

Minutes of March 12, 2013

CORRESPONDENCE

School Choice Correspondence

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wood reviewed his Superintendent's report; *(The Superintendent's Report is available in full on the NRSD website at <http://www.nrsd.net>)*

Topics included:

- Communicating No School Protocol
- Budget Public Hearing

- Vocational Education Task Force
- District Assessment System: Part II
- DESE Advisory Council
- NRHS Scholarship Fund

School Councils

Mr. Bates, Principal of Florence Sawyer School, reported they have a new member to their council, Mr. Spencer Marks filled a vacancy. Mr. Bates also reported on the results of the parent survey, upcoming events and the student handbook. Mr. Bates reported that Tom Houle attended their meeting to discuss school lunch and receive feedback from the school/parents.

Mr. O'Shea, Principal of Mary Rowlandson Elementary School, reported the focus of their last few meeting has been the student handbook and reviewed the areas they are reviewing, i.e. dress code, homework, and school culture. Mr. O'Shea reported that Tom Houle attended their meeting to discuss school lunch and receive feedback from the school/parents.

Emerson Hospital Youth Behavior Survey

Ms. Trahman, District Nurse Lead, presented the results of the Emerson Hospital Youth Behavior Survey and provided an overview of the survey and reviewed the details of selected slides regarding seat belt use, riding with an impaired driver, weapons, drug and alcohol use, bullying, gambling, sexual behavior and dietary behavior. Ms. Trahman advised these results will be shared with the Healthcare councils, school councils and the district health teachers to discuss and address the areas of concern.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Advisory Report

No Report

Finance SubCommittee

Ms. Busch reported warrants were signed, no other business was conducted.

Personnel SubCommittee

No Report

Policy SubCommittee

Ms. Federspiel reported the committee met and the only topic discussed was school choice, which will be addressed later in the meeting.

SPED PAC

Ms. Owen reported the next meeting will be the end of April and the topic will be "Basic rights for review; the evaluation of the testing process. Ms. Owen also reported the will be a college fair at NRHS for students with learning disabilities on April 4th.

ESBC

Ms. Colletti reported there are no new updates to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent's Evaluation (Part I)

Ms. Federspiel advised the past practice was every member completed a survey and one member then compiles the results. Ms. Federspiel advised starting with next year the new evaluation process will be in effect and the evaluation must be done in a public meeting. Ms. Federspiel stated this year the idea is that everyone would still do their own survey in advance and the committee would compile them as a group as this they way it must be done next year. Ms. Federspiel advised the key to this process working with that everyone does fill out a survey in advance and comes to the meeting with their own thoughts and opinions. The committee discussed the timeline for the process. The group decided the survey will be launched and the completed surveys will be discussed at the April 23rd meeting. The committee discussed adding another multiple choice response in the event they do not feel they have enough knowledge of the topic to answer the question. Need more information choice will be added. The Personnel SubCommittee will review the survey at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

District Improvement Survey

Ms. Federspiel advised there were a few minor suggestions made at the last meeting, which have been revised. Ms. Federspiel questioned the wording on the "world class STEM" question. The title of the survey to be revised from Parent Survey to Community Survey. Mr. Odell and Ms. Rupich will wordsmith the STEM question. The committee agreed by consensus, with the possibility of the STEM questions being reworded the survey is approved. The survey will be open for participation the month of May, results will be available at the end of May.

NRHS Mission Statement

Mr. Wood advised the new proposed NRHS mission statement that was presented by Leo Sakellarion and Laura Pajington at the February 26th requires a vote from the school committee to be approved and adopted.

MOTION

Jeff Odell made a motion to approve the NRHS mission statement as presented on February 26th seconded by Julie Fay **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Reta Rupich, Jeff Odell, Kara Keith, Julie Fay and Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

School Resource Officer

Ms. Federspiel advised this topic was presented at the last meeting and was approved by the Bolton Selectman and will be on the town warrant. Ms. Federspiel reminded the committee this position will be funded on a 50/50 division with the Town of Bolton and NRSD with the funding of approx. \$11,000 each. Ms. Busch stated she believes this position is a great idea but is concerned with authorizing spending money on a position that was not in the original budget after all the cuts that were made. Ms. Rupich asked for clarification on the following: In the MOU is stated there is a liaison role to play with Bolton's PK-8 population, how does that work? Mr. Wood replied that each town has an officer assigned to the liaison to the schools and in the officer would be that officer in Bolton. In the job description it states they report to the executive officer, is that the Chief of Police? Mr. Wood replied yes that would be the Chief. In the job description is states the officer will gather information regarding potential problems involving criminal activates, substance abuse and safety concerns, is he gathering that from school records or police reports? Mr. Wood replied this information would be gathered from the Officer's interactions with the students. The description states the officer will file reports, who will he be filing these with the school or police. Mr. Wood replied he would be filing out the district incident report and anything other that a police office would normally report he would be doing so to the police department. Who does the officer report to when he is in the school? Mr. Wood

replied he will get clarification but most RO report to the Principal when they are in the building unless a police call is made and the chief arrives the chain of command may change if the chief is in the building. Who will have input in the evaluation of the officer? Mr. Wood will get clarification on this. Mr. Wood advised final copy of the job description will be presented at a future meeting.

MOTION

Jeff Odell made a motion to hire a School Resource Officer at NRHS as presented at the March 12, 2013 school committee meeting with NRSD and Town of Bolton 50/50 funding the position seconded by Reta Rupich **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Owen, Reta Rupich, Jeff Odell, Kara Keith, and Julie Fay **OPPOSED:** Lynn Colletti and Maureen Busch **ABSTAINED:** Nancy Federspiel **VOTED AND PASSED. (5-2-1)**

School Choice

Ms. Federspiel advised the policy subcommittee has met and discussed the school choice policy and protocol and reminded the members that this topic was addressed at the last meeting with numerous motions taken, with no motions passing. Ms. Federspiel also advised there are 16 pieces of correspondence in the packet tonight from the community regarding school choice, 15 opposing school choice and 1 in support of it. Mr. Odell stated he feels that the committee is in danger of micromanaging this area and feels that the administration should be given a direction from the committee on our expectations of growth and that impact on capital expenses and they should manage the process. The committee discussed the class size parity in the different towns and how school choice affects the class size and how the all three towns benefit equally from the revenue of school choice, while two towns have the majority of the students.

MOTION

Lynn Colletti made a motion to continue with school choice limited to grades 9-12 seconded by Nancy Federspiel **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Reta Rupich, Kara Keith, Julie Fay and Lynn Colletti **OPPOSED:** Kathy Owen, Jeffrey Odell, Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED. (5-3-0)**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mrs. Tuttle stated she does not like the derogatory tone that was being used towards school choice students. Ms. Federspiel stated she hopes Ms. Tuttle has heard some the previous meetings as the committee tried very hard to depersonalize the topic, it is not about "those kids" we do not even know their names, school choice students affect the schools because of the number of student not who the students are. Ms. Federspiel stated everyone has embraced the families, that is the reason we tried to find a solution for the siblings coming in. Ms. Faye responded it is in no way a personal issue at all, the committee realizes the reason the student come to the district is because the parents are involved in their education and get involved in the schools.

MOTION

Reta Rupich made a motion to adjourn at 8:27 pm seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Reta Rupich, Jeff Odell, Kara Keith, Julie Fay and Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

