

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 11, 2014

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch (arrived at 6:38), Julie Fay, Cathy Their, Jeff Odell (arrived 6:38), Lynn Colletti (arrived at 6:56), Kara Keith and Lorraine Romasco

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Federspiel called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM in the School Committee Conference Room.

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda included:

February 14, 2013 Warrants

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3385	02/14/14	VENDOR	\$ 486,331.41
3386	02/14/14	BENEFIT	\$ 48,883.39
3387	02/14/14	PAYROLL	\$1,201,082.89

Minutes of the January 28, 2014 meeting
Minutes of the February 1, 2014 Budget Workshop

CORRESPONDENCE

Numerous correspondences regarding full day kindergarten
Ms. Romasco advised she has received a correspondence from the Bolton Advisory urging the school committee to review the proposed budget and the E&D funds.
Ms. Fay advised she has received correspondence regarding concerns of the class sizes at the high school.

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:

- Collective Bargaining Update
- FY13 Audit
- NEASC Standards
- Policy Subcommittee
- Finance Subcommittee
- Early Childhood Education
- FY15 Budget Discussion
- State Budget Process
- Department of Children and Families (DCF)

FY13 Audit Report

Mr. Dick Sullivan from Powers and Sullivan attended and provided a review of the FY13 audit process and the results of the audit. Mr. Sullivan advised the audit was without finding and received the best opinion you can receive on an audit, which is called an unmodified opinion. Mr. Sullivan advised the NRSD Central office staff was ready, answered all questions with a sense of urgency and had all documents readily available for review.

NEASC Standard I: CORE Values

Mr. Andrew Zercie, Special Education Teacher at the high school, attended the meeting to provide a power point presentation on the NEASC Standard I: CORE Values. Mr. Zercie reviewed the four indicators of the Core Values category and provided statistics from the Emerson Surveys.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Advisory Report

Ms. Gurijala reported;

Athletics Report: 2-11-14

- The wrestling team ended the regular season with a record of 18-3-1. The team also clinched the Mid-Wach League title for the second year in a row. The team will compete in sectionals this weekend.
- The girls' basketball team is still on a streak going 17-0 on the season. The team travels to Hudson tonight and hosts Tyngsboro on Friday night for Senior Night.
- The boys' basketball has improved to 11-7 and has been invited to play in the 75th Annual Clark Basketball tournament for the first time since 2004.
- Our boys ice hockey team is 5-7-3 and playing well. They are playing in their final 5 games over the next week as they are still chasing a playoff spot.
- Our girls' ice hockey co-op team has improved to 8-4-2 and is one win away from clinching a playoff berth.
- Swimming has finished their regular season and we currently have one diver, Haley Doyle, competing in the State Meet this weekend. Haley placed 5th in the Sectional Meet last week.
- The indoor track teams continue to do well. The girls' team won the league championship and the boys played 3rd in the league.
- Our alpine and cross-country ski teams are finishing their seasons this week. The cross-country team competed in the State Meet today.

Nashoba DECA attended the District 5 Competition on Thursday, January 30. Members competed against schools like Chelmsford, Billerica, Westford Academy, Dracut, Tewksbury, Lowell, Greater Lowell and Nashoba Tech. Of the 110 Nashoba DECA members, 80 advanced to the State competition.

To raise money for NEADS, an organization whose mission is to provide independence to people who are deaf or have a disability through the use of canine assistance, students and faculty were given the opportunity to play and take pictures with a 7 month old puppy during lunch today.

It is officially Random Acts of Kindness Week at Nashoba. It's always nice to see people going out of their way to be nice to each other in the halls of the high school. We're trying to top last year's 2600 reported random acts of kindness.

Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Thier reported warrants were approved and the committee discussed town advisory meetings.

Personnel Subcommittee

Ms. Federspiel reported the committee and union representatives have met and negotiations are under way.

Policy Subcommittee

No Report

ESBC

Mr. Wood reported the committee has met once, but there are no changes to report on.

NRHS Space Study Task Force

No Report

NEW BUSINESS

All Day Kindergarten Proposal

Mr. Wood advised he is proposing a full day kindergarten program for FY15. Mr. Wood's proposed model is a tuition based all day kindergarten option for all students, with the half day program still being offered. Mr. Wood stated in the proposed model, all day students and half days students would be in the same classes and students in the half day option would leave after the morning session. Mr. Wood advised in order for this model to work and accommodate the children currently on the wait list for all day kindergarten, staff would needed to be added in all three towns. Mr. Wood advised he is asking for a vote to adopt this model as part of the district curriculum regardless of the outcome of the annual town meeting so that parents can begin to plan for their child's needs for the upcoming school year. The committee discussed the importance of full day kindergarten and the pros and cons of the delivery of curriculum with this model. As a consensus the committee is in support of all day kindergarten, but the committee also discussed the concerns of voting this model in early if the budget does not pass at town meetings and the budget needs to be cut, this vote would mean cutting in other areas.

MOTION

Jeff Odell made a motion to approve the Full Day Kindergarten model as proposed by Michael Wood for FY15 with a tuition based all day kindergarten option for all students, with the half day program still being offered; seconded by Nancy Federspiel **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Lorraine Romasco, Kara Keith, and Jeff Odell **OPPOSED:** Lynn Colletti **ABSTAINED:** Cathy Thier and Julie Fay **VOTED AND PASSED. (5-1-2)**

Pre School Class at Stow

Mr. Wood advised there is a need in Stow for an additional preschool class. Mr. Wood advised it appears there will be 15 regular needs and 5 special needs students. Mr. Wood advised if an additional classroom is not added the district will face challenges on where to place the special needs students that we are required to service and those students may end up out of district, which would be a long term situation as those students do not typically move once they are established. Mr. Wood reviewed the current openings in the district that would accommodate additional special needs students. Mr. Wood advised these would be students from across the district as preschool is not covered by the regional agreement.

MOTION

Jeff Odell made a motion to approve the addition of a preschool class in Stow as proposed by Michael Wood seconded by Lorraine Romasco **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Cathy Thier, Lorraine Romasco, Lynn Colletti, Kara Keith, Jeff Odell and Julie Fay **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

OLD BUSINESS

FY15 Budget Discussion

Ms. Federspiel advised the proposed budget was presented at the January 28th meeting and further discussed at the Budget Workshop on February 1st. Ms. Federspiel advised now that everyone has had time to think about and digest the proposal it is time to have a discussion on “next steps”. Ms. Federspiel advised that she and Ms. Romasco have attending the Bolton advisory meeting and held discussion about their wants and desires. Ms. Federspiel stated as the next steps she would like to see a plan B and C, as we did during the last year’s budget process with a couple of tier reductions. The committee discussed and the decision was made that Mr. Wood will present a plan B and C with his recommended reductions to the budget.

Policies JJIB, JE, JKF, Second Reading

Ms. Federspiel advised policies JJIB, JE and JKF are presented tonight for second reading and adoption. No changes have been made since the first reading at the last meeting.

MOTION

Julie Fay made a motion to approve policies JJIB, JE and JKF as second reading and adoption seconded by Lorraine Romasco **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Cathy Thier, Lorraine Romasco, Lynn Colletti, Kara Keith, Jeff Odell and Julie Fay **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

Numerous residents from the three member towns attended the meeting to voice their support of a full day kindergarten program in the district.

New Items for Next Agenda

MOTION

Jeff Odell made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm; seconded by Lorraine Romasco **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Cathy Thier, Lorraine Romasco, Kara Keith, Lynn Colletti, Jeff Odell and Julie Fay **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

Minutes approved at the March 11, 2014 School Committee Meeting