

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

School Committee Conference Room
Emerson School
Bolton, MA

March 16, 2015

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Cathy Thier, Julie Fay, Lynn Colletti, and Lorraine Romasco

ABSENT: Kara Keith, Nicole Odekirk

ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Federspiel called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the School Committee Conference Room, Emerson School, Bolton, MA

Student Advisory Report

Ms. Kirschbaum reported;

- Nashoba has had a great couple of weeks. The boy's ice hockey team took home the DIIIA state title last week. This was their first championship in 35 years.
- Nashoba DECA members also attended the state competition last week. 19 students finished in the top 10 for their categories and 9 will continue on to Nationals in Orlando. Some categories won by Nashoba students were advertising campaign, quick service restaurant, fashion promotion plan, and entrepreneurship.
- Over the weekend, Nashoba Drama put on Peter Pan with flight. They opened to a full house on Friday night and continued to draw crowds throughout the weekend. They put on a fantastic show.
- Last week we also NEASC come. They shadowed students, observed in classes, and were given tours by Nashoba Student Ambassadors.
- On March 3rd, Nashoba Best Buddies sponsored "Spread the Word to End the Word" Day. Students wore blue and signed banners to pledge their support for acceptance and support to stop the use of the word retarded in a derogatory manner.
- Last Friday, the student-athletes attended the community reading day at the elementary school as Celebrity Readers.
- We are all looking forward to the Spring sports season and hopefully less snow.

NEW BUSINESS

2015-2016 SY Calendar

Mr. Wood advised the calendar proposed tonight is the same calendar presented previously with the addition of the proposed late starts at the high school. Dr. Graham provided an explanation of the mythology used to create the late start calendar and the plan for using the time captured by the late starts.

MOTION

Cathy Thier made a motion to approve the SY15-16 calendar as presented in the meeting packet; seconded by Julie Fay **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Cathy Thier, Julie Fay, Lynn Colletti, and Lorraine Romasco **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

Building Rentals

Ms. Federspiel advised there have been some discussions regarding school building rentals. Mr. Wood provided an overview of the current building rental policy and procedures and the state guidelines involving the no discrimination policy. Ms. Fay advised she was contacted by a group of teachers voicing concerns about outside organizations using their classrooms and the security of their personally supplies and concerns about food allergies when outside organizations bring snacks and surfaces are not cleaned before students arrive back in class. The committee decided the policy subcommittee will review the current policy and procedures.

OLD BUSINESS

FY16 Budget Hearing

Ms. Federspiel advised per MGL the district will now open it's Public Hearing for the FY16 Budget. Mr. Wood provided a powerpoint presentation providing an overview of the proposed budget and town assessments.

Public Comments:

Mr. Hawkes, Stow, advised the Board of Selectman of Stow took a vote last week and read same vote, copy was also in the meeting packet, regarding the proposed NRSD budget and urging a reduction in the budget. Mr. Hawkes also stated in reviewing Mr. Wood's proposed cuts he would not recommend cutting the movement of the modular classrooms from Stow to NRHS. Mr. Hawkes stated he has been active with the Task Force and there is a real space crunch at NRHS, to not utilize the classrooms instead of a capital expense would be "penny wise and dollar foolish".

Mr. Lindsay, Bolton, stated with all the pressure being put on the member towns, it appears running the E & D account at the current level is inappropriate and is a line that should be looked at to be drawn down.

Ms. Federspiel closed the public hearing.

FY16 Budget Deliberations

Mr. Wood provided an excel spreadsheet with the proposed budget cuts and reviewed each line. The members of the committee went around the table and voiced their concerns and presented ideas of different areas for cuts and different areas of where they would like to see new programs added. The committee discussed the district's per pupil spending, the E & D account, comparisons of surrounding district's E & D accounts and per pupil spending, district revenues sources, and new special education positions. The committee will resume budget discussions at the March 25th meeting and requested the administration to provide a budget proposal closer to a 3% – 3.5% increase target.

MOTION

Cathy Thier made a motion to approve the FY16 Budget presented as amended ; seconded by Julie Fay **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Cathy Thier, and Julie Fay **OPPOSED:** Lorraine Romasco and Lynn Colletti **VOTED. VOTE DOES NOT PASS AS A 2/3 MEMBER MAJORITY IS NOT PRESENT AS REQUIRED BY MGL TO PASS A BUDGET.**

Policy for Third Reading

Policy ECA – Building Grounds and Security
Tabled to next meeting

School Climate Survey

Ms. Romasco received everyone’s feedback and made revisions where suggested. Ms. Romasco reviewed those changes. Ms. Romasco asked the committee their thoughts on the survey window. Mr. Wood suggested April 1-15. The committee discussed the survey’s use for administrator evaluation, the committee censuses was the survey will not be used as an evaluation but can be used for developing goals. The committee discussed the delivery of this survey, a separate email address will be created (school committee@nrsd.net), this email will not receive mail it will be used to send correspondence out to staff from the school committee as a body. The committee also discussed how the results of the survey will be handled. Ms. Romasco advised the Policy Sub Committee will synthesize the results into a two page report and a summary for the school committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities and Finance SubCommittee

No Report

Personnel SubCommittee

No Report

Policy SubCommittee

No Report

ESBC

No Report

NRHS Task Force

Ms. Busch reported the interim report is included in the meeting packet and another report will be released shortly. Ms. Busch stated the committee spent a great deal of time discussing the schedule and how the constraint of space impacts the schedule.

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:

- NEASC Accreditation
- Rotary Club
- Nashoba invited to Share Strategies
- Community Reading Day
- Parent Teacher Conferences

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Hawkes, Stow Citizen, stated he was a part of the negotiation team of the union contract and should have asked more questions in the process as he is now realizing the 2% increase negotiate is 4.58% of 80% of the budget. Mr. Hawkes stated if he had realized that he would be gone for a 1% increase. Mr. Hawkes also stated the towns appropriate the dollars for the assessments not the school budget and hopes at the next meeting the school committee will look at those numbers.

Mr. Lindsay, Bolton stated he would like to applaud Bolton Representative Lorraine Romasco for her strong stance on accumulating a lot of excess E & D and stating he feels it's a terrible use of money to make the CFO comfortable, it means the tax payers are paying more than necessary and the students are getting less spent on them than necessary and stated the account should be drawn down to somewhere near \$250,000.

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda included:

March 13, 2015 Warrants

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3472	03/13/15	VENDOR	\$ 455,101.15
3473	03/13/15	BENEFIT	\$ 662,332.33
3474	03/13/15	PAYROLL	\$1,428,271.50

Minutes of February 25, 2015, as amended.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Thier advised the Emerson Study has been released and would to review at a future meeting.

MOTION

Maureen Busch made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 pm; seconded by Lorraine Romasco **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Cathy Thier, Julie Fay, Lynn Colletti, and Lorraine Romasco **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

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](#)

Approved by NRSC 3/25/15

Reference Documents/ Presentations

Agenda

2015-2016 SY Calendar Proposal with Late Starts at NRHS

Late Starts at NRHS Proposal

FY16 Budget Adjustments

Memo from Stow Board of Selectman

NRSD Climate Survey Final 03-09-15

Policy ECA - Buildings and Grounds Security

NRHS Space Task Force Interim Report

Superintendent's Report

Meeting Minutes of 2/25/15