

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

September 10, 2014

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

ABSENT: Kara Keith

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Federspiel called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM in the School Committee Conference Room.

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda included:

September 12, 2014 Warrants

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3433	9/12/14	VENDOR	\$ 326,285.40
3434	9/12/14	BENEFIT	\$ 64,943.08
3435	9/12/14	PAYROLL	\$1,244,851.63

Approval of Summer Warrants

Minutes of June 17, 2014

Ms. Federspiel reviewed the subcommittee assignments and meeting times/dates.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter to the editor
Stow Parent Kindergarten Correspondence (2)

Ms. Fay advised she has received correspondence regarding the signs at the High School stating “No Dogs Allowed” and citizens have asked the NRSC to develop a policy regarding dogs on school grounds. Ms. Federspiel also advised she has received correspondence regarding No Trespassing Signs on the grounds at the NRHS.

Ms. Fay advised she received correspondence regarding social media concerns regarding the Yik Yak Ap. Ms. Fay advised Dr. Graham is working on a solution.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Thier advised she would like to add the open items spreadsheet review to the next agenda.

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:

- Opening of School
- Open Houses
- Kindergarten Update
- District Improvement Plan
- Unit C Contract
- Honor Roll Update
- Educator Evaluation
- Student Health and Wellness
- School Security
- NRHS Space Study Committee
- School Field Maintenance

Kindergarten Update

Mr. Wood advised the schedule that was created for our half day students resulted in those students only receiving half of the specials that are allotted. Mr. Wood has addressed this with the principals and instructed them to rework the schedules, so that all half day students will be exposed to all specials in the course of the school year, half day students will receive the specials they did not receive in the first half of the year in the second half of the year when the schedule "flips" in January. Members of the school committee expressed concerns of what the half day students will be missing in the afternoon. Mr. Wood advised all half day students will be exposed to the total curriculum over the course of the year. Mr. Wood advised he has reached out to all families that have contacted him and they were very satisfied with the changes being made. Mr. Wood advised the "centers" in the afternoon will be connected to the "centers" from the morning session so the half day students have that exposure. Mr. Wood advised during Budget season there will be an update on how the schedule is working.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Advisory Report

Ms. Kirschbaum reported;

- Nashoba students had a great summer and are excited to get back to school. Before school started, the national honors society and student ambassadors ran a "Freshmen Boot Camp" to introduce new students to Nashoba and to meet students from other schools. Activities included a scavenger hunt, field activities, and locker combination drills. The upperclassmen also helped with showing freshmen around on their first day.
- Fall sports have started and we have over 400 student-athletes this fall participating on our teams.
- The field hockey team is off to a 3-0 start. They host Shrewsbury on Monday night at 6pm and 7:15pm.
- The boys and girls cross country teams opened their seasons with wins against North Middlesex yesterday.
- Both boys and girls soccer teams played their first games yesterday. Both teams tied Westboro and head to Shrewsbury tomorrow night.
- The golf team has played three matches against Mid-Wach A opponents and improving each day.
- The volleyball team lost their first game of the season to a strong Wachusett team, but was hosting Shrewsbury at home this afternoon.
- The football team travels to Westboro on Saturday for a 2pm kick off to open the season.
- On August 23rd, \$5,000 was raised for Michelle Farnsworth, a Nashoba student with cancer. The fundraiser was a swimming event, which boasted over 100 participants to support Michelle, who has been a competitive swimmer. Also, the Alison Murphy 5K will be held on September 20th. We are also looking forward to the back to school dance, which will be held this Friday, to support the senior class.

Facilities and Finance SubCommittee

Ms. Busch reported the summer warrants were signed and warrants of September 12, 2014 were signed, no other business was discussed.

Personnel SubCommittee

Ms. Federspiel reported there will be an executive session tonight and the subcommittee will be scheduling a meeting.

Policy SubCommittee

No Report

SEPAC (Special Education Parents Advisory Council)

No Report

ESBC

No Report

NRHS Space Study Task Force

Ms. Romasco reported the committee met twice over the summer and will be meeting again on September 18th. Ms. Romasco stated “we’ve done a lot of looking at some things and trying to organize ourselves and, at this point, I’m hopeful that we’re on a good path to uncovering the data that we need in order to make a curriculum driven decision. But we don’t have that right now and there shouldn’t be any assumptions made to be fair to the people that are on the committee”.

NEW BUSINESS

School Improvement Surveys / District Improvement Surveys

Mr. Wood stated at the last meeting survey data and the research of what is needed for feedback to be valuable, 50% respondents was suggested, Mr. Wood advised none of the schools have reached that for a number of years. Mr. Wood stated the question to be asked is how we attract more respondents to the surveys. Mr. Wood asked the committee if they want a district survey. Mr. Wood advised the school surveys are the work of the school councils. Ms. Romasco stated she believes all surveys across the district should have a component that is similar in all surveys that touches on district incentives and curriculum to show uniformity across the district and those trends can be tracked. Ms. Romasco stated there needs to be structure in the surveys and be mindful about what we are asking, why and what the data will be used for. The committee discussed the option of having computer set up at the parent teacher conferences to allow parents to take the survey while in the building attending the conference. Mr. Wood will provide a matrix of what surveys are sent and when each school sends them. The Policy Subcommittee will review the current district survey data.

OLD BUSINESS

District Improvement Plan

Ms. Federspiel advised last Spring the committee discussed the option of reviewing Goal 1 and 2 during the first meeting and Goals 3 and 4 during the second meeting. Ms. Federspiel asked the committee if they were prepared to move forward with this model. Mr. Wood provided a draft of the strategic plan and district improvement plan. The committee discussed the draft strategic plan and the plan to move forward on the measurement of the goals. On the recommendation of Ms. Thier, Mr. Wood will revise the plan to include columns for measurable outcomes and steps and the plan will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Honor Roll

Mr. Wood stated the parent forum was held last Spring, it was sparsely attended but good feedback was provided. Mr. Wood advised he has collected data from area schools on their honor roll formula, which is provided in the packet. Mr. Wood advised based on the first forum the current recommendation is a weighted GPA, which will be discussed at a second forum to be scheduled soon.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Committee went into Executive Session at 8:08 pm for the purpose of discussing a grievance with NREA and the Unit C contract, to include Michael Wood, George King and Aleta Masterson with the only business to be conducted after the executive session is the ratification of the Unit C contract and to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION

Maureen Busch made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:08 pm for the purpose of discussing a grievance with NREA and the Unit C contract, to include Michael Wood, George King and Aleta Masterson with the only business to be conducted after the executive session is the ratification of the Unit C contract and to adjourn the meeting.; seconded by Nancy Federspiel.

Ms. Federspiel	Yes
Ms. Busch	Yes
Ms. Colletti	Yes
Ms Romasco	Yes
Ms. Odekirk	Yes
Ms. Fay	Yes
Ms. Thier	Yes

MOTION

Maureen Busch made a motion to reconvene to open session at 8:25 pm; seconded by Cathy Thier.

Ms. Federspiel	Yes
Ms. Busch	Yes
Ms. Colletti	Yes
Ms Romasco	Yes
Ms. Odekirk	Yes
Ms. Fay	Yes
Ms. Thier	Yes

NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of Unit C Contract

MOTION

Julie Fay made a motion to ratify the 2014-2017 Unit C Contract; seconded by Nancy Federspiel **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Nicole Odekirk, Cathy Thier, Lorraine Romasco and Julie Fay **OPPOSED:** Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. (6-1-0)**

MOTION

Julie Fay made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 pm; seconded by Cathy Thier **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Lynn Colletti, Nicole Odekirk, Cathy Thier, Lorraine Romasco and Julie Fay **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

Approved by NRSC 9/24/14