

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 20, 2005

School Committee in Attendance: Don Adams, Tricia Kelly, Monica CampoBasso, Mel Govindan, Brian Burke, Ellen Sturgis, Chris Way, Cathy Giunta, Ex-Officio Member Donnie Allison

Absent:

Administration in Attendance: Michael Wood, Superintendent, George King, Assistant Superintendent, Marianne Boswell, Director of Technology, John Smith, NRHS Principal, Patricia Linenkemper, Director of Special Ed./MRE Principal, and Ann Farrell, District Nurse Leader

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Don Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. at the Emerson Building of the Nashoba Regional School District.

APPROVAL OF THE October 6, 2005 MINUTES

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2005 as amended. Seconded by Chris Way. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF October 21, 2005

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2027	10/21/05	VENDOR	\$184,396.54
2028	10/21/05	BENEFIT	\$525,473.29
2029	10/21/05	PAYROLL	\$933,915.73
2030	10/21/05	VENDOR	\$75.00

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 10/21/05 and noted above. Seconded by Brian Burke. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Representative Lieutenant Governor Healy

Letter from the Lieutenant Governor regarding her recently completed Listening Tours and the Educational Reform Act of 2005.

Kindergarten Grant

Letter from Susan Wheltle, Alice Barton Kindergarten Project Director with information regarding the added Full Day Kindergarten grant funds be allocated to schools.

NEASC Letter

Letter and report sent to John Smith, Principal of NRHS informing district of approved accreditation for the high school.

Health Newsletter for NRSD staff

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A presentation of SharePoint was given by technology teachers Mary Marotta, of NRHS and Leslie Carroll, of Mary Rowlandson Elementary School. Marianne Boswell, Director of Technology for the district was also present to answer questions and expand on the SharePoint technology. The group shared with the committee how NRSD staff is integrating SharePoint technology into curriculum and also how

they are implementing it's capabilities as a collaborative tool through daily staff communications. Recognition was given to Ms. Marotta and Ms. Carroll for their efforts in initiating this project.

Ms. Carroll told the committee that the schools all now have websites that have a consistent format, and showed the committee the individual school websites. She said the background work and code was all designed by Barrett Amos, former NRHS student who was hired by the district for this project.

Also, special recognition was given to Ms. Marotta, Matt Adiletta, Bolton parent and INTEL Corp. employee, and Rob Richardson, of INTEL Corporation for their collaborated efforts in the awarding of \$57,720.00 Grant which INTEL awarded the Nashoba Regional School District for technology integration in the area of mathematics. Ms. Marotta told the committee that through this grant from INTEL special wireless notebook computers are being used by the math teachers. She explained that these computers have "tablet" screens that enable math teachers to write and save math problems directly on the computer. She said this technology also enables teachers post the information online for students and staff and is a useful collaborative tool.

Ann Farrell, NRSD Nurse Leader, introduced Donna Heslin, Mary Rowlandson Elementary School nurse, who was recognized for implementing the Health and Wellness Policy through the Healthy Choices Grant. Ms. Heslin thanked the committee for this recognition and invited them to come and visit the fitness room she has created with the funding from this grant.

Mr. Wood shared with the committee the district's use of Power Grade Parent Access, a feature of the PowerSchool system which the district has implemented for several years. He told the committee the Power Grade system is a data base for student grades. This system, he said, allows parents to have access to their student's grades through the web. He told the committee a small pilot is being started at the middle schools and the goal is to have availability at all three middle schools by the start of next school year.

Mr. Wood distributed information to the committee regarding current eighth grade field trips planned to date.

Mr. Wood told the committee that because of a transformer problem at the Pompositticut School on October 11th, the decision was made to close school early. The Connect Ed system had not been fully updated yet and many parents did not get notified in a timely manner. He assured the committee that steps have been taken to eliminate this issue in the future.

Mr. Wood reminded the committee of the MASC Conference October 26-28th at the DCU in Worcester and of the upcoming listening tour held by legislators on October 26th at the Roosevelt School in Worcester.

Mr. Wood told the committee that in preparation for the budget work coming up he has arranged for them to be given flash sticks in which to store all the budget documents and information on. He told the committee that laptops will also be provided for their use at school committee meetings during this budget planning time.

Mr. Wood provided a Facilities update which included the Press Box at the high school. He told the committee they are still waiting on word for the final delivery date of the lift and until this is installed the press box is off limits.

He told the committee the Center School has two major projects. These are the roof over the gym and the columns in front of the gym. The roof is being done later in the fall and the column work is ongoing as the contractor that had started the job had left town.

Mr. Wood said that the water table issue at the Luther Burbank Middle School seems to be in check. A trench was built around the school over the summer to detour the water table underground away from the building. He reported that to date there has been no repetition of any problems regarding this issue.

Mr. Wood informed the committee that in looking ahead at the projected price increase of electricity the district is working on an energy plan that will be instituted next month.

Mr. Wood said the Strategic Planning Committee met on October 18th and completed a review of the Strategic Plan. He distributed a final draft of the Strategic Plan to the school committee and said this would be on the November 3, 2005 School Committee meeting agenda for approval.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Allison

Donnie Allison reported to the committee on the recent athletic activity for the fall sports. He also told the committee the Math Team won first place in Division B of the Worcester County Math League at their first varsity competition. He said the Masquerade Ball will be held Friday, October 21st and is sponsored by the senior class. Mr. Allison told the committee that early decision application deadlines are approaching. He also said that class wars are coming up during the week preceding Thanksgiving and he will provide more details as this gets closer.

Facilities Subcommittee, by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood reported there was a review of the Lease Agreements.

Finance Subcommittee, by Ms. Giunta

Nothing to report since last meeting.

Personnel Subcommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported the Personnel Subcommittee will be going into Executive Session later in the meeting for the purpose of discussing Unit A Contract Negotiations.

Policy Subcommittee, by Ms. Kelly

Nothing to report since last meeting.

SPED PAC Subcommittee, by Brian Burke

Brian Burke reported to the committee there was a September meeting of the SPED PAC subcommittee that was sparsely attended. He told the committee the goal of the SPED PAC Subcommittee is to reach more parents of special education students as well as parents with young children not yet in school.

Stow School Building Committee by Ms. Way

Ms. Way updated the committee on the land search on possible sites for a new school facility in Stow. She told the committee there was a public forum on October 13th and this was well attended. She said the SCBC met on October 17th and went over the evaluation reports on three properties. She said they have been made aware of a new group called the "Concerned Families of Stow". She said this group supports the new school. Ms. Way told the committee the next scheduled meeting will be held on November 7th, but they will also meet on November 1st to open bids from RFP's and then adjourn.

Strategic Plan Steering Committee, by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood distributed the final draft of the Strategic Plan which the committee will vote on at the November 3, 2005 school Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Reorganization Update

Mr. Wood introduced Patricia Linenkemper who is now the Director of Special Education and Mary Rowlandson Elementary School principal. Ms. Linenkemper was joined by Tracy Conte and Glen

Williams who are both assisting Ms. Linenkemper. Ms. Linenkemper told the committee the reorganization is going well and the assistance she is getting from both Ms. Conte and Mr. Williams, and also Assistant Principal Tom Moore, have made this possible. Ms. Conte and Mr. Williams agreed. Ms. Linenkemper told the committee that on a recent Early Release/Professional Development day she met with all the paraprofessionals of the district. She told the committee it was a great opportunity to meet everyone and find out what everyone does and what kind of professional development they need. Mr. Williams said things are going well at the high school, which is where his office is located. He told the committee that being there allows for smoother communication with the SPED staff there and enables him to have regular contact with them. Ms. Conte told the committee the additions to the Special education office of Amy Semekis as Special Education Secretary and Michael Davies have been very instrumental in how well things are going. She told the committee that Professional Team Building days/workshops are being planned for SPED staff, where key speakers will be brought in. This is being done with funding from the Program Improvement Grant.

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to break for five minutes. Seconded by Cathy Giunta. **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan **OPPOSED:** Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Chris Way **VOTED AND PASSED.**

OLD BUSINESS

Subcommittee Goal Setting

Mr. Wood distributed a list of subcommittee goals which the committee reviewed.

CITIZEN INPUT

William Joss asked the committee how the mascot of penguin was assigned to the Pompositicut School in Stow. Mr. Wood said the penguin is part of the kindergarten curriculum and perhaps that was why.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Unit A Contract Negotiations and Unit C Contract Negotiation Updates, and for the reviewing of the Executive Session Minutes for approval of public release. Seconded by Monica Campobasso. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

The Committee entered Executive Session at 8:25p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda DeStasi
Executive Assistant