

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

November 17, 2005

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

Absent: Tricia Kelly

Administration in Attendance: Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools, George King, Assistant Superintendent (elect) of Finance

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 November 3, 2005 MINUTES

MOTION

Ellen Sturgis made a motion to approve the minutes of November 3, 2005 as amended. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF November 3, 2005

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2036	11/18/05	VENDOR	\$239,726.26
2037	11/18/05	BENEFIT	\$539,121.23
2038	11/18/05	PAYROLL	\$985,273.30

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 11/18/05 and noted above. Seconded by Brian Burke. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from David Driscoll, Commissioner of Education, to NRHS Science Engineering teacher Brad George, informing him of his appointment to the Technology Engineering Advisory Council.

Letter to Commissioner Driscoll from the Advanced Math and Science Academy with their student recruitment plan.

A Health brochure given to NRSD staff was also included in the packet for this evening.

A Superintendents Evaluation Form was included for school committee members.

Regional School Caucus

A notice of the November 22nd meeting, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Holden Senior Center.

Ms. Way reported to committee that a parent called her with concerns regarding the automated call she received when her daughter was absent from school. This parent felt this system should be investigated further and revised so that the students are not made to feel guilty for being absent. Monica CampoBasso reiterated this concern as she stated the need to send in repeated notes when her daughter was absent and received an automated phone call to her house even though she had called the school to inform them her daughter would be absent. Mr. Wood directed all concerns regarding this issue to building principals as

the decision to make these automated calls for absent students was not a district wide decision, but rather a school based one.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wood updated the committee on the current events within the district. He reported to the committee Unit A and Unit C now have a new president. Ilona Moeckel has retired after many years working within the district and from her position as president of the NREA as well. NRHS teacher Steve Cullinane is the new president, with MRE teacher Jason Joyce and teacher Kevin Keaveney as vice presidents 1 and 2 respectively.

He also told the committee the Audit Draft for FY05 is ready. The Audit Advisory committee will meet in the next two weeks.

Mr. Wood reported to the committee the School Building Authority is in the process of conducting an audit of all of the expenses charged to the bond pertaining to the high school construction project. There are a number of expenditures that were noted as not being eligible for reimbursement. When the report is given, if there is an appeal process, there will be recommendations made at that time.

Mr. Wood told the committee that Ann Farrell, Nurse Leader for the District, is leading the School Health Advisory Council. This council is sending out an electronic survey to parents in January that addresses topics such as child nutrition, health and safety among other issues.

Mr. Wood gave the committee a facilities update. He told the committee that the lift for the press box is in and being installed. It will be operational for the Thanksgiving Day game. He also told the committee the columns are up at the Center School and look great. The repairs to the roof at the Hale School are almost finished, with the last of the leaks now located and being fixed. A discussion took place regarding the H. S. bleachers. Mr. Burke commented on the fact that the cost was higher than planned for originally. Mr. Wood said that because the variances they were expecting to receive was denied it was more costly than originally planned, but the Building Committee did the best they could. He said it was a lesson for future projects in that the committee should not proceed with any project needing variances until the actual variance is in hand.

Mr. Wood reported on the recent Tri Town meeting. Mr. Wood reviewed the discussion of the Finance Subcommittee to reduce assessments further within the estimated Transportation Aid. He clarified for Lancaster representatives of the committee that school committee had only said they would *discuss* the subject of transportation, and that the school committee did not say funding would definitely be returned to the towns. The town of Stow will meet on December 12th for the purpose of looking at land options and they will have elections on December 22nd. Also Mr. Wood said the topic of group purchasing was discussed at Tri Town. There were a number of questions and concerns regarding this possibility, Mr. Wood said, and they need to investigate this issue further. The next meeting of Tri Town will be January 11th in Stow.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Advisory, by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood reported that there is a new member of this committee, David Wiley.

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Allison

Donnie Allison reported on the current events at the high school. He said most fall athletics are finished, except for football. The Thanksgiving Day game will be against North Middlesex. He told the committee the winter sports preseason meetings were held Tuesday, November 15th.

Mr. Allison reported that the Class Wars will begin on Friday, November 18th. The first day is the Penny Wars and is also the first Dress Up Day. Wednesday, November 23rd will be the Nashoba Spirit Day with hallway decorating and a rally.

Mr. Allison told the committee the dates of the play *Auntie Mame* are November 18th and 19th. He also reported that the Jazz Band concert will be December 2nd at 7:30 p.m.

Facilities Subcommittee, by Mr. Wood

Nothing to report.

Finance Subcommittee

Nothing to report.

Personnel Subcommittee, by Don Adams

Mr. Adams reported the Personnel Subcommittee will meet in Executive Session later in the meeting for the purpose of discussing negotiation of the Unit A and Unit C contracts.

Policy Subcommittee, by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood told the committee they have two policies to review. These include the C.O.R.I. Policy and the Harassment Policy. He said the Policy committee is working on a couple of letters to legislators. One letter is to ask for the legislators support for Energy Aid. Another letter is to support the Caucus for Regional Transportation. A third letter asks for legislative support regarding funding for SPED transportation.

SPED PAC

Mr. Burke reported to the committee the second meeting of SPEDPAC was held Wednesday, November 16th and was very well attended. He said there were over 35 parents in attendance. Ms. Linenkemper, MRE Principal and SPED Director along with Tracy Conty, Asst. SPED Director also attended the SPEDPAC meeting. Mr. Burke thanked Mr. Wood for his offer to allow SPEDPAC to have a page designated for SPEDPAC on the district's website.

Stow Building Committee, by Ms. Way

Ms. Way reported that the Stow Building Committee (SBC) met on November 7th. Their work at this meeting included:

- preparing for the town meeting
- evaluation of Minuteman land
- Presentation to selectmen
- Report of their work thus far

Ms. Way told the committee the SBC presented their recommendations to the Stow selectmen on November 8th. They also asked that the Town of Stow exercise their Right of First Refusal on the Minutemen land. The selectmen agreed to this, contingent on a town meeting vote and election. They have not yet voted on the recommendation.

Ms. Way also told the committee that the SBC met at 8:00 a.m. on November 16th. At this meeting they met with a consultant and discussed a mixed use plan and also were shown conceptual plans. It was a long, productive meeting, Ms. Way reported. The SBC met again on the 16th at 4:00 p.m. to tape an informational piece to be aired on the local cable channel. Their next meeting will be November 21st.

NEW BUSINESS

C.O.R.I. Policy

There was a first reading of the C.O.R.I. Policy. Mr. Wood said the Policy Subcommittee has double checked to make sure the District is following the Criminal History Board's guidelines.

Harassment Policy

There was a first reading of this policy as well. Mr. Wood told the committee the Attorney General has done quite a lot of work around this issue, and every district is reviewing their policy to ensure accuracy.

Building Lease

The revised lease agreements will be discussed at the next meeting.

Recommendation of private school approval by Sally Sullivan, Director of Teaching & Learning.
Schools presented for approval at this evening's meeting included the Trivium School in South Lancaster, Steppingstones School in Stow, and Dr. Franklin Perkins School in Lancaster.

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to accept all recommendations of the three schools from Sally Sullivan, Director of Teaching & Learning, dated September 28, 2005 and November 14, 2005. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

Financial Report, by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood told the committee that February 4th will be Budget Day.

Mr. Wood told the committee their signatures were needed for the expenditure's list pertaining to the high school building project.

MOTION

Ellen Sturgis made a motion that school committee vote on the MSBA warrant. Seconded by Chris Way. **IN FAVOR:** Don Adams, Chris Way, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Ellen Sturgis **ABSTAINED:** Brian Burke, Mel Govindan; Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED.**

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan

The committee Strategic Plan was reviewed for approval.

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to accept the Strategic Plan changes. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

Mr. Adams said he would like to thank the Steering Committee for all their work regarding the Strategic Plan and Mr. Wood agreed. Mr. Wood said that thank-you letters would be sent to all members of the Steering Committee.

CITIZEN INPUT

Chris Way asked Mr. Wood about the enrollment numbers included in their packet this evening. According to the information they received, she said, enrollments have gone up by 100 students. Mr. Wood agreed with this observation and added that 21 more students have registered since October 3rd.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION

Motion moved by Chris Way to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Unit A and Unit C contract negotiation updates. Seconded by Ellen Sturgis. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Cathy Giunta. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda DeStasi
Executive Assistant