

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

November 3, 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 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 October 20, 2005 MINUTES

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2005 as amended. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **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>
2032	11/04/05	VENDOR	\$828,014.51
2033	11/04/05	BENEFIT	\$23,824.80
2034	11/04/05	PAYROLL	\$946,000.77

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 11/3/05 and noted above. Seconded by Brian Burke. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Maher wrote a letter requesting minutes of the April 7th Executive Session. The sense of the committee was that the committee has already sent this information and the Chair directed Mr. Wood, to write Mr. Maher a letter stating such.

Materials from the MASC were distributed in the packet.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wood updated the committee on the composition of the Communications Protocol Task Force that is looking at parent access using Power School. He also reviewed the Superintendent's message about inclusion, not just accommodation. He updated the committee on what was learned about Destination Imagination rules for membership. A conversation ensued about having a district wide practice for team membership. Mr. Spratt updated the committee on the energy crisis in electricity costs. The committee learned that the over expenditure could range from \$85,000 to \$192,000. Work is being done to mitigate the district's use of electricity. Mr. Spratt shared his energy conservation plan. MASS Electric will be conducting an energy audit of the schools in Lancaster and Bolton, and strategies learned will be applied to the schools in Stow. Ms. Kelly asked if the administrative team had been apprised of the plan, and Mr. Wood reviewed what has been done to date to help the administrative understand the seriousness of the situation. Mr. Wood informed the committee that there are efforts in the legislature to pass legislation to help all school systems out. Ms. Sturgis asked how we could involve students in this situation. Mr. Burke asked what the timeline for learning how successful the initiative was. Mr. Spratt explained that he

will be able to give a monthly update. Mr. Wood shared that the midpoint would be the budget in January and the endpoint would be the results of operations in April

Chris Way reviewed the results of the delegate assembly votes from the MASC conference. Ms. Kelly was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

Resolution #1	Passed
Resolution #2	Passed
Resolution #3	Passed
Resolution #4	Passed
Resolution #5	Passed
Resolution #6	Passed
Resolution #7	Voted to hold, motion changed to defer, this motion passed
Resolution #8	Passed
Resolution #9	A friendly amendment offered, defeated; original motion passed
Resolution #10	Amendment was offered, not accepted; original motion passed
Resolution #11	Amendment was offered, did not pass; original motion passed
Resolution #12	Passed

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Advisory

Mr. Wood reported that the audit work has been completed. Three audits were conducted, operations, high school construction, and student activities accounts. The Excess and Deficiency number is estimated to be \$822,000. The draft will be presented to the Audit Advisory Committee in mid to late November, and final draft could come before the committee as early as the first meeting in December.

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Allison

Donnie Allison reported to the committee on the recent athletic activity for the fall sports. Soccer: Girls: 14-2-2; boys: 9-5-4. Field Hockey: 5-9-2. Cross Country: 9-3 (overall, 2-3 and came in 3rd at District championships) Football: 4-4. Other events Mr. Allison reported on included an update on the math team. They came in 6th place out of 30 schools at their latest competition. Their next competition will be in December. Mr. Allison told the committee there is a new club at the high school called "Womanism" which is to honor achievements of women. The advisor of this group will be Mrs. Williams. He reported the first edition of the school paper, the Arrow, was distributed. Mr. Allison also told the committee that one teacher has requested a SPAM filter.

Facilities Subcommittee, by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood reported progress on the leases for the elementary schools. A draft is ready for the towns to review. There was a review of the first draft of the scheduled maintenance plan for the district.

Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Giunta explained the rationale behind the recommendation for not returning the transportation aid in an assessment reduction. Mr. Adams suggested we hold on this discussion for the agenda item later in the meeting.

Personnel Subcommittee,

Mr. Adams reported that there was not a need for an executive session. The two parties are trying to set up meetings for Unit C negotiations.

Policy Subcommittee

The time was changed from 4:30 to 5:30 for all of the meetings.

SPED PAC

Mr. Burke shared the SPED PAC brochure and discussed the status of the website. Mr. Wood offered to have the site move to the district's server. Mr. Burke reviewed the goals of SPED PAC and read the

legislation authorizing SPED PAC's existence. Ms. Kelly questioned if they have been doing this. Mr. Wood noted that except for last year, they had appeared before the committee the two previous years.

Stow Building Committee

Ms. Way reported on the November 1, meeting. She told the committee the Stow School Building Committee (SBC) met to open bids from the RFP. They received one bid on the Corzine property for \$2.9 million, which would include a road to the property. Ms. Way reported the regular meeting included two focus points. First the SBC discussed building one school vs. two schools. They voted unanimously to recommend to the selectmen a new PreK-5 school on a new site. Ms. Way told the committee this decision was the result of 3 ½ yrs. of work and multiple evaluations of the best long term solutions for the housing of elementary school students. She reported the SBC will ask the school committee to ratify their recommendations and give them a copy of the report once it is edited.

The second topic of the regular meeting of the SBC, Ms. Way said, was the Minuteman property. She said the SBC is recommending the town to exercise a Right of 1st Refusal. In evaluations of 9 properties by the consultant, this property came in 2nd to the O'Grady property. Ms. Way told the committee all properties investigated include Pompo, Center, Kane, Quirk, O'Grady, F.E., Corzine, Cushing and Minuteman. She said the Minuteman property was the best one and they would seek a plan of mixed use as it is 100+ acres and they only need about 1/3 of the parcel. The next meeting will be held on November 7, 2005. The SBC will meet with the selectmen on November 8, 2005 to give their recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wood reviewed the recommendation of the Finance Committee to have trial period to decide on the viability of having a late bus. It will be a fee for service model. It will run between December through February. To continue into December, there need to be sales to 84 students to break even. The cards will cost \$25.00 per month. No daily passes will be sold. The time will be 5:00 p.m. Ms. Kelly asked that Mr. Wood meet with the coaches to discuss the need for cooperation if this was going to work successfully. The stops listed were examples; the bus company will make this determination. Ms. Sturgis asked if only students from Stow and Lancaster decide to use the bus, will it continue. Mr. Wood responded that as long as 84 students purchased the passes, it would not matter in what towns the students lived.

MOTION

Moved by Brian Burke, seconded by Cathy Giunta, to invoke the need for necessity due to the number of school committee members potentially impacted (6) by imposing a late bus fee.

The motion passed 8-0.

MOTION

Moved by Ellen Sturgis, seconded by Brian Burke to implement the fee for service late bus trial period as outlined in the memo presented to the school committee dated October 24, 2005, with the modification that the time be changed to 5:00 p.m. and the bus stops not be included.

The motion passed 8-0.

Financial Report

Mr. Spratt spoke earlier regarding the energy crisis due to sky rocketing electricity rates.

Ms. Giunta reported on the recommendation of the Finance Committee's regarding the regional transportation revenues. Given that the number is not completely known due to uncertainties in regional transportation expenses for all districts and charter districts (which is new) the committee believes it is prudent to wait until the revenues are received and then if there is a surplus the money can be returned the following year. After discussion about how to communicate this to the towns, the Chair directed the Superintendent to draft a letter to the Town Boards to include adding the four points discussed: total

regional reimbursements are not know until early January, the delta between what we expect based on our data is too small, charter schools are now part of the equation and the money returned in FY 05 was based on an amount received in FY 04.

MOTION

Moved by Chris Way, and seconded by Ellen Sturgis to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to not reduce assessments based on CHERRY Sheet information.

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

The school committee discussed the goals, reviewed the evidence points and made some suggested changes to Goal 3 for the Health and Wellness objective and to add under goal 2 the development of comparable outcomes. Ms. Kelly raised the question of the breadth of the health and Wellness objective and concerns when it came to budget recommendations.

MOTION

Moved by Chris Way, and seconded by Monica CampoBasso to accept the goals as written in the strategic plan presented on 11-3-05 (Draft 2005).

The motion passed 8-0.

CITIZEN INPUT

Ms. CampoBasso asked about the status of volleyball. Ms. Kelly asked about announcements and how best to use technology to have more communication.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Moved by Ellen Sturgis and seconded by Chris Way to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

The motion was passed 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael L. Wood