

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

December 1, 2005

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

Absent: N/A

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 17, 2005 MINUTES

MOTION

Ellen Sturgis made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2005 as amended. Seconded by Mel Govindan. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF December 2, 2005

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2039	12/02/05	VENDOR	\$303,332.16
2040	12/02/05	BENEFIT	\$36,611.40
2041	12/02/05	PAYROLL	\$1,033,723.53

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 11/30/05 and noted above. Seconded by Ellen Sturgis. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from NESDEC with past, present and projected enrollment information. Tricia Kelly noted there was no information regarding Bolton and Mr. Wood said he would look into this.

Copy of email from Carol Makary reaffirming her position regarding the H.S. building project and the architects' responsibility.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Robotics Presentation

NRHS students Alan Levin and Laura Balducci presented information regarding the NRHS Robotics Team and their involvement in the FIRST programs. They told the committee there is an increased interest among students in science and engineering and the Robotics Team is a good way for students interested in engineering to meet their goals. Mr. Levin and Ms. Balducci told the committee there are opportunities for other students as well to participate in the team's efforts; those students who may not necessarily be interested in the engineering side of the project. These students, they said, may become involved in the public relations efforts of the team or which may include some graphic design as well. They told the committee the team presently has 30 student members and 6 community and parent members. They have raised \$12, 000 in funds to support their efforts. NYPRO and NASA are among the

companies and organizations which have contributed to their efforts. They also told the committee the team has created a website, <http://www.team1768.ath.cx/>.

Fall Sports Update

Pete Richards updated the committee regarding the fall sports. He said there are presently 280 student athletes and 18 teams at the high school. 5 of these teams have qualified for state playoffs, he said. He told the committee the numbers of students involved in various teams tends to be cyclical and may change from year to year. He said there was no noticeable change in student participation in relation to user fees. He said the fact that the user fee has remained at the same rate for the past two years is a good thing and that two students have applied for scholarship regarding this fee for this school year so far. He also told the committee the new bleachers were in place for the Thanksgiving Day game and are working out great as there is plenty of room for the student population to attend and participate. He told the committee there was a good crowd at the Thanksgiving Day game, despite the weather. Mr. Richards said that two more sports were added, boys and girls indoor track. There has not been a reduction in student participation in any of the other sport teams, but rather there seems to be more students becoming involved in sports overall. He informed the committee of the NRHS athletics page, where parents, students and community members may access information regarding teams' schedules and other information. There was discussion regarding the ability to download the schedule directly to a palm pilot. Committee member Tricia Kelly had attempted to do this and was prompted to enter payment information. Mr. Richard's told the committee he would investigate this issue as he has purchased the software and this capability is part of that package. There should be no further fees involved, he said.

Committee member Tricia Kelly inquired about adding a volleyball team to the high school but Mr. Richard said this was not feasible at this time due to lack of funds and the expense involved in starting up this venture which would be approximately \$20,0000. Committee member Monica CampoBasso inquired about a swimming team and Mr. Richards explained that there is presently no place for a potential team to practice or hold meets, therefore this was not an option at this time. The Bromfield School and Acton/Boxboro sites were mentioned as possibilities for our students to join existing teams there. Mr. Richards explained that Bromfield does not have a team this year because they could not find a coach. He also explained that Nashoba students could not simply join another school's team. There would have to be a need for the other team to invite your school's participation and they would have to want this. Committee member Brian Burke asked about adding a varsity Lacrosse team. Mr. Richards said there is a J.V. Lacrosse team and plans to add a varsity team may be two years away. This will give the student presently playing a couple of years experience before they move to a varsity team.

Late Bus

Mr. Wood told the committee that due to the low number of students/parents interested in participating in the late buses (13 interested as of the morning of December 1st) it was decided that it would not be feasible at this time as this number of students would not pay for the program. The committee discussed this issue and it was decided that it would be revisited for next fall and that the district would make efforts to get the word out in the spring, especially to the eighth graders who will be moving up to the high school next fall.

Mr. Wood told the committee a Calendar Committee has been formed, and consists of parents, teachers and administrators. The first meeting was scheduled for December 7th.

Mr. Wood told the committee that Assistant Superintendent for Finance George King will officially begin work for the Nashoba Regional School District on Monday December 5th. He said that Mr. King has been meeting regularly with Administrative Council and has attended School Committee meetings. He has also visited each school, and had sit down meetings with administrators.

Mr. Wood gave a brief facilities update which included informing the committee that the lift has been installed and the press box is now complete.

Regarding Capital updates, Mr. Wood told the committee that Mr. Spratt has scheduled meetings with all three towns. He said that information will be kept in one document but that each town will be responsible for putting capital items on the warrant for their schools.

Committee member Ellen Sturgis asked if a Language Task Force was being planned to look at what we should be doing in Grade 8 students to prepare for them for the high school programs. Mr. Wood responded that there were plans being made and a task force was planned to address this.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Advisory, by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood discussed the high school building project. He informed the committee the audit is complete and there were six items which he felt should be reimbursed. However, after further discussions he had with the School Building Authority (SBA), only one item remained an issue. The other five items were ineligible due to the fact these took place one year after the building was occupied. He told the committee there was discussion regarding an appeal among the Finance Committee. Mr. Wood said he investigated a question sent to him by committee member Brian Burke regarding the possibility of the district closing out the project while submitting an appeal. Mr. Wood said the SBA told him this could not be done. Mr. Wood told the committee after much discussion with Pat Marone, Senior Accountant for the district, and the SBA, he recommended moving forward with the permanent bonding. He said the temporary bond was due January 3, 2006 and there was no guarantee the district would prevail in their appeal efforts.

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to accept the High School Building Project # W19994036 as described in the Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures over Compliance In Relation To the Massachusetts School Building Authority document from Powers and Sullivan, dated November 10, 2005. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

Discussion continued regarding the High School Building Project. He presented the committee with two options for moving forward, which included a Level Debt plan and an Equal Principal plan. Mr. Wood recommended the Equal Principal option. Charlotte Noponen was available to answer questions from the committee. The information presented and discussed included the following:

Approved expenses as per audit - \$27,131,180

Rate of reimbursement – 65.41%

Amount of full reimbursement - \$17,746,505

Original voted appropriation supplemental voted appropriation - \$22,902,281

Total authorized borrowing - \$24,352,281

Amount NRSD received on 12/1/04 – \$13,238,538

Balance owed to NRSD after audit – \$4,507,967

Amount to be Bonded on 12/22/05 - \$6,605,000. The District will need to pay \$776,000 of this amount.

MOTION

Ellen Sturgis made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Equal Principal Debt Schedule option for the Permanent Bonding as described in the memo from Michael Wood, dated December 1, 2005. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Allison

Mr. Allison updated the committee on the recent events and activity at the high school. He said the NRHS Football Team won on Thanksgiving Day, 13-12 and that there was a good turnout despite the snow. Winter sports tryouts have begun, he said, which include basketball, hockey, wrestling, skiing and indoor track. He told the committee the Class Wars are over and the senior Class won every aspect of the competition. He said the Harry Potter theme was judged best overall. He also told the committee that the play *Auntie Mame* was a huge success. He said the Jazz band would be performing the next evening at 7:30 p.m. and would be playing the songs "The Girl from Ipanema" and "Moose the Mooche". The raging Cow Coffee house is returning, he told the committee. He said this is sponsored by the Youth Group of Trinity Church, is comprised of student performances and included complimentary refreshments. There is a \$4.00 cover charge for admittance. He also told the committee the Community service Club is running a Krispy Kreme fundraiser. There is also going to be a Model United Nations Club forming, which is being advised by Social Studies teacher Mr. Poirier. Lastly, Mr. Allison told the committee of a new club being started, the Juggling Club.

Facilities Subcommittee, by Cathy Giunta

Nothing to report.

Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Giunta reported to the committee that the Finance Subcommittee has begun discussion regarding communication with each of the towns. She said they are specifically looking at the quality of the information the towns are providing and that the towns are providing the same kind of information to the district. Ms. Giunta said this is important in order to keep things in sync with each of the towns in the district.

Personnel Subcommittee, by Don Adams

Mr. Adams reported the Personnel Subcommittee continues to meet with Unit C. He told the committee that Unit A signed their contract this evening and a Press Release would be issued. He told the committee there would be no need for an Executive Session at this School Committee meeting.

Policy Subcommittee, by Mr. Wood

Nothing to report.

SPED PAC

Mr. Burke told the committee that although SPED PAC has not had a recent meeting, they are moving forward nicely. He said a Press Release was being planned regarding their last meeting.

Stow Building Committee, by Ms. Way

Committee member Chris Way reported to the committee that the Stow Building Committee (SBC) met on November 21st and 28th. T

She reported that the Joint Boards met on November 30th. Ms. Way also informed the committee that the SBC met with the developer on November 23rd and that the subgroup met on November 27th. She told the committee the SBC is working on the communication aspects of their plan. This includes:

- Presentation for Joint Boards and Town Meeting
- Public Forum
- Coffees
- Newspaper Articles

Ms. Way reported to the committee that there was much discussion regarding a “mixed use” plan. She said the parcel they are considering is much larger than needed for the schools and that options were being looked at to make full use of the land which would also help recoup some of the cost of the land. She told the committee the Selectmen met after the Joint Board’s meeting and voted 4-1 to support the recommendation of the SBC for a new site for a new school.

Ms. Way informed the committee that the dates going forward regarding this issue are:

- Public Forum – December 7th
- Meeting Forum – December, 5th
- Town Meeting – December 12th
- Town Vote – December 22nd

Ms. Way also informed the committee that an SBC member and Stow resident disclosed that he is an abutter to the proposed property for the new schools and she requested the Stow School Committee representatives vote on an Ethics Declaration for this person. It was the request of Mr. Green and the recommendation of the State Ethics Board that those who appointed the members of the Stow School Building Committee, namely Stow Selectmen and the Stow members of the School Committee, vote in open session on the Ethics declaration of Edmund Green. While stating Mr. Green’s integrity was beyond reproach, committee member Brian Burke stated he was concerned because he was unfamiliar with any authority in school committee by-laws that allowed for votes by less than the full committee.

MOTION

Chris Way made a motion that the school committee make an Ethics Declaration agreeing that Stow Building Committee member Edmund Green’s financial interest is so remote that it will not affect the integrity of his work for the Stow School Building Project. Seconded by Ellen Sturgis.

IN FAVOR: Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Ellen Sturgis, Don Adams, Monica CampoBasso **OPPOSED:** None **ABSTAINED:** Brian Burke. **VOTED AND PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS

Building Lease

The revised lease agreements were reviewed and first reading done. Mr. Wood noted the date needed to be changed and some revisions still were needed.

Superintendent’s Evaluation:

A reminder was given to committee members that these will be due at the December 15th meeting.

Recommendation of Private School approval by Sally Sullivan, Director of Teaching & Learning.

Schools presented for approval at this evening’s meeting included the Browning Elementary School/S. Lancaster Academy in South Lancaster, Robert F. Kennedy Action Corps., Inc, in Lancaster, and the New River Academy.

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to accept all recommendations of the three schools from Sally Sullivan, Director of Teaching & Learning, dated November 30, 2005. Seconded by Tricia Kelly. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

Financial Report, by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood made a request for a reduction in the Florence Sawyer School Student Activity Account Balance as have not ever needed the amount designated presently.

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to accept the recommendation to reduce the Florence Sawyer School Student Activity Account Balance to \$5,000. Seconded by Brian Burke. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

OLD BUSINESS

C.O.R.I. Policy

There was a second reading of the C.O.R.I. Policy.

MOTION

Chris Way made a motion to approve and accept the second reading of the C.O.R.I. Policy with amendments. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

Harassment Policy

There was a second reading of the Harassment Policy as well.

MOTION

Chris Way made a motion to approve and accept the second reading of the Harassment Policy with amendments. Seconded by Mel Govindan. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

CITIZEN INPUT

Pam Glauner asked the committee about the district Health Insurance accounting. She said she had recently read in a local newspaper that there may be some issues regarding this issue and how reserve funds are set. Mr. Wood told Ms. Glauner he would need to look into this and let her know at a later time.

Committee members Kelly and Sturgis had issues they wanted to address. Chairman Adams asked committee members to forward any future agenda requests to him or Mr. Wood prior to the meeting so that they could be entered into the agenda for discussion. Mr. Adams told the committee he would come up with a guideline for them to go by.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ellen Sturgis. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda DeStasi
Executive Assistant