

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 24, 2005

**School Committee in Attendance:** Nancy Fleming, Don Adams, Tricia Kelly, Chris Way, Cathy Giunta, Ellen Sturgis, Mary Beth Yentz, Monica CampoBasso, Ex-Officio Member Kristin Squires

**Absent:** None

**Administration in Attendance:** Michael Wood, Superintendent; John Antonucci, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance; Ken Tucker, Florence Sawyer School Principal; Joel Bates, Florence Sawyer School Assistant Principal; Janet Milliken, Florence Sawyer School Assistant Principal; Patricia Linenkemper, Mary Rowlandson Elementary School Principal; Patrick Perkins, Mary Rowlandson Elementary School and Luther Burbank Middle School Assistant Principal.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Fleming called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM. following a Public Hearing on the FY 06 Budget in the Media Center of the Nashoba Regional High School.

Ms. Fleming introduced State Senator Pamela Resor who addressed the Committee about current activity in the legislature concerning education and the state budget.

**APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 10, 2005 MINUTES**

**MOTION**

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2005 as amended. Seconded by Chris Way. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

**APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF MARCH 25, 2005**

<b><u>WARRANT NO.</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
1059	03/25/05	VENDOR	120.00
1060	03/25/05	VENDOR	279,583.22
1061	03/25/05	BENEFIT	489,840.93
1062	03/25/05	PAYROLL	903,346.06

**MOTION**

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated 03/24/05 and noted above. Seconded by Don Adams. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Soccer Celebration** – The State Champion Girls' Soccer Team will be honored at a reception on Wednesday, March 30, 2005 at 7:00 at the high school. The School Committee will also honor the team in the future.

**Nashoba United Youth Soccer** – Under 12 team is in need of practice fields and would like to use the junior varsity fields. Administration will respond.

**Bolton Safety Committee** – A letter concerning traffic on Route 117 from Jeff Boudreau was shared. Mr. Spratt has been working with the Mass Highway Department and the Bolton Safety Committee.

MASC Day on the Hill – MASC Day on the Hill is scheduled for April 26, 2005. All those interested in attending, please let Kathy McKinstry know.

Suburban Coalition Legislative Breakfast – April 5, 2005 at the State House. Invitations distributed at the March 10, 2005 meeting.

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Wood’s newsletter discusses budget activity at the federal level.

#### MASS Meeting of March 24, 2005

Today Mr. Wood attended a MASS meeting. The two major advocacy concerns of this group are the Chapter 70 Aid formula and reimbursement of special education transportation monies which for the first time this year exceeded the costs of regular education transportation. There is also a significant effort to change legislation in the funding of charter schools to achieve greater fairness and equity so that it is not so punitive to public schools.

#### Clustering Presentation

Ken Tucker, Joel Bates and Janet Milliken created a PowerPoint presentation outlining the clustering process and how it is used at the Florence Sawyer School in Bolton to create classes. They have had nearly five years of experience with this model. Ms. Linenkemper and Mr. Perkins also use this method with modifications in Lancaster. This is the first year of use in the Pompositticut and Center Schools in Stow. Students are identified in twelve categories ranging from gender to achievement. From this identification process, students are placed in small clusters; high ability, above average ability, average ability, low average ability and below average ability. Classes are created so that each teacher does not have too great a range of abilities in their classroom and so that it is the best placement for all children. The only budget impact of this process is professional development. Two parents from Stow raised questions about implementation and communication of the practice. A discussion ensued about district wide practice concerning implementation K-8.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Ex-Officio Report by Ms. Squires

Ms. Squires reported on current activity at the high school. Two new after school clubs have been formed – Ceramics and Interpretative Dance. Amnesty International will host their annual trivia contest on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Independent Arts Festival organized by Ross Beyeler and committee will take place on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The day will include movies, and plays. The Guidance department is busy registering students for next year’s classes. “Grease” rehearsals are going very well and the play will take place on April 8, 9 and 10, 2005. Tickets may be purchased in advance and presales have been heavy. Spring sports have begun and students are making the best of snow covered fields. The Guild of Fictitious Scientific Literature sponsored a showing of “Bicentennial Man” yesterday. The state finals for the Jazz Ensemble will take place this weekend at UMass/Lowell. April 2, 2005 both chorus and band perform at the endowment concert to benefit scholarship funds. The Phonathon held on March 13<sup>th</sup> was extremely successful with approximately \$13,000 in pledges. Foreign Language Week, March 7<sup>th</sup> to March 10<sup>th</sup> included activities and a buffet. It was not only educational but fun. The MASC Spring Leadership Conference attended by Ms. Squires and other representatives of the Student Council, focused on teambuilding and much was learned to bring back to the high school. Nashoba Literary Magazine sponsored a new event called “Sweet Talk”. The blood drive and the volleyball tournament, recent Student Council sponsored activities, were very successful. The “Mr. Nashoba” fundraising contest begins this week.

Ms. Sturgis added that the high school sponsored three Destination Imagination Teams that will be going to the state competition at WPI in Worcester on April 2, 2005. In addition to those teams, Stow is sending two teams, Bolton and Lancaster is each sending one.

Finance Advisory Board by Ms. Fleming

The Finance Advisory Board met on Monday, March 14, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in the Office of the Superintendent. The Board approved Transfer 05-02 transferring money from the general repair account to heating fuel. The Board also approved the FY06 budget as a balanced budget. It was mentioned that the Board may dissolve after the next meeting. The Home Rule Petition said that this option might be considered in 2005 and may be initiated by either party. In this case, it was initiated by the Finance Advisory Board which reflects what a remarkable recovery the District has made fiscally. It was suggested that Town Officials and Administrators be made aware of this.

Policy Subcommittee by Ms. Fleming

Suggestions from this subcommittee will be brought forward later in the meeting.

Stow School Building Committee by Ms. Way

This group met on March 16, 2005 and filmed an informational video for a local cable channel. They met again on March 21, 2005 and continued their work. They will have a warrant article for town meeting concerning use of funds originally earmarked for the committee. Some of these funds will be used for a proposal from the architect to look at Future Electronics – What would the cost be? What would it look like? The Committee also approached Bolton about possibly splitting costs with Stow and they are receptive. The Future Electronics Building is also a focus of the next Tri-Town meeting. Ms. Yentz stated that she is concerned about Bolton and Stow sharing a building. She feels that this could cause further division to district identity. Ms. Fleming stated that this is still exploratory and will be reviewed carefully prior to any decision making.

Ms. CampoBasso left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Student Activity Account Audit

The Student Activity Account Audit is complete and it went very well. The audit verified balances and confirmed our protocols are correct. The attorney general wanted confirmation that \$200,000 of money diverted from the Student Activities accounts was restored after the fiscal crisis of FY2002. This document clarifies that issue. The District has been holding onto graduating classes monies, some as far back as 1986. This is not right as this money is to be used to benefit that class, for reunions, class gifts or scholarships. After researching contacts for these classes, the District has recommended a method of returning these funds, however the Attorney General has asked for change so that instead it is likely that the District will just hold on to these funds until they are requested. The goal is to have a zero balance at graduation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

CASE Charter

The CASE Collaborative is amending their charter so that it takes into account changes in terminology and law. Because Mr. Adams does not have this back up, it will be tabled for discussion and approval at the next meeting. The document seems to deemphasize special education and emphasizes regionalization for other purposes such as group purchase discounts. The Executive Board of the Collaborative approves the budget and Ms. Sturgis feels that this should be stated in the Charter. Mr. Wood will ask about including this issue.

NRSD Regional Agreement Capital Funding Clause

This newest capital funding clause reflects the conversation of Town officials at the Tri-Town meeting so that the apportionment of funds for capital expenses is the same as for operating expenses. It is on all three town warrants.

### **MOTION**

Mary Beth Yentz made a motion to accept and approve the article described as Article ###. The Nashoba Regional School District Agreement Amendment – Capital Costs Definition and Method of Apportioning Capital Costs to include a five year rolling average enrollment for apportionment for capital costs. Seconded by Don Adams. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

#### Policy First Reading

The Policy Subcommittee met last week and is recommending approval of the following policy amendments for first reading.

#### Right to Notice and Hearing for Suspension or Expulsion

This policy now outlines in a step by step way the only event that allows appeal to the Superintendent under MGL 71:37 H ½. Members felt that #3 and #4 of the policy are contradictory and that suspension or expulsion for drug possession should also be included. This is only a first reading of the policy and adoption is not on the table this evening.

### **MOTION**

Ellen Sturgis made a motion to accept as a first reading, JKFA Right to Notice and Hearing for Suspension or Expulsion draft 3 dated March 15, 2005. Seconded by Tricia Kelly. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

#### School Bus Safety Program

After considering the amendment suggested by the Subcommittee, members asked that the sentence, *Children will be instructed as to the proper procedure for using seat belts, however, there will be no expectation that they are used* be changed to read *Children will be instructed as to the proper procedure for using seat belts, however, there will be no requirement that they are used.*

### **MOTION**

Ellen Sturgis made a motion to accept as a first reading, EEAE, School Bus Safety Program draft edit dated February 9, 2005. Seconded by Don Adams. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

#### Religious Holidays Protocol

Mr. Wood and the Administrative Team created this administrative protocol to address how we encourage diversity and to ensure that every school day is a learning day. It is shared with Committee members for their information. Members asked that the first sentence in paragraph #1 end after beliefs so that it is clear that the important word in the sentence is sensitive. Discussion also ensued about having the policy better reflect an excused absence protocol rather than a religious holiday protocol so that it is clear that it is to be handled strictly like any other excused absence.

#### Administrative Appointment

Sam Pawlak will be retiring after 34 years in the District with the last three being spent as Principal of the Luther Burbank Middle School in Lancaster. After meetings with the Burbank School Advisory Council, the Burbank Middle School faculty, and considering his own expectations, Mr. Wood had a clear idea concerning the needed leadership at Burbank. He is pleased to appoint Patrick Perkins, Assistant Principal of Burbank as its new Principal beginning July 1, 2005, a man who fulfills those needs. The District will now advertise for an assistant principal who has a strong math background. Mr. Wood will focus on administrative replacements that bring content area specialties to the District in the future.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Eric Bechtel of Stow inquired if clustering was a district wide initiative. He is concerned about its inconsistent implementation. It was answered that because this is Stow’s first year of implementation, it cannot be expected to be identical to a school that has been doing it longer. This is a method that we are embracing and it is expected that there would be some parity in implementation.

Mr. Bechtel’s second question asked about the portable classrooms at Pompositicut – When? Where? Who? Mr. Wood responded that administrators had just met with the architects and it is expected that the bids will go out next week. Then the information on the bids will be better known. These portable classrooms will be for the second grade students and they will have enclosed walkways. They will be set up beside Pompo toward the playground on the right hand side.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

Don Adams made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Tricia Kelly. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen McKinstry  
Executive Assistant