

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 19, 2005

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

**Absent:** None

**Administration in Attendance:** Michael Wood, Superintendent; John Antonucci, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Fleming called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. at the Nashoba Regional High School. Ms. Fleming welcomed new Lancaster School Committee member, Mel Govindan and next year's Ex-Officio High School Student Representative Donny Allison. Chair Fleming also announced that the Town of Stow passed the FY 06 Budget so that it has now been approved in all three towns.

**APPROVAL OF THE MAY 5, 2005 MINUTES**

**MOTION**

Ellen Sturgis made a motion to approve the minutes of May 5, 2005 as amended. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

**APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF MAY 5, 2005**

<b><u>WARRANT NO.</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
1074	05/20/05	VENDOR	313,722.51
1075	05/20/05	BENEFIT	482,422.49
1076	05/20/05	PAYROLL	955,492.91

**MOTION**

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 05/20/05 and noted above. Seconded by Don Adams. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Governance Agreement** – Mr. Antonucci shared the last draft of the Governance Agreement relating to the student activities accounts investigation conducted by the Attorney General's office and the Worcester County District Attorney's office. This final draft was negotiated by counsel and we concur with these guidelines. Mr. Wood will sign it on behalf of the District.

**School Committee Letter to Legislators** – Mr. Adams drafted a letter from the Committee concerning support of the "Reverse the Curse" initiative.

**MASC Case** – MASC posted an article concerning a non-binding vote in Albany, New York for the \$10,000,000 funding of five charter schools. It will be forwarded to the Committee.

**Invitation to MAPC Conference on Education Equity and Excellence** - The Metropolitan Area Planning Council is hosting a Summit on Educational Equity and Excellence on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The invitation will be forwarded to the Committee.

Differentiated Instruction – Ms. CampoBasso has found an article that gives an excellent description of differentiated instruction in relation to the District’s professional development. It will be shared with the Committee.

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

The Superintendent’s Report was distributed. Mr. Wood recently attended a legislative breakfast and all five of the District’s representatives were present. The Senate Ways and Means Committee forwarded a budget similar to the House Budget. There is a small increase in Chapter 70 funds and amendments concerning regional transportation are still on the floor. Next year’s regional transportation reimbursement will be based on this year’s expenses which were comparatively low. We will not see reimbursement on this year’s transportation costs until FY 07. We are not reimbursed for students that we transport less than a mile and a half to school.

### Differentiated Instruction Exhibit

This week the professional development activities for this year ended with an afternoon exhibit at the Mary Rowlandson Elementary School. The theme of the exhibit was Differentiated Instruction. This event showcased differentiated instruction projects of teachers and staff that were developed as a result of this year’s professional development opportunities. This event was a huge success due to the teamwork involved in making it happen. Sally Sullivan, Director of Teaching and Learning, Laura Friend, Associate of the Department and the Professional Development Committee worked throughout the year to make sure that the staff had the training and tools necessary to use this strategy. The representatives from the University of Connecticut Confratute program cited the District’s program as a model for others.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Tri Town Report by Ms. Fleming

Ms. Fleming stated that Stow did not pass the recommended change to the regional agreement defining capital. Bolton and Lancaster both passed the article at their recent town meetings. Mr. Wood would like to see it placed on the warrant for the Stow special town meeting in the fall. He will research the timeline that relates to all three towns passing a regional agreement – will the two positive votes in Bolton and Lancaster still be in effect if Stow passes the article in the fall or must all three towns vote positively in the same season? Mr. Wood will also review the leases as they describe capital, since they are approved by the Select Boards and do not require town meeting approval.

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

May 20, 2005 is the last day for seniors so this will be Ms Squires last meeting. She introduced Donny Allison who will represent the students during the next year at School Committee meetings. Seniors will have finals in the next week and during the following week many senior events will take place. In guidance news, Jimmy Quian has been selected to participate in an internship this summer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and Martha McKean’s proposal has been selected to receive a Pirozzola Fellowship to attend the National Youth Forum on Medicine. Many of the drama students will participate in Clinton Community Theatre this summer. The Spring Fling will take place this Friday and the recent Jamnesty was a huge success. Both band and choral concerts were held in the last week and these were the final concert performances for the year. The band will march in the Lancaster and Stow Memorial Day Parades. Habitat for Humanity continues to send representatives to help in the construction of homes, and many student teams will walk in the “Relay for Life” on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The Student Council sponsored senior send-offs this week. They also sponsored for the first year the “Mr. Nashoba” contest which was very successful.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### Puffs Tissue Donation/Todd Gross

Todd Gross has been selected as a favorite “Nose for News” by residents in Boston in an event sponsored by Puffs Tissues. As a winner, Mr. Gross received \$5,000 worth of Puffs Tissues to be donated to the charity of his choice. Mr. Gross would like to donate the tissues to the Nashoba Regional School District.

### **MOTION**

Tricia Kelly made a motion to approve the donation from Mr. Todd Gross of \$5,000 worth of Puffs Tissues. Seconded by Chris Way. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### School Choice

Mr. Wood is recommending that the District participate in School Choice by offering fifteen openings in each grade 6-12 (five students per grade in each of our middle schools). This allows the District to offer positions at the high school and the middle schools while maintaining the class size guidelines. Currently, we have 72 students going out of district to school and only 27 coming in to the district. Mr. Wood’s recommendation will make the numbers more balanced. Although we can place a cap on students coming into the District through school choice; we have no control over students electing to attend schools out of the district.

### **MOTION**

Don Adams made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s School Choice Recommendation dated May 13, 2005. Seconded by Tricia Kelly. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

### Administrative Reorganization Plan

The Director of Special Education has resigned effective June 3, 2005. Mr. Wood presented his plan for reorganization of the department effective on that date and for a period of one year. He proposes that Patti Linenkemper, Principal of Mary Rowlandson Elementary School and former Lancaster Special Education Director, will assume the role of Director of Special Education while continuing as Principal of Mary Rowlandson. She will be supported in two ways – the Assistant Principal position that was to be shared with the Luther Burbank Middle School will now be full time at Rowlandson; and a couple of existing special education position responsibilities will be reorganized to better support this Director; the Therapeutic Counselor will oversee the therapeutic programs and the out-of-district students and the Out of District Placement Coordinator position will take on the responsibilities as Assistant Special Education Director. Each of the middle schools will also have a special education teacher leader. With Ms. Linenkemper’s leadership, it is anticipated that relationships will be built with parents, teachers, and principals to get the job done. Discussion ensued concerning the demands of two such big jobs; the drain on Ms. Linenkemper and whether or not students would be appropriately served, both Rowlandson students and special education students, by having part time administrators. Mr. Wood emphasized that this is a unique appointment because of the unique person being appointed. She is supported and respected by those that she works with and came forward with the suggestion herself. Mr. Wood is confident that she has much to offer the District by modeling her behavior and sharing her ideas. Mr. Wood will review the job descriptions/responsibilities prior to the next meeting to show that it is a manageable piece. By that time, he may have an Assistant Director candidate, Assistant Principal candidate, and possibly, information concerning a support position at the high school.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Future Electronics Presentation

Mr. Wood presented a summary of work to date on the Future Electronics Building. He is meeting on Friday with the local representatives who initiated the plan. Venture Capitalist Bob Baldwin is interested in a partnership as it is too large a property to be used as a school alone. His proposal assumes Stow as an anchor tenant. The Stow School Building Committee approached Bolton about splitting the costs of

consideration and they agreed but did not indicate how they would use the building, Ms. Way stated that Stow is still considering the building however it is too expensive for them to purchase and then rehab. This coming Monday the SBCC will consider all of its options.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

None

Nancy Fleming was honored for her years of service to the School Committee.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION**

Don Adams made a motion to enter into Executive Session to approve Executive Session Minutes and for a personnel matter, to include Superintendent Michael Wood and Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance John Antonucci, and to reconvene in open session in order to adjourn. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **In Favor:** Mel Govindan, Chris Way, Tricia Kelly, Don Adams, Nancy Fleming, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, and Ellen Sturgis. **Opposed:** None **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

The meeting entered Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

Chris Way made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen McKinstry  
Executive Assistant