

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

February 9, 2006

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

Absent:

Administration in Attendance: Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools, George King, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Sally Sullivan, Director of Teaching and Learning, Laura Friend, Teaching and Learning Assistant, Mr. Ken Tucker, Florence Sawyer School Principal, and Margaret Morgan, Hale Middle School Principal

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Don Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. in the Media Center at the Nashoba Regional High School.

APPROVAL OF THE January 26, 2006 MINUTES

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2006 as amended. Seconded by Ellen Sturgis. **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Monica CampoBasso. Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Chris Way, Mel Govindan, Ellen Sturgis, Brian Burke **ABSTAINED:** Tricia Kelly **VOTED AND PASSED.**

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF February 10, 2006

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2058	2/10/06	VENDOR	\$383,638.89
2059	2/10/06	BENEFIT	\$34,659.26
2060	2/10/06	PAYROLL	\$965,516.57
2061	2/10/06	BENEFIT	\$15,533.36

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 2/09/06 and noted above. Seconded by Brian Burke. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you card acknowledging the EMT program which was received from a family in the town of Bolton who had a recent occasion to need the EMT services
- Letter from School Bus Safety Group regarding the Transportation Policy
- Letter from Mr. Wood responding to the School Bus Safety Group
- Copies of letters from Mr. Wood to Bill Ross and Nancy Stell-Kiely, thanking them and acknowledging their contribution to the Audit Advisory Committee
- MASC Legislative Bulletin
- Letter from William Callahan, Minuteman Superintendent regarding the Minuteman FY07 budget proposal and the three Middle School Technical Literacy positions in Bolton, Lancaster and Stow
- MECA- Decimal Dilemma, math workshop flyer

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (*This report is available on the District website)

Tri Town Update

Mr. Wood and Mr. King attended the most recent Tri Town meeting. Following are topics discussed at that meeting.

- School Building Leases
- MAGIC
- Space needs and potential educational uses for the old Center School in Lancaster

Acton Proposal

Mr. Wood reported to the committee that it is now being referred to as the *Minimum Aid Proposal* as it concerns a minimum allotment per student of \$2000.00. He told the committee that the informational meeting recently held regarding this issue was very well attended by legislators and they intend to pursue this issue vigorously. Mr. Wood also told the committee that Senator Eldridge was planning to present the *Minimum Aid Proposal* to the members of his chamber.

Budget Workshops

Mr. Wood reviewed the Budget Workshop schedule with the committee. Workshops will be held on the following dates at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center at the high school:

- February 16, 2006
- February 23, 2006
- March 2, 2006
- March 9, 2006

Filming of School Committee Meetings

Mr. Wood reported to the committee that the administration met with Mr. Rick Merrill of the Bolton Cable Access Committee regarding the filming of meetings. He said they would continue to pursue this and would update the committee as to the progress of this project.

Calendar Recommendation

Mr. Wood told the committee that he would be making a recommendation later in the meeting regarding a calendar for the 2006-2007 school year and that the proposed calendar could be viewed on the District website.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Allison

Mr. Allison reported to the committee on recent events and activity at the high school.

Current Team records:

- Boy's Basketball Team: 6-10
- Girl's basketball Team is 11-3
- Wrestling Team: 11-8
- Indoor Track: 2-3
- Hockey: 4-7-4 – Jake Cole has 100 career points. The team plays Lunenburg on Saturday in Westborough.
- Skiing: Downhill Boy's Cross Country Skiing: 2nd place in league

Other Events:

- The Jazz Band and Concert Bands will have concerts this evening
- Relay for Life has been selling carnations for Valentine's Day
- Sign ups for Volleyball Tournament began today. The tournament will begin on February 27th
- Senior members of the Nashoba Drama Society will begin filming tomorrow on a project commissioned by the administration. The film will be about harassment and possible coping strategies

Audit Advisory, by Mr. Wood

Nothing to report

Facilities Subcommittee, by Ms. Kelly

Tricia Kelly reported to the committee on the most recent meeting of the Facilities Subcommittee. She told the committee that at their last meeting the Facilities Subcommittee discussed the H.S. track and that it had been over 7 years since it had been re-surfaced. She said they also reviewed the Lease Agreements. She reported that some language had changed as a result of the District's attorney reviewing this document. Ms. Kelly added that Jodi Ross suggested the towns also have their attorney's review the Lease Agreements. Ms. Kelly told the committee that space needs was also a topic of discussion at the last meeting of the Facilities Subcommittee. She said they discussed the expansion of the H.S. cafeteria along with a general review of the District's space needs. Ms. Kelly told the committee they did not have a chance to discuss building inspections or insurance coverage and that these topics were planned for discussion in upcoming meetings.

Finance Subcommittee, by Ms. Giunta

Ms. Giunta reported to the committee that the Finance Subcommittee looked at the revenue picture relative to Transportation Aid. She said they discussed Investment Policy and looked at other towns regarding this policy, in particular Holliston and East Bridgewater. Ms. Giunta told the committee they would be working on a draft policy for the District.

Personnel Subcommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported that the committee would be going into Executive Session later in the meeting to discuss the Unit C contract negotiations and the Superintendent's evaluation.

Policy Subcommittee, by Ms. CampoBasso

Nothing to report. The next meeting will be February 16th.

SPED PAC

Brian Burke reported to the committee on the most recent SPED PAC meeting. He told the committee that he was able to provide the Chair of the SPED PAC with a list of numbers of both in and out of district students with IEPs. He said it would be helpful if they could also have a copy of the Federal Regulations regarding this. He asked Mr. Wood if he could provide this to him. Mr. Wood referred Mr. Burke to the DOE website where he said this information may be found. Mr. Wood said he would give Mr. Burke the website link so that he could obtain this information and pass it along to the SPED PAC Chair.

Stow Building Committee (SBC), by Ms. Sturgis

Ms. Sturgis told the committee that the Stow Select Board and Stow School Committee representatives met on Tuesday, February 2nd to discuss the next stage in the selection process of the new SBC members. She reported that there are 24 applicants and that interviews would likely begin in the next week.

NEW BUSINESS

Calendar 2006-2007 School Year

Sally Sullivan, Director of Teaching and Learning and Laura Friend, Teaching and Learning Associate, presented the proposed calendar for the upcoming school year. They distributed an informational packet which included:

- The proposed calendar
- Recommendation/Rationale
- Survey Results
- Comparison of Student Attendance

Ms. Sullivan began by thanking the members of the Calendar Committee for all their efforts in putting the proposed calendar together. She told the committee the Calendar Committee was comprised of 22 members who included parents and district staff. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed calendar. Ms. Giunta told the committee that attention should be given to the date of Freshman Night at the high school to ensure that it does not conflict with Minuteman's Freshman Night. She said that Minuteman is

also a District school and some parents may have student's in both that school as well as Nashoba Regional which would make attendance at these events a logistical issue for them. Ms. Kelly inquired about the data presented regarding the high school attendance as the numbers shown seemed to be the same as those presented in the previous year and she said those numbers were found to be incorrect. She said that if there is an issue regarding attendance taking then this would be the second year this was to have happened. Mr. Wood said he would check to see if there were any issues regarding the validity of this data and report back to the committee. Some discussion took place regarding the number of Early Release Days. Mr. Adams told the committee that in workshops and conferences he has attended there has been data presented which shows that schools and districts which have a strong Professional Development program also have higher student performance results.

MOTION

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to accept the Proposed 2006-2007 school calendar, dated January 25, 2006. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

Dental Plan

Mr. Wood asked the committee to consider offering the Dental Plan to the District's non-union employees. Committee member Ellen Sturgis asked if this was in the proposed FY07 budget and Mr. King said that it was included in the proposed budget. Mr. Adams inquired if this was the same plan as the one offered to Unit C and Unit A employees and Mr. Wood told the committee that it was the same plan. Mr. Burke asked how many employees this would involve and Mr. King replied that it would include approximately 35 staff members.

MOTION

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to offer the Dental Plan to all non-union employees and to also include the Superintendent. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

Dates of Upcoming School Committee Meetings

Discussion took place regarding upcoming meetings. The committee discussed whether to cancel the February 23rd meeting.

MOTION

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta that the School Committee meet on February 16th, March 2, March 9 and that the February 23rd meeting be maintained as a regular School Committee meeting with no budget discussion. Seconded by Mel Govindan. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

OLD BUSINESS

Minuteman Outreach Program

Mr. Wood distributed a memo in which he recommended to the committee that Stow be included in the Minuteman Outreach Program. Discussion took place among the committee regarding this issue. Chris Way inquired about what would happen if it did not pass on the Minuteman end in their budget and Ellen Sturgis echoed this concern. Mr. Wood told the committee he did not believe this was a concern and that Minuteman was committed to providing this program to the town of Stow as offered. Mr. Brad George addressed the committee regarding the importance of the program.

MOTION

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta to enter into an agreement with Minuteman to provide the Minuteman Outreach Program to all three Middle Schools with an amendment for an agreement in writing to provide such services to all three towns. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso.

IN FAVOR: Tricia Kelly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Chris Way, Mel Govindan, Ellen Sturgis **ABSTAINED:** Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED.**

CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Pramuk, a Bolton parent inquired about the full day kindergarten program lottery. He said his children have been waitlisted for 3 years in a row and asked if the District was looking at adding another

full day kindergarten class. Committee member Cathy Giunta said this topic was on the agenda for discussion in the budget workshop portion of the meeting.

MOTION

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to move to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss Unit C negotiations, a grievance issue and the Superintendent's evaluation. Seconded by Cathy Giunta. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

MOTION

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta to accept to move out of Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. Seconded by Brian Burke. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

Budget Workshop

The Budget Workshop portion on the meeting began with discussion to include:

- o Budget Overview and Direction
- o Related Arts
- o Full Day Kindergarten

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta to adjourn. Seconded by Chris Way. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda DeStasi
Executive Assistant