

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 23, 2006

**School Committee in Attendance:** Don Adams, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis, Chris Way, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Tricia Kelly, Brian Burke

**Absent:** Ex-Officio Member Donnie Allison

**Administration in Attendance:** Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools, George King, Assistant Superintendent for Finance

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Don Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. in the Office of the Superintendent.

**APPROVAL OF THE March 3, 2006 MINUTES**

**MOTION**

Ellen Sturgis made a motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 2006 as amended. Seconded by Cathy Giunta. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

**APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF March 24, 2006**

<b><u>WARRANT NO.</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
2069	3/24/06	VENDOR	\$285,210.40
2070	3/24/06	BENEFIT	\$584,798.12
2071	3/24/06	PAYROLL	\$954,930.27

**MOTION**

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 3/23/06 and noted above. Seconded by Brian Burke. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter and supporting information sent to Patrick Kelly of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) from Mr. Wood regarding the MSBA's rating of the Pomositticut and Center Schools in Stow as 1, building in good condition.
- Letter from Mr. Wood to parents regarding the added classrooms in the kindergarten program.
- Letter from legislators to Commissioner Driscoll expressing their concerns about the operations of the Advanced Math and Science Academy (AMSA).
- Regional School Caucus March 13<sup>th</sup> agenda and minutes from the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Copy of an email message from Senator Antonioni responding to Mr. Wood regarding the Charter School Legislation.
- Letter from Sheldon H. Berman, Superintendent of Schools in Hudson, to Senator Pamela Resor, requesting assistance regarding the AMSA.
- Letters sent from NRSD Treasurer, Charlotte Noponen, to each of the three towns' treasurers; Ms. Jenkins of Bolton, Ms. LeBlanc of Lancaster, and Ms. Landry of Stow.
- Early Childhood Collaborative meeting of March 20<sup>th</sup> notice and agenda.
- Letters sent from Don Adams, NRSD School Committee Chair, to each of three towns' administrators, Jodi Ross of Bolton, Orlando Pacheco of Lancaster, and Bill Wrigley of Stow, informing them of the District's approved budget for FY07 of \$37,083,658.
- Letters sent from Don Adams, NRSD School Committee Chair, to William Wrigley, Stow Town Administrator and Orlando Pacheco, Lancaster Town Administrator,

regarding the Audit Advisory Committee vacancies in their respective towns and the need for these vacancies to be filled.

- Letters from the NRSD School Committee to state legislators regarding their concerns about the Chapter 70 Minimum Funding.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** (\*This report is available on the District website)

Mr. Wood reported to the committee on the Florence Sawyer School well. He told the committee the well has been repaired and thanked Bill Spratt, Gary Sprague, and Jim Brigham for their efforts in getting the problems fixed quickly and thanked Dan Richards for his help making sure water was available to staff and students.

He also reported to the committee that the high school will be posting daily announcements to the NRHS website on or before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Regarding the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), Mr. Wood told the committee that he and Mr. Spratt, NRSD Facilities Director, drafted a letter in response to the MSBA's rating of the Pompo and Center Schools in Stow and told them a copy was in their packets for this meeting.

Mr. Wood updated the committee regarding the Paquette lawsuit and said the District is still waiting for the scheduling of oral arguments on the District's motion to dismiss.

Mr. Wood reported that the Stipend Review Committee and the Evaluation Review Committee will begin meeting. Mr. King will be facilitating the Stipend Review Committee and Mr. Wood will be facilitating the Evaluation Review Committee.

Mr. Wood discussed the kindergarten enrollment and told the committee that registrations close on March 24<sup>th</sup>. He said that enrollment had spiked at Mary Rowlandson Elementary School in Lancaster and with the additional class added at the Florence Sawyer School in Bolton their class sizes are now a little low. He told the committee there were a couple of things that could be considered in response to these situations. Options offered by the Superintendent were to "cancel" the second half day class at Bolton, have some students from Lancaster volunteer to attend their kindergarten year in Bolton, or add a third half day Kindergarten class at Mary Rowlandson. These options were discussed.

In addition Mr. Wood reported to the committee regarding the Extended Day program and the decision to not have an Extended Day Kindergarten program next year. He told the committee that this decision was due to low enrollment in the program.

Census information was also included in Mr. Wood's report. Census numbers for the towns of Bolton and Stow for the years 2000 and 2005 were given to the committee. He told the committee he would also forward this information regarding the town of Lancaster's census when he received that information.

Mr. Wood informed the committee that a decision had been reached regarding a Family Medical Leave grievance and that arbitrators had ruled in favor of the Association's position.

Mr. Wood distributed the updated FY07 Budget document to the committee.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Allison

Mr. Allison was not in attendance at this meeting.

Ms. Way told the committee the NRHS Spring play will be presented this week-end with performances on Friday and Saturday evening, March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. and also on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

#### Audit Advisory, by Ms. Sturgis

Nothing to report at this time.

Facilities Subcommittee, by Ms. Kelly

Ms. Kelly told the committee there had not been a recent meeting of the Facilities Subcommittee and that the next meeting would be Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the Office of the Superintendent. Ms. Way reported on a recent visit to Future Electronics with Mel Govindan, Stephen Dungan, Ken Troup, Panny Gerken, Michael Wood, and George King. The purpose was to hear an environmental report on the land adjacent to the Future Electronics and the environmental impact it had on the Future Electronics site. Ms. Way reported that all of the current information suggests that there is no environmental concern and that the drinking water meets current standards. The site is going to be monitored for another twelve years.

Finance Subcommittee, by Ms. Giunta

Ms. Giunta reported the next meeting of the Finance Subcommittee would be Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the Office of the Superintendent.

Personnel Subcommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported to the committee that the Personnel Subcommittee would meet on Tuesday, March, 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Office of the Superintendent.

Policy Subcommittee, by Ms. CampoBasso

Ms. Campobasso told the committee that the Policy Subcommittee met on March 16<sup>th</sup> with the Health Task Force. She said they reviewed Draft 4 of the Health and Wellness Policy and looked specifically at the issue of offering a waiver to students for P.E. Ms. CampoBasso told the committee that members of the Health Task Force made a strong case for an Athletic Director and were also very much against offering waivers to students for P.E. Committee member Brian Burke asked Mr. Wood if there were any plans to present the new Health and Wellness curriculum to the School Committee. Mr. Wood responded that the curriculum is still being worked on, but that when it is completed it could be shown to the committee. He said this would most likely take place in the Fall.

SPED PAC

Mr. Burke told the committee he was not able to attend the last SPED PAC meeting but he did want to share with them that the SPED PAC Listserve is now linked to the NRSD website and urged committee members to enroll in the listserv. He also encouraged members to visit the SPED PAC website which is also linked to the NRSD website.

Stow Building Committee (SBC), by Ms. Sturgis

Nothing to report at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Nashoba First

Ms. Sturgis, acting in the capacity of Treasurer for the Nashoba FIRST Team, presented a request for a financial grant of \$5000. from the School Committee to help support the NRHS FIRST Team should they make it to the national competition in Atlanta, April 27-29, 2006. Ms. Sturgis told the committee that students had been very involved in fund raising and had set a budget of about \$13,000 for the regional competition. She told the committee that the team was currently short \$2,500 but believed they had a good shot at two other grants, from Intel and UPS. Ms. Sturgis said the cost of going to Atlanta would be about \$10,000. and told the committee that the \$5,000 grant she is requesting would cover the cost of the team's entry fee into the national competition. Discussion ensued regarding this request.

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Chris Way that in the event the FIRST Team continues on to the Nationals the School Committee award them a grant of \$3000. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta, Chris Way, Monica CampoBasso **OPPOSED:** Don Adams

**ABSTAIN:** Members Mel Govindan and Ellen Sturgis recused themselves from the vote.  
**VOTED AND PASSED.**

There was discussion about creating a policy regarding club expenses for student activities such as D. I. and FIRST.

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Brian Burke that the issue of District funding for club expenses such as D.I. and FIRST be submitted to the Policy Subcommittee for development of a district policy. Seconded by Mel Govindan **MOTION TO AMEND:** Motion to amend the motion moved by Tricia Kelly that the phrase “club expenses” be changed to “student endeavors” Seconded by Brian Burke.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Motion moved that the issue of District funding for student endeavors such as D.I. and FIRST be submitted to the Policy Subcommittee for development of a district policy.

**VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Budget Transfers (FY06)

Mr. King distributed a memo and information regarding a series of budget transfers for the current fiscal year which require the School Committee’s approval. He told the committee the rationale for these transfers was outlined in an earlier memo on January 15, 2006 which accompanied the report on the second quarter results. He told the committee that the teachers salaries were allocated on an average cost basis during the budget process because they were still in negotiations and that the majority of the transfers were now being utilized to fund the salary budgets on an actual cost basis. Mr. King added that the funds needed to be transferred to accommodate shortfalls in various line items; health insurance and energy in particular. He added that funds also needed to be transferred to cover increased costs for tuition reimbursement and also dental insurance.

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to approve the budget transfers on the FY06 budget spreadsheet recommended by George King, dated March 7, 2006. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso

**VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

Tuition Recommendations

Mr. Wood called the committees attention to the Total Cost Analysis of the Tuition Programs which was in each member’s packet for the meeting. Mr. Wood told the committee he was recommending the following course of action regarding the All Day Kindergarten, Preschool and Extended Day tuitions.

- All Day Kindergarten program tuition to remain as it is currently
- Preschool tuition to remain as it is currently
- Extended Day tuition to be increased to:

	<b>Present rate</b>	<b>New Recommended Rate</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>5 Days</b>	\$260	\$270
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>4 days</b>	\$221	\$229
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>3 days</b>	\$181	\$188
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>2 Days</b>	\$134	\$139
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Add on Day</b>	\$16.50	\$17
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Add on E.R.</b>	\$30	\$31

Mr. Wood told the committee this represented a 3% increase and would come in line with the cost analysis. Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Wood’s recommendations. Committee member Ellen Sturgis expressed concern that a letter went out informing parents of the All Day Kindergarten Program rates. Ms. Sturgis expressed her frustration because she said the committee had asked that this come before the committee before it went out to parents. Ms. Giunta agreed with Ms. Sturgis. Ms. Sturgis stated that the District budget was just approved at a 7.5% increase, and said she questioned how they could not also raise tuitions. Discussion took place regarding both the Half Day Kindergarten program and the All Day Kindergarten program. Committee member Monica CampoBasso told the committee that parents needed

to be assured that the All Day program was not a better program. Mr. Wood agreed and said that it should also not be viewed as daycare, and that the All Day Kindergarten teachers, both public and private, take great umbrage to that notion.

Discussion ensued regarding the Preschool lottery. Mr. Wood explained that starting with this year all students are placed in the lottery and that one student from each town would be picked. Ms. Giunta suggested that a third Preschool class be added in Stow. She told the committee they needed to go by the Regional Agreement that students go to school in their home town, and that she has heard from the Bolton Advisory Committee about this issue. Mr. Wood said that since this was a district special education program and that the offering was optional for regular education students and the management of the space had historically been an administrative one.

#### **MOTION**

Motion moved by Brian Burke to continue the meeting after 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Ellen Sturgis.

**VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

Discussion continued regarding the Preschool program lottery. Ms. Giunta asked Mr. Wood if he would come back with more information about the fairness of the program regarding the three towns. Committee member Mel Govindan expressed his concern about the complaints issued regarding this issue from the Bolton Advisory Committee and said that complaints should be put in writing. Mr. Adams asked Mr. Wood if he could provide more information to the committee regarding the matter of the preschool program and lottery. Mr. Wood told the committee he would put some information in writing for the committee.

#### **MOTION**

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of the tuition structure for the All Day Kindergarten and Preschool for the 2006-2007 school year presented in his memo, and to raise the Extended Day tuition for the 2006-2007 school year. Seconded by Mel Govindan **MOTION TO AMEND:** Motion to amend the motion moved by Brian Burke that the issue of tuition structure for the All Day Kindergarten, Preschool and Extended day programs be revisited in November. Seconded by Cathy Giunta **AMENDED MOTION:** Motion moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of the tuition structure for the All Day Kindergarten and Preschool for the 2006-2007 school year presented in his memo, and to raise the Extended Day tuition for the 2006-2007 school year, and that the issue of tuition structure for the All Day Kindergarten, Preschool and Extended day programs be revisited in November. **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Chris Way, Mel Govindan, **OPPOSED:** Brian Burke, Ellen Sturgis **VOTED AND PASSED.**

#### **CITIZEN INPUT**

David Horn of Stow asked the committee what would happen if the grant funding the District receives and is using to help support the All Day Kindergarten, is lost. He asked if rates would be competitive to market. Mr. King responded that tuitions would increase about 7% to cover costs.

Sara Kilkenny of Stow spoke to the committee regarding the Superintendent's letter to parents about the kindergarten program. She shared with the committee her concern regarding the possibility of Half Day Kindergarten students being put into All Day Kindergarten classes and told them that she did not agree with mixing the two programs and that if the two are commingled the District will not really be offering two distinct programs.

Lauren Donahue of Stow echoed Ms. Kilkenny's concerns regarding the All Day and Half Day Kindergarten programs. She also told the committee that she is not in favor of mixing the two programs.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **MOTION**

Motion moved by Chris Way to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of hearing a Unit A grievance and to include George King and Michael Wood. Seconded by Ellen Sturgis

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta to leave Executive Session.  
Seconded by Mel Govindan. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda DeStasi  
Executive Assistant