

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 6, 2006

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

Absent: Mel Govindan

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 Media Center at the Nashoba Regional High School.

PUBLIC MEETING

Mr. Wood presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the approved FY07 NRSD Budget.

APPROVAL OF THE March 23, 2006 MINUTES

MOTION

Chris Way made a motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2006 as amended. Seconded by Cathy Giunta. **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Chris Way, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis **ABSENT:** Mel Govindan
VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF April 7, 2006

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2072	4/07/06	VENDOR	\$ 311,672.75
2073	4/07/06	BENEFIT	\$ 23,610.82
2074	4/07/06	PAYROLL	\$ 945.272.12

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 4/07/06 and noted above. Seconded by Brian Burke. **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Chris Way, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis **ABSENT:** Mel Govindan
VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS

CORRESPONDENCE

- Invitation For Bid pertaining to the modular building consisting of two classrooms for the Pompositticut School.
- Copy of listserv correspondence from Alice Deluca regarding parity.
- Day to Day Health Newsletter
- Colorectal Screening pamphlet
- Stow Planning Board notice
- Massachusetts DOR notice of unencumbered excess and deficiency funds available as of July 1, 2005, in the amount of \$894,862
- Memo from Commissioner Driscoll approving the NRSD Technology Plan through June 2007
- Copy of correspondence to Chris Way from Stow resident Eden Spadea and William Ross regarding the NRSD budget. (This is correspondence spoken of in previous meetings, and to which Ms. Way has already responded.)

- Copy of email correspondence from Al Fordiani regarding the Nashoba FIRST Team's great performance at their recent competition

Mr. Wood read aloud the names of the Nashoba FIRST Team members:

- ❖ Laura Balducci
- ❖ Brennan Burns
- ❖ Will Dawson
- ❖ Neal Hagermoser
- ❖ Ramesh Govindan
- ❖ Tim Janson
- ❖ Jacob Kopczynski
- ❖ Przemek Kawka
- ❖ Alan R. Levin
- ❖ Dave Perry
- ❖ Marc MacLeod
- ❖ Prayag Pradip Patil
- ❖ Mike Robinson
- ❖ Max Roemer
- ❖ Scott Sacra
- ❖ John Stefos
- ❖ Rhys Ursuliak

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

Mr. Wood spoke to the committee about the assessment votes planned take place at this meeting, and which are based on the budget passed at the March 9th School Committee meeting. He told the committee that the House of Representatives would not be publishing their version of a budget until April 10th and that the Senate's version would not be available until late April or early May. He told the committee that Senator Antonioni's office has said he is committed to Chapter 70 reform and added that this could have huge implications regarding the District's financial aid package. He also told the committee that there seemed to be little support for regional transportation, but that due to the great interest in special education transportation seen in the recent listening tours, there seemed to be more energy focused there. Mr. Wood added that special education transportation an area which would benefit all school systems. He told the committee that if there did not seem to be any attempt to divert money from regional aid to this effort then the district's budget numbers would work and they would likely see a benefit from the special education transportation aid.

Mr. Wood told the committee of the upcoming School Council meetings.

- Luther Burbank Middle School- April 5, 3:30 p.m.
- Hale Middle School – April 13, 6:30 p.m.
- Nashoba Regional High School – April 11, 6:00 p.m.
- Florence Sawyer School – April 12, 6:30 p.m.
- Pompo/Center – April 12, 3:30 p.m.
- Mary Rowlandson – April 25, 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Wood reported on the following topics:

Stipend Review Committee:

The Association and the School Committee have agreed to meet to review stipends and Mr. King is facilitating this for the School Committee. Mr. Don Adams, Chair, is representing the Personnel Subcommittee. The first meeting is April 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Evaluation Review Committee:

The Association and the School Committee have agreed to meet to review the evaluation tool used for teachers. The first meeting is April 10th at 3:30 p.m.

Census Data for Board Makeup:

Mr. Wood presented data provided by Mr. King, who explored how the 10-16% standard deviation relates to one man/one vote.

	2000 Population	Persons Per Vote	Percentage Per Vote	2005 Population	Persons Per Vote	Percentage Per Vote
Bolton	4148	2074	11.97%	4858	2429	13.69%
Stow	5902	1967	11.36%	6283	2094	11.80%
Lancaster	6382	2424	13.99%	6602	2201	12.40%
Total	17323	2165	12.50%	17743	2218	12.50%

Committee member Tricia Kelly told Mr. Wood and the committee she would like to see the 2006 data when it is available. Mr. Joss, a Stow resident, questioned some of the Lancaster data. Mr. King said he would review and make any necessary updates to the information. Chair, Don Adams said in closing discussion of this topic, that he would suggest current committee members continue to talk to people who were previously members of School Committee about this issue.

Track Update:

Mr. Wood told the committee that Mr. Spratt, Director of Facilities, met with a consultant earlier in the day to discuss different options for resurfacing the track, the timing of the resurfacing project, as well as what role future upgrades to the field inside should play in considering any of these options. Mr. Wood told the committee it was decided that the track would be resurfaced and the inner field would be upgraded. He said the cost for resurfacing the track would be \$40-\$50,0000 and that the company they are working with who is doing the actual resurfacing normally gives a 5 year warranty for this. However, because the track had not been done prior to this as it should have been, they would only warranty it for two years. Mr. Wood said that it would likely still be good for the five years, though. He added that there would be no need to borrow the funds for this as he was intending to use money saved from energy savings within the District. Committee member Chris Way told Mr. Wood that the committee had decided that any funds obtained from energy savings were going to be earmarked to hire back tutors. Mr. Wood said this would not be an issue because he believed most of the cut positions were reduced through attrition.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Allison

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

Athletics- Current team records:

- Baseball- team has opening game on Friday in North Middlesex
- Softball- opening game also on Friday at home, against North Middlesex
- Track- had home meet on Monday against Oakmont. Both girls and boys teams have meets against Marlboro on Friday; boys are at home, girls are at Marlborough H.S.
- Boys Tennis- play Quabbin at home Friday; Girls are away and play Barre
- Lacrosse- first home game on Monday, April 10th

Other Events-

- Advanced Jazz Ensemble earned a silver medal at the State IAJE Festival at UMass Lowell on March 31st. The Concert Band earned a bronze medal in the MICCA Festival at Hopkinton on April 1st
- *Singin' in the Rain* was a huge success
- Cabaret Night played to a small audience.
- Nashoba FIRST finished 25th out of 44 teams. They also placed 8th out of 44 on a different scale measuring difficulty. The team also beat Clinton in a head to head match.
- The Indie is coming up May 6th
- Auditions for Jordan Runtagh's original play *Doodles* were held
- Mr. Nashoba Pageant scheduled for Friday, April 7th
- Phone-a-thon was very successful and raised over \$17,000

Facilities Subcommittee, by Ms. Kelly

Ms. Kelly told the committee that the Facilities Subcommittee discussed options for the H.S. track. She said they also reviewed the leases and that Orlando Pacheco, Lancaster Town Administrator, had brought some suggested changes from his attorney. The next meeting of the Facilities Subcommittee will be May 3rd at 4:30 p.m.

Finance Subcommittee, by Ms. Giunta

Ms. Giunta reported that the Finance Subcommittee discussed insurance policy, the budget presentation, and also the H.S. track. The next meeting of the Finance Subcommittee will be April 24th.

Personnel Subcommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported to the committee that the Personnel Subcommittee made progress with regards to the Superintendent's contract. He added there was a scheduled grievance hearing for tonight's meeting which was cancelled by the Association.

Policy Subcommittee, by Ms. CampoBasso

Nothing to report.

SPED PAC

Mr. Burke told the committee that SPED PAC is working on a presentation to the School Committee and are planning to meet with the committee soon.

Stow Building Task Force (SBTF), by Ms. Sturgis

Ms. Sturgis reported to the committee that 11 Stow residents have been selected for the new SBC. She added that Gary Bernklow has been selected as Treasurer and she has been selected as the Chair. Ms. Sturgis told the committee the SBC is creating and developing a work plan. She said the SBC is meeting weekly and they all have joint, high expectations that they will be done by next year's town meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

FY07 Assessments

Mr. King reviewed with the committee the FY07 assessment calculation sheet which was included in this week's packet. Discussion ensued regarding the assessments. Ms. Way asked Mr. King if the District would be allowed to use the excess and deficiency funds if state funding were to come in lower than expected. Mr. King responded that the District would be allowed to use those funds.

MOTION

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta to assess the towns in the following amounts:

Bolton- \$9,568,417.

Lancaster- \$8,432,870.

Stow- \$11,522,329.

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

Destination Imagination

Discussion took place regarding Destination Imagination (D.I.) and an email sent to Chris Way from Quince Papanastassiou, Stow resident and parent, inquiring about a possible grant from the School Committee. Ms. Way said she spoke with Mr. Papanastassiou and learned that 5 teams went to States and qualified to go to Worlds. The committee discussed funding a grant for D.I., and concerns were raised regarding the budget. Ms. CampoBasso mentioned that the committee voted to award a grant to the FIRST team and said it didn't seem right not to also award a grant to D.I. should they request that. Ms. Sturgis told the committee she believes they need to have a policy regarding the awarding of such grants. Committee member Brian Burke echoed Ms. Sturgis' comments regarding the need for a policy. Ms. Giunta asked about any fund raising efforts the D.I. team has made thus far. She added that planning for funding should be part of the process for any team, and added that perhaps the committee could grant \$1,000. for each of the D.I. teams. Mr. Wood told the committee that as no formal request for funding has been submitted yet to the committee from D.I., they have some time to think about this.

The MCAS was also discussed and whether the D.I. competition would interfere with student attendance for the MCAS exams, as well as the District's scores. Discussion continued regarding MCAS and Mr. Wood said he would get in touch with DOE and inquire about any guidelines there are regarding attendance and the possibility of student's taking the exams prior to leaving for the D.I. competition. Ms. Sturgis told the committee that she believes they need to think about how they are going to communicate to parents regarding the importance of MCAS. Committee Chair, Mr. Adams, asked Mr. Wood to communicate to the principals the committee's feelings regarding the importance of student attendance for the MCAS exams.

OLD BUSINESS

Early Childhood Education and Care

Mr. Wood introduced Patricia Linenkemper, Director of Special Education and Mary Rowlandson Elementary School Principal, and Cyndie Maxfield, Early Childhood Coordinator for the District. Mr. Wood called attention to the preschool program data sheet with the breakdown Special Education student numbers for each town from 2001 to present. Mr. Wood added that there will be a change in the way the lottery is done this year, adding that there will be one district-wide lottery. He told the committee that students will be picked one at a time and entered into one of three "buckets" (one for each town). Mr. Wood said that when the population of Special Education students in the preschool program increases a program will be added in Stow. Mr. Wood also told the committee that Ms. Maxfield works with families in the district to place children in a variety of programs available through Community Partnerships.

CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Bill Joss, Stow resident, asked if there would be any show of support for the Superintendent in response to the letter from the NREA recently published in the local newspapers. Chair, Don Adams, told Mr. Joss that the Superintendent Evaluation process is well defined and added that the Association may have a different opinion. Mr. Adams said that any further discussion regarding this issue needed to take place in Executive Session as it involved a grievance.

Dave Horne, Stow resident, asked what the scheduled date for the Hale School Council was. Mr. Wood replied that it is on April 13th at 4:30. Mr. Horn told the committee that regarding a time for these meetings, later was better for most parents. Mr. Wood said he would pass that information along to the schools.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION

Motion moved by Brian Burke to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the evaluation and contract of the Superintendent, including Mr. Wood and Mr. King for the evaluation only. Seconded by Ellen Sturgis. **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Chris Way, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis **ABSENT:** Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

MOTION

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to continue business after 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Cathy Giunta. **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Chris Way, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis **ABSENT:** Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to adjourn. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Chris Way, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis **ABSENT:** Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda DeStasi
Executive Assistant