

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 9, 2006

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

**Absent:** George King, Assistant Superintendent for Finance

**Administration in Attendance:** Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools

**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 February 23, 2006 MINUTES**

**MOTION**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF March 10, 2006**

<b><u>WARRANT NO.</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
2066	3/10/06	VENDOR	\$354,833.09
2067	3/10/06	BENEFIT	\$31,828.86
2068	3/10/06	PAYROLL	\$160,579.89

**MOTION**

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 3/09/06 and noted above. Seconded by Ellen Sturgis. **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Monica CampoBasso. Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Chris Way, Mel Govindan, Ellen Sturgis, Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Legislative Bulletin regarding upcoming MASC events
- Minuteman draft agreement
- ACSE memorandum of agreement
- Letters to state legislators regarding the Advanced Math and Science Charter School (AMSA).
- Letter from Kathy O'Keefe to Stow School Committee Reps. regarding recycling.
- Letter from Stow School Committee representative Chris way in response to a letter she received from Stow residents.
- NRSD Health Newsletter

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

Mr. Wood reported to the committee that the District has received a draft report back from the Massachusetts Building Authority. He said that Director of Facilities for the district, Bill Spratt, has forwarded feedback to the MSBA and we are now awaiting the final version of this report. He told the committee the MSBA website is [www.mass.gov/msba](http://www.mass.gov/msba) for anyone who might want to check it regularly.

Mr. Wood also told the committee that Ann Farrell, District Nurse Leader, is working with George LaCroix, Food Service Director and a group of parents and staff to review and evaluate the District Health and Wellness Policy. He told the committee that per State and Federal guidelines the District must have a comprehensive policy detailing the direction the District is taking regarding Health and Wellness.

## **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:

- Boy's Basketball Team: 7-12; lost in the first round of Districts to Tantasqua
- Girl's Basketball Team: lost in quarter finals to Westborough H.S. after a great season
- Wrestling Team: 12-9; won at the Dual Meet State Tournament by score of 46-27 over Concord-Carlisle. Frank DeMeo was the champion of the 103 lb. weight class.
- Skiing: Cross Country, Boy's- finished 10<sup>th</sup> out of 18 at States
- Skiing: Cross Country, Girls: Margaux Fisher, Margy Robinson, and Erin Sadler all posted very respectable results, though the team itself did not compete due to lack of numbers.
- Volleyball Tournament- The Fighting Ducks defeated the Paper Bag in the final match

Spring sports are approaching and the main news here is the addition of the new Junior Varsity Lacrosse Team this year.

Other Events:

- The Advanced and Intermediate Jazz Ensembles competed at the IAJE Festival last Thursday, with Intermediate winning a bronze medal and Advanced won a silver medal and a place in the State competition at UMass Lowell on March 25<sup>th</sup>. If a gold medal is won here, the Advanced Ensemble will earn the opportunity to play a program of their choosing at the hatch Shell in Boston.
- *Singin' in the Rain* is progressing well. The first run through of Act 1 has taken place. Students are preparing for three shows on March 24-26, at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 4:00 on Sunday. This is not a show to miss; aside from the wonderful tap numbers a rain machine has been brought in and it will actually "rain" on the stage.
- Cabaret Night take place tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. There will be Irish Step Dancing, Jazz standards, original guitar music and a number from the musical *Chicago*.
- The Literary Magazine held a coffee house last evening, featuring poetry and prose.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents visited Nashoba on Tuesday, where they received information from administrators and department heads as well as tours from members of the National Honor Society.

Civic Events in progress:

- Blood drive on Monday, March 20
- Book drive for the students at Worcester Clark Street School
- Pennies for Patients fundraiser going on for survivors of leukemia and lymphoma
- NRSF will be holding the annual phone-a-thon on Sunday, March 19

Mr. Adams said he would like to make a correction to the high school update of last week regarding the Wrestling Team. He said that 4 wrestlers went to the State Championships, not 3.

Committee member Cathy Giunta asked how announcements of Spring sports were being handled as she was not able to find any information on the District website regarding this. Mr. Alison said that notice of Spring sports tryouts were done as part of the morning announcements and that there are sign up sheets by the athletics office. Ms. Giunta said she expected the notice of Spring sports sign ups to be under Daily Announcements on the website.

Audit Advisory, by Ms. Sturgis

Nothing to report

Facilities Subcommittee, by Ms. Kelly

Ms. Kelly reported to the committee that the Facilities Subcommittee met on March 1<sup>st</sup> and that they discussed the leases. Ms. Kelly said there was a general feeling that there should be replacement coverage. She told the committee that dollar amounts of insurance per building was discussed. The next meeting of the facilities Subcommittee will be April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

Finance Subcommittee, by Ms. Giunta

Ms. Giunta reported to the committee that the Finance Subcommittee discussed the current budget proposal as discussed in the recent School Committee meetings.

Personnel Subcommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported to the committee that the Personnel Subcommittee continued to work on the Superintendent's contract. He also told the committee that contract negotiation have been completed and contracts were approved and signed.

Policy Subcommittee, by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood told the committee that the Policy Subcommittee will meet next week on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30.

SPED PAC

Mr. Burke told the committee that the SPED PAC did not meet in February, but that they were working with the Superintendent to get the SPED PAC website and listserve posted to the NRSD website. He also said that the SPED PAC chair will make a presentation to the School Committee at a later date.

Stow Building Committee (SBC), by Ms. Sturgis

Ms. Sturgis submitted a printed memo with information updating the committee on the recent activity of the Stow School Task Force. She told the committee that the Selectmen and the Stow School Committee Representatives met on February 27<sup>th</sup> to complete interviews and to vote on the membership of the committee. She said that the Joint Board will meet one last time on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> to vote on a non-voting facilitator.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Tuition (Preschool, Extended day, All Day Kindergarten)

Mr. Wood discussed the cost analysis of the NRSD tuition based programs, including Preschool, Full Day Kindergarten and Extended Day. He said that historically the district's tuition has been based on the sliding scale fee schedule set by the state. He told the committee a new sliding scale fee schedule is being worked on at the state level and he would like to wait to vote on the district's fee schedule until the new schedule is set by the state. He also said that this would give us some time to really look at our current fees and adjust them appropriately. Concerns were raised by committee member Chris Way regarding parents who have already signed up for the programs involved based on the existing fees. Mr. Wood replied that anything he would recommend would not be above any of the other non-district programs. Brian Burke asked if parents had previously received any commitment regarding the expected fees for next year's programs. Mr. Wood said that notice was sent to parents stating the current rates charged. Parent, Jennifer Warner, told the committee she believes parents would expect incremental increases in fees charged for these programs. Discussion continues regarding the fees charged by in-district private

programs vs. the District programs. Chair, Don Adams, asked Mr. Wood if he would have a proposal regarding the District fees for the District's tuition based programs at the next meeting. Mr. Wood told the committee he would have a proposal for the next meeting.

The committee discussed the possible addition of a full day kindergarten class in Bolton and Stow as there were waiting lists for these programs and there seemed to be a desire by parents for these classes to be added. Mr. Wood gave the committee the following information regarding the potential additions:

- Any additions should not effect grant money received by the District
- RE: Bolton-
  - Class size in Bolton will be slightly larger, about 20 students per kindergarten class
  - There will be only one half day kindergarten class in Bolton
- RE: Stow-
  - Would like to add a third all day kindergarten class
  - No additional staff needs to be hired
  - The two half day classes would have 22 students per class
  - We may find that some of the half day students will request full day and subsequently need to start a waiting list
  - If more half day students come to the District, then they would be placed in and attend mornings in the full day program.

Committee member Ellen Sturgis told the committee that the proposed changes tipped the balance so that the norm would be full day not half day, and that this was a backward way to create a significant decision/change for the District. Monica CampoBasso asked if there was space to add another half day program in Stow should the need arise. Committee member Chris Way voiced concerns over space issues in Stow as well. Mr. Wood responded that there would be no additional classes added, just a moving of students from half day to full day classes. Mel Govindan stated that he wanted to be clear that the District was not changing the structure of the program. Mr. Wood confirmed this. Cathy Giunta stated that she has been sensitive to Stow's concerns, but that this does not have to be an all or nothing issue. She said she would like to add the class in Bolton and would also support Stow if they chose not to move forward with an additional full day kindergarten class. Ms. Sturgis asked for clarification on the requested changes and additions. Mr. Wood responded with the following information:

**Bolton:**

<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Proposed 2006-2007</u>
2 half day classes	3 full day classes
2 full day classes	2 half day classes

**Stow:**

<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Proposed 2006-2007</u>
2 full day classes	3 full day classes
4 half day classes	2 half day classes

**Lancaster:**

<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Proposed 2006-2007</u>
2 half day classes	will stay the same
2 full day classes	

Discussion continued regarding the addition of full day kindergarten classes.

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta to add a full day kindergarten class to Bolton and Stow as recommended by the Superintendent, and that the committee review this decision next year. Seconded by Mel Govindan.

**MOTION TO AMEND:** Motion to amend the motion moved by Ellen Sturgis, that only Bolton be

included in the addition of a full day kindergarten class. Seconded by Cathy Giunta. **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Ellen Sturgis **OPPOSED:** Tricia Kelly, Chris Way, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan **VOTED AND DEFEATED.**

**ORIGINAL MOTION:** To add a full day kindergarten class to Bolton and Stow as recommended by the Superintendent, and that the committee review this decision next year. **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Chris Way, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams **OPPOSED:** Brian Burke, Ellen Sturgis **VOTED AND PASSED**

There was some discussion on the preschool. Cathy Giunta questioned why only Lancaster regular ed preschool children go to Lancaster where there is no lottery and no waiting list while Bolton and Stow regular ed preschool children go into a lottery for slots in Bolton, where there is a waiting list. Mr. Wood stated that the data that had been provided may not be accurate, and agreed to revisit the data and provide any corrections. It was agreed that the discussion would be continued with any corrected or additional data provided at the next School Committee meeting.

FY07 Budget School Committee Vote

The committee discussed the proposed FY07 budget. Mr. Wood distributed information pertaining to the proposed budget request with changes made, along with information regarding impact areas and projected FY07 revenue sources. Discussion ensued regarding the high school track. Mr. Wood told the committee that the district would be able to borrow without needing town meetings and votes. He told the committee that the process for borrowing would be that the School Committee inform the three towns in the district of their intent to borrow. The towns would then have 60 days to disapprove. After that point, the School Committee could then vote to borrow. Mr. Wood added the H.S. track would be included as part of the FY08 budget and that he would check on the issue of debt exclusion. Mr. Wood said he would work with the towns regarding their respective warrants.

Lancaster Select Board Chair, Alexandra Turner, addressed the committee with regards to the District's FY07 budget. Ms. Turner told the committee that there is a real concern an override in Lancaster will not pass. She asked the committee to do the best thing and make additional cuts in order to present a lower budget.

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta to continue after 9:00. Seconded by Brian Burke. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Chris Way to approve a budget of \$37,162,788. Seconded by Cathy Giunta. **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta, Chris Way **OPPOSED:** Mel Govindan, Ellen Sturgis, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams **VOTED AND DEFEATED.**

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta to cut the proposed librarian position at the Pompositicut/Center Schools from the budget. Seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan **OPPOSED:** Ellen Sturgis, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Chris Way **VOTED AND DEFEATED.**

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to direct the Superintendent to cut \$75,000. from the proposed budget. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Ellen Sturgis, Brian Burke, Don Adams, Mel Govindan **OPPOSED:** Monica CampoBasso, Chris Way, Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta **VOTED AND DEFEATED.**

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta to approve a budget of \$37,162,788. Seconded by Tricia Kelly **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Chris Way **OPPOSED:** Ellen Sturgis, Brian Burke, Mel Govindan **VOTED AND DEFEATED.**

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to cut the high school Assistant Principal position from the budget, with the direction to the Superintendent that if additional funds be found elsewhere this position be added. Seconded by Brian Burke **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Don Adams, Ellen Sturgis **OPPOSED:** Chris Way, Tricia Kelly, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta **ABSTAIN:** Mel Govindan **VOTED AND DEFEATED.**

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Monica CampoBasso to reduce the three (3) Tech. Tutors to half-time and in addition to that reduction, to reduce the Instructional Assistants/Aides from four (4) positions to two (2), with the stipulation that as money becomes available these positions be re-instated by the Superintendent.. Seconded by Tricia Kelly **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Ellen Sturgis, Don Adams **OPPOSED:** Brian Burke, Chris Way **VOTED AND PASSED.**

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Cathy Giunta to approve a budget of \$37,083,658. Seconded by Tricia Kelly **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Ellen Sturgis, Don Adams, Brian Burke **OPPOSED:** Chris Way **VOTED AND PASSED.**

FY06 Budget Transfers

This will be addressed at the next meeting of the School Committee on March 23, 2006.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Minimum Aid Letter

Mr. Wood presented a letter to state legislator regarding Chapter 70 Minimum Funding to the school committee.

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Chris Way to approve the Minimum Aid letter and ask the Superintendent to send this letter to the state legislators of each town. Seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Tricia Kelly, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Don Adams, Chris Way **ABSTAIN:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis **VOTED AND PASSED.**

Superintendent's Evaluation

Mr. Adams announced that the Superintendent's evaluation was complete and read the evaluation to the committee and those present.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Nothing to report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda DeStasi  
Executive Assistant