

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 25, 2007

School Committee in Attendance: Don Adams, Ellen Sturgis, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso (6:05 p.m.), Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Mel Govindan, Laura O'Neil

Absent: Tricia Kelly

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 High School Media Room.

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF JANUARY 11, 2007

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2747	1/26/07	VENDOR	\$ 436,956.72
2748	1/26/07	BENEFIT	\$ 629,955.16
2749	1/26/07	PAYROLL	\$ 992,954.23

MOTION

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated 1/25/07 and noted above. Seconded by Brian Burke. **IN FAVOR:** Don Adams, Ellen Sturgis, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Mel Govindan, **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE January 11, 2007 MINUTES

MOTION

Ellen Sturgis made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2007 as amended. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **IN FAVOR:** Don Adams, Ellen Sturgis, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Mel Govindan, **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0)**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Budget Workshop Meeting Schedule
- NRHS Second Quarter Class Size data

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (This report may be viewed on the District website at www.nrsd.net)
Mr. Wood distributed the following report to the committee:

Superintendents' Scholars Luncheon

On January 23rd Nashoba Regional High School senior Dan Stefanis was recognized for his academic, extra curricular and athletic contributions at the Worcester County Superintendents' Association Annual Scholars Luncheon, held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester. Dan was chosen based on his standing in his class, at the recommendation of the guidance staff, and NRHS Principal, John Smith.

Calendar Committee

The last meeting of the Calendar Committee will be on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. Meetings are being held at the Florence Sawyer School in the media center.

District Evaluation Committee

The District is still negotiating the evaluation process used with Unit A faculty. We have been meeting monthly and are progressing through the various forms used during the evaluation process.

District Intern Program

I have been involved in my second meeting with officials from Fitchburg State College to set up an Intern Program. The main purpose for such a program is to provide our District with high performing teachers right out of a college program and to have a year with them to learn if they are candidates we would want to hire. Such an endeavor would provide elementary and secondary candidates with a full year experience in a school system with varying placements throughout the school year to learn a broader spectrum of grades and or schools.

Area Superintendents Meet with FSC President

The superintendents of school systems west and north of Nashoba were in attendance at a meeting whose keynote was the President of Fitchburg State College, Robert Antonucci. Dr. Antonucci talked about his continuing efforts to form partnerships with area school systems at all levels. His main mission is to grow the presence of FSC as the school of choice for area students. The remainder of the meeting focused on developing evaluation skills and tools for teacher and administrator evaluations.

District Technology Director Leaving in Pursuit of Private Sector Opportunity

Marianne Boswell Nashoba's Director of Technology will be leaving on February 2nd. She has accepted an Executive position with a software firm that develops research software for the medical field. Mr. King will be taking on the administrative functions of the Director's role until a successor can be found. A decision about next steps will be made in the near future. I wish Ms. Boswell well in her new pursuits.

School Security

In light of recent events we continue to be looking at the climate of all of our schools and are working with school councils through the school improvement plan process to identify next steps, if any, for security needed in our buildings. The suggestion that we have a tip line at our middle and high schools will be taken up and we will examine how such a process could be implemented. I have written an article for our website that speaks to ways parents of middle and high school aged students can begin to have a conversation about the recent tragedy.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Ms. O'Neil

Ms. O'Neil reported the following to the committee:

- ◆ The class play competition was held on Friday night. The winning play was "Check Please 2" performed by the junior class.
- ◆ The wrestling team won their meets against Quabbin and Leominster, improving their record to 13-2-1. They still remain unbeaten in league meets. If they Monty Tech they will be league champions. Their next meet is on Saturday in Tyngsboro.
- ◆ The hockey team had a very successful game against Hudson Catholic last week, winning 13-0. Their next game is this Saturday against Northbridge.
- ◆ The girls' basketball team beat Marlborough, improving their record to 8-3. On Friday, they will head to Westborough.
- ◆ The ski teams, finally having snow to ski on, have had their first meets. The cross country team finished 4th in their held last week.
- ◆ The girls' indoor track team improved its record with a 59-30 win against Fitchburg on Saturday. With a record of 3-2, they stand third in the league. The boy's indoor track team also won against Fitchburg, 51-36, improving their record to 2-3, giving them fourth in the league. Both teams will travel to Fitchburg on Saturday for the league championship meet.

Mel Govindan and Ellen Sturgis gave an update of the progress Nashoba's robotics team is making. They informed that the team is working hard on building the robot from the parts that were received on January 6

and they have to have the robot built by mid-February.

Facilities Subcommittee, by Ms. Kelly

Nothing to report.

Finance Subcommittee, by Ms. Giunta

Nothing to report.

Personnel Subcommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported that the Personnel Subcommittee did meet to discuss bargaining strategies and also to work on the Superintendent's evaluation.

Policy Subcommittee, by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood told the committee that the Policy Subcommittee finished up the Fund Raising Policy and also worked in the Early Childhood Education and Care Policy. He also reported that they began conversation about wellness and nutrition.

SPED PAC, by Mr. Burke

Mr. Burke reported to the committee that SPED PAC met on January 18th at the library in the Florence Sawyer School at 7:00 P. M. and there was a presentation by Sangeeta Dey, Psy.D. Mr. Burke said the topic covered was Executive Skills functioning and included discussions of its relationship to PDD and ADHD. There will be no February meeting of SPEDPAC and the next meeting of the SPEDPAC will be March 18, 2007 at the Library of FS.

NEW BUSINESS

Second Quarter Results of Operations

Mr. King called the committee's attention to two documents in the evening's packet: a memo from him regarding the Second Quarter Report and also a spreadsheet with the Results of Operations data. Mr. King gave a brief overview of the second Quarter results of operations. He told the committee that currently all our expenditures appear in line with previous financial projections, with the exception of the school choice assessment. Mr. King reported this expenditure to be about \$135,000 in excess and was the result of a significant upswing in enrollment that was counter to the District's 3 year data, which he told the committee had been trending downward. Mr. King told the committee that a substantial amount of this deficit could be paid out of the school choice revolving fund.

ECEC Policy- First Reading

The committee conducted a first reading of the Early Childhood Education and Care Policy. Mr. Wood told the committee that the purpose of this policy was to find ways to help principals plan for class size. He said that this was in response to hearing from the school committee last year that they did not want waiting lists to be too long if there were enough students to fill a class. Discussion ensued. Ms. CampoBasso told the committee that space needs to be a consideration in thinking about adding classes. Discussion ensued regarding this issue.

FY 08 Budget Overview

Mr. Wood presented an overview of the FY 08 Superintendent's proposed budget, and told the committee the focus is on the classrooms and learning, and is in line with the District's mission statement "To educate all students to their fullest potential." Mr. Wood said the proposed budget focused on four critical sub themes which included:

- ◆ Classroom learning is where it happens
- ◆ Student performance drives our work
- ◆ Authentic experiences keep students and teachers motivated, engaged and striving for continued success
- ◆ Initiatives need to be well designed from the start

Mr. Wood reported that the FY 08 Superintendent's Proposed Budget is \$39,691,490, which is up 7.03% over FY 07. In addition, he said there are an estimated \$2,066,174 worth of offsets through grants and revolving funds. Regarding revenue, Mr. Wood told the committee that the House I budget is to be released

late in February. He said the new Chapter 70 formula suggests a small increase for our District; possibly as much as \$200,000.

In his presentation, Mr. Wood identified the budget drivers as

- ◆ System Wide Insurances \$418,324
- ◆ Salaries for Existing Staff \$1,291,488
- ◆ School Choice Assessment \$110,000
- ◆ Facilities Department \$111,488
- ◆ Reserve Fund \$ 93,340

The new initiatives included in Mr. Wood's report were the addition of a School Resource Officer, who would be a Bolton Police Officer. The School Resource Officer would have an office at the high school, but would serve the entire school district. Other initiatives included in the Superintendent's proposed budget were that on an Athletic Complex, a Fiber Network Project and added classroom and administrative space needed in the District.

OLD BUSINESS

Fund Raising Policy- Second Reading

The committee conducted a second reading of the Fund Raising Policy. Discussion took place regarding revisions to the current policy draft. Mr. Adams suggested adding the words "for the schools" rather than "buildings".

MOTION

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to accept the Fund Raising Policy as amended. Seconded by Cathy Giunta

IN FAVOR: Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, Ellen Sturgis, Monica CampoBasso, David Horne

ABSTAIN: Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. (7-0-1)**

CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Alan Levin inquired as to how many students had signed up for science and engineering courses at the high school. Ms. Sturgis said the committee is currently looking at class size information. Mr. Wood said it is around 51. Mr. Levin also asked if there was anything planned to assist students in the new MCAS testing in science and engineering.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to enter into Executive Session for the purpose to discuss a personnel matter and also to discuss a question of strategy regarding a legal matter, to include the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and School Committee Secretary, and to conduct no further business after. Seconded by Cathy Giunta **IN FAVOR:** Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, Ellen Sturgis, Monica CampoBasso, David Horne, Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0)**

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The regular meeting of the school Committee resumed at 8:20 p.m.

ADJOURN

MOTION

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to adjourn. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **IN FAVOR:** Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, Ellen Sturgis, Monica CampoBasso, David Horne, Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda DeStasi
Executive Assistant