

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 31, 2007

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Richard Fly, David Horne (6:06 p.m.), Lynn Colletti, Laura O'Neil

**ABSENT:** Mel Govindan

**ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools, George King, Assistant Superintendent for Finance

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF June 1, 2007**

<b><u>WARRANT NO.</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
2780	6/01/07	VENDOR	\$326,651.61
2781	6/01/07	BENEFIT	\$ 58,394.39
2782	6/01/07	PAYROLL	\$ 1,063,141.47

**MOTION**

Don Adams made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated 5/31/07 and noted above. Seconded by Brian Burke **IN FAVOR:** Don Adams, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Richard Fly, Cathy Giunta **ABSTAIN:** Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. (5-0-1)**

**APPROVAL OF THE May 17, 2007 MINUTES**

**MOTION**

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the minutes of May 17, 2007, as amended. Seconded by Don Adams. **IN FAVOR:** Don Adams, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Richard Fly, David Horne, Cathy Giunta **ABSTAIN:** Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. (6-0-1)**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- MASC Legislative Bulletin
- Department of Education public invitation to submit comments to inform the commissioner search
- Information from Thomas Scott, MASS Executive Director, regarding the FY08 Senate Ways and Means Committee budget
- NRSD Bright Ideas and Best Practices brochure and schedule

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** (This report is also available on the NRSD website, under *Superintendent's Notes*)

Mr. Wood reported the following to the School Committee:

**Nashoba Regional Scholarship Foundation**

Mr. Wood told the committee that he attended the recent meeting of the NRSF. He said they will be presenting scholarships next week (June 4, 2007). In a meeting with its Chair, Julie DeSisto, Mr. Wood said they discussed ways to enhance what NRSF is trying to do, how the District can play a role in this, and how the group can get the word out more regarding scholarships that are available.

**Assabet Valley Collaborative Update**

Mr. Wood reported that the Collaborative is working on defining its goals for the upcoming year. He said a year ago, the organization went through a strategic planning process, and developed some over arching areas to develop goals. The main goal is to continue to develop programs to meet the sending districts needs. The major issue with meeting this goal is space. No public schools have space for new or expanded programs. He said that he is chairing a space committee for the organization and they are looking at a

number of options. A joint meeting of all of the sending districts will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> with the Special Education Directors, Business Managers, and Superintendents and the agenda will be to review the goals together and be on the same page with regard to activities expected to meet the goals.

### **Bright Ideas & Best Practices**

Mr. Wood told the committee that the District held its culminating district wide professional development opportunity on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and he said that it was very well done. He told the committee that teachers from the District presented their bright ideas and best practices as it relates to differentiated instruction, technology, curriculum development, and assessment, and that it was a great example of our district demonstrating what a professional learning community we are.

### **Evaluation Subcommittee**

Mr. Wood reported that the Evaluation Subcommittee will hold a meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>. He said that while this committee is making progress, the busy schedule of the Association members has put a stop to further meetings this year. Mr. Wood said that they could possibly meet during the summer which would bring this matter to resolution. Mr. Wood said they would look to resume their meetings in early September.

### **EPIMS Data Collection**

Mr. Wood reported that the District is required to collect information on all staff and report it to the Department of Education beginning on July 1, 2007. He said that PowerSchool will be used and teachers will input their data

### **Memorial Day Celebrations**

Mr. Wood said that the Town of Stow had an outstanding Memorial Day parade with the great help of the Nashoba High School marching band. He told the committee the band also did a two and a half hour parade in Lancaster. He said the Luther Burbank Middle School had their annual Memorial Day celebration including student speeches and this year Mary Rowlandson's Kindergarten classes put on a production including reading stories and poems for the Town's veterans. It was well received by all.

### **New England Anti-Mascot Coalition Update**

Mr. Wood updated the committee with regards to the anti-mascot request discussed at the committee's previous meeting. He said that in an unscientific survey of his colleagues, about half have received the letter as our District has and they plan to wait on how / if MIAA or some other state organization takes action. He told the committee that he spoke at length with Natick's Superintendent of Schools, and he reviewed how Natick came to their conclusion. Mr. Wood said that this coalition may not be as broad based as the word coalition implies and that he would keep the committee posted.

### **Cable Casting Our Meetings**

Mr. Wood reported that Mr. Halprin of the Stow Cable Channel has been kind enough to work out a schematic for equipment for continuing live/taped production of the School Committee meetings. He said that two hurdles are camera operators and that if the District wants to go live then they will+ have to change the night or time we meet. (Bolton's feed goes live for Board of Selectmen meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the same night we hold our meetings.) Mr. Wood said that he is continuing to work on these two issues, but wanted to bring the committee up to date.

### **Nashoba Retirees**

Mr. Wood reported that on May 23<sup>rd</sup> the District had a wonderful retirement gala to honor Nashoba's 2007 retirees. Those honored included:

- ◆ **Connie Cleary** - Reading Specialist, LBMS
- ◆ **Alan Silvestry** - ELA, HMS
- ◆ **Stanley Ricker** - Physical Education, NRHS
- ◆ **Carole Lengyel** - Math, NRHS
- ◆ **Sima Maitland** - Fifth Grade, CES
- ◆ **Louise Peacock** - Nurse, CES
- ◆ **Katherine Jenny** - First Grade, PES
- ◆ **Judy York** - Librarian, PES/CES

- ◆ **Thomas Moore**, Assistant Principal, MRE

Mr. Wood also recognized the volunteers involved with this event. He said the Retirement gala was organized with the very generous help of the PTSA volunteers who created a beautiful set up and presentation of roses. Mr. Wood recognized the following PTSA volunteers and thanked them for their efforts in making this such a memorable event.

- ◆ **Carol Kallander**
- ◆ **Holly Camero**
- ◆ **Jane Lively**
- ◆ **Kate Farragher**
- ◆ **Anne Gradeski**
- ◆ **Teri Anapol**

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Ex-Officio Report by Ms. O'Neil**

Ms. O'Neil reported the following to the School Committee:

- ◆ Class officer elections were held for the classes of 2008, 2009, and 2010 last Friday
- ◆ On Tuesday evening, the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held in the auditorium. Thirty-four new scholar-volunteers from the classes of 2008 and 2009 were inducted into the Nashoba Chapter. Ms. Winkler, the guest speaker, addressed the subject of character and one's moral obligation to strive for knowledge and achievement and to be of an inquisitive mind.
- ◆ The varsity baseball team finished its season with an overall record of 8 wins and 11 losses, and a league record of 5-5. The varsity softball team had its first district game this afternoon against St. Peter Marian. They have claimed the league championship for the fourth year in a row and finished with an overall record of 13-7 and a 9-1 record in league play.
- ◆ The girls' tennis team also had its first district match today at Gardner High School. The boys' tennis team will have their first district match tomorrow against Quaboag Regional High School.
- ◆ The fall 2007 Cheerleading Tryouts are being held every evening this week.
- ◆ Last Saturday at the State Qualifier Track Meet, Courtney Baker broke the 1994 school record of 59.7 seconds in the 400 meter race with a qualifying time of 59.32seconds. She will run at states this weekend, joined by the rest of the members of the girls' 4x400meter relay team, pole-vaulters Erin Dandley, Sean Busch, and Lou Dinatale, miler Brendan Ayalaian, two-miler Anthony Raduazo, high-jumper Doug Koury, and the boys' 4x100 meter relay team.
- ◆ The JV-girls' lacrosse team finished its season with an overall, undefeated record of 13-0-1.
- ◆ The last day of senior finals is tomorrow. The senior Scholarship and Awards ceremony will be held on Monday evening and the Senior Banquet is next Thursday evening at Wedgewood Pines Country Club in Stow.
- ◆ On June 14th, Cristina Shea, a junior from Stow, will take over as the School Committee Student Representative. She is involved in band, track, and drama. She is a member of Student Council and National Honor Society and she is a peer tutor.

Chair, Cathy Giunta, presented Ms. O'Neil with a parting gift from the committee as a token of their appreciation. Ms. Giunta thanked Ms. O'Neil for her service on the School Committee this year and wished her much luck in all her future endeavors.

**Facilities Sub Committee, by Mr. Govindan**

Nothing to report.

**Finance Sub Committee, by Ms. Giunta**

Nothing to report.

**Personnel Sub Committee, by Mr. Adams**

Nothing to report.

**Policy Sub Committee, by Mr. Adams**

Nothing to report.

**SPED PAC, by Mr. Burke**

Mr. Burke told the committee that the Special Education Parent Advisory Council did have a recent meeting, but that he was not able to attend that meeting. He said he would get the minutes from the meeting and give to the School Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**School Choice**

Mr. Wood called the committee's attention to Appendix VII A1 and VII A2. He explained the process for accepting school choice students into the District and also reviewed the numbers of students who are currently school choice students coming into the district for each school and grade as well as the total for the district., which he said was 51. He reviewed his recommendation to allow school choice for kindergarten (5 students per school), and grades 6-12 (5 students for grades 6-8 per school, and 15 students for grades 9-12). He said his recommendation would not include school choice for PK and grades 1-5. Additionally Mr. Wood told the committee that his recommendation includes slots currently held by students who are already in school choice in the district.

Mr. Wood reviewed his rationale for his recommendation. He told the committee that adding kindergarten to the school choice students allowed to attend district schools would:

1. Enable the District to match the current number of school choice "out" students, currently at seventy-two (72).
2. It enables the district to cap the seats available per grade at fifteen and thus have consistency across the grades six through twelve.
3. It will create a revenue stream for a longer period of time for the district. (This revenue stream is estimated to be (\$5000 x 15 students) \$75000, which over thirteen years of schooling could amount to \$975,000 if all fifteen slots are filled every year.

Mr. Wood told the committee this recommendation will not impact the current class sizes to any extent that would impact learning. He said the current numbers for school choice out of the district trended up this year and adding Kindergarten would serve as a buffer until we can get that number down to a more manageable number. He added that by adding Kindergarten, the District would have these children for as long as they want to attend Nashoba's schools, and by statute the District cannot exclude them at a later date.

Discussion ensued among the committee. Mr. Adams inquired if Mr. Wood had considered growth in the District in coming to this number in his recommendation for kindergarten. Mr. Wood responded that the District has enjoyed smaller numbers in kindergarten and grade one. He added that the District could stop allowing school choice for kindergarten any time. He said that if the district chose to do that it would take effect for the next school year. Mr. Wood said the District has not maxed out in grades 6, 7, and 8 and this is the third year of this policy.

Mr. Horne raised concern if the District does get all 15 kindergarten students. He asked how many students school choice out of the District. Mr. Wood replied that at the high school the low is approximately 50 students and the high is about 76 students. Ms. CampoBasso said she is not convinced this is the way to go. She raised concern over space issues within the District and said that all the elementary schools are looking to add on or build new space. She said she would like to see what space is available at the middle School Committee Approved 6/15/2007

schools and what their capacity is. Mr. Wood said he would get this information, but that his recommendation would not change the middle school numbers. Mr. Fly said that he did not see this as a K-12 issue. He said that students who enter the district as choice for kindergarten do not necessarily stay through grade 12. He inquired what the deficit is for students who school choice out of the District. Mr. Wood said he did not have that figure in front of him but that it is about \$100,000. Ms. Colletti commented about the space issue in Stow and asked how that is going to look if the District is asking more students to come into the District. Mr. Burke inquired about the revolving account and asked if there would be any change to that. Mr. Wood replied the District currently has this and it would not change. Ms. CampoBasso inquired about the District conducting a survey to find out why students school choice out of the District. Mr. Wood said that a school district was recently reprimanded for conducting a survey like this. Ms. CampoBasso asked if a blanket survey could be done perhaps through the newspapers. Ms. Giunta asked if the District would offer full day kindergarten to school choice students. Mr. Wood said "No".

#### **MOTION**

Don Adams made a motion to table the discussion on school choice and to move on to the Mary Rowlandson Award demonstration. Seconded by Richard Fly **IN FAVOR:** Don Adams, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Richard Fly, Cathy Giunta, Lynn Colletti, David Horne **VOTED AND PASSED. (7-0-0)**

#### **Mary Rowlandson Award**

Mr. Tom Moore, Mary Rowlandson Assistant Principal, addressed the committee along with students who have been involved with the Heifer Project at the Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA for the past 10 years. Mr. Moore told the committee that the Overlook Farm is a 270-acre working farm that educates the public about world hunger, poverty and solutions. He told the committee the Mary Rowlandson students have been awarded the "*Making a Difference Award*" for reaching a \$10,000 goal. He said that students were able to reach this goal mostly by collecting cans to raise money for this project whereby they were able to purchase a Heifer cow which could be given to a needy family.

#### **School Choice (Resumed Discussion)**

#### **MOTION**

Don Adams made a motion to take school choice from the table. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Brian Burke, Cathy Giunta, Lynn Colletti, David Horne **VOTED AND PASSED. (7-0-0)**

The committee continued discussion around the school choice issue.

#### **MOTION**

Don Adams made a motion to accept the school choice recommendation as described in the Superintendent's memo, Appendix VII A2, dated May 25, 2007. Seconded by Richard Fly **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso **OPPOSED:** Don Adams, Brian Burke, Cathy Giunta, Lynn Colletti, David Horne **MOTION FAILED. (2-6-0)**

Mr. Horne asked if the committee could see an analysis of school choice data. Mr. Wood said he could get that information for the committee.

#### **School Committee Calendar**

Mr. Wood called the committee's attention to Appendix VII B, which included two proposed calendars. Mr. Wood said that one calendar had the full committee meeting once per month on the third Thursday evening, and then subcommittee meeting scheduled for every other Thursday evening. The other proposed schedule was the same as the committee has had in the past, with meeting scheduled twice per month, every other Thursday evening. Discussion ensued.

#### **MOTION**

Don Adams made a motion to set the School Committee calendar of meeting according to the 2 meetings per month schedule as proposed in Appendix VII B, Proposal 2. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Brian Burke, Cathy Giunta, Lynn Colletti, David Horne **VOTED AND PASSED. (7-0-0)**

#### **School Committee Sub Committee Appointments**

The Committee reviewed the recommendation for subcommittee assignments for the coming year. They decided on the following assignments:

- ◆ **Personnel Sub Committee**  
Don Adams, David Horne, Cathy Giunta
- ◆ **Policy Sub Committee**  
David Horne, Don Adams, Richard Fly
- ◆ **Facilities Sub Committee**  
Mel Govindan, Lynn Colletti, Richard Fly
- ◆ **Finance Sub Committee**  
Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke
- ◆ **Tri Town Liaison**  
Meetings to be held the first Wednesday of each month, with each town's representative acting as liaison for their respective town.
- ◆ **Audit Advisory:** Mel Govindan
- ◆ **Mabel Hale Fund Liaison:** David Horne
- ◆ **SPED PAC Liaison:** Brian Burke

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **District Improvement Plan**

Mr. Wood reviewed the information in Appendix VIII A, District Improvement Plan with the committee. He distributed both an existing plan and a proposed plan, and said he is proud that the district has a strategic plan that they are keeping to.

#### **Long Range Financial Plan**

Mr. Wood called the committee's attention to Appendix VIII B, the Long term Financial Forecast. He said that this forecast promotes the thought that the District is moving ahead and thinking about various initiatives. He gave a brief overview and discussion ensued among the committee. Mr. Wood told the committee he wanted them to have time to review this and then the committee can discuss it at their next meeting on June 14, 2007.

#### **Superintendent's Evaluation**

Ms. Giunta presented the Superintendent's Evaluation, dated December 2006. She said that this was a good evaluation overall and that the Superintendent is doing a good job with the budget and the strategic plan.

### **CITIZEN INPUT**

Nothing to report

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda DeStasi

Executive Assistant