

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 21, 2010

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch (arrived at 6:35), Richard Fly and Lynn Colletti

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the School Committee Conference Room.

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Nashoba Youth Football Super Bowl Team

Mr. Wood and the School Committee recognized the Nashoba Youth Football Team, Senior Mites, for their undefeated 2009 season and Super Bowl win.

Students with Perfect MCAS Scores 2009

Mr. Wood and the school committee recognized the High School students who score a perfect score on their 2009 MCAS in English, Math or Biology. Attending tonight to accept their recognition were Dylan Plaskon, Andrew McGarry, Alana Toabe and Adam Tocci Jr.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-officio Report by Molly Flynn-Alling reporting for Mr. Nicoll

- *Athletics*
 - Wrestling won league match v. Quabbin. Last home match
 - Boy's basketball - won two straight games, hosting a varsity double header this Friday. Boys will play at 5:30, Girls at 7 v. Groton-Dunstable
 - Boys and Girls Indoor Track competed at the MSTCA State Relays. The Boys team of Miles Hodge, Coby Horowitz, Jair Cruikshank, and Reid Sullivan won the distance medley relay race.
 - The Girls team of Aubrie Vanesse, Emily Clark, Prudence Bailey, and Siobhan (Sh-vonne) Pokorney came in 12th at the 4x4 relay.
 - Hockey - next game Sat. at 7 v. Littleton @ Groton rink
 - Ski team - Boy's alpine has a slalom race at Nashoba Valley this afternoon
 - The Spring sports pre-season meeting is March 1st at 6:00 at Nashoba.

- *Midterms*
 - Midterms took place this week with the late starts. The reaction to the late starts is generally very positive.
 - Tomorrow is the last day of midterms with only the G period midterm remaining

- *Class Plays*
 - The class play competition will be held tomorrow night at 7 pm in the Nashoba auditorium. This competition has each class produce, direct, and cast a thirty-minute one act play by themselves and are judged by three judges on the night of the event. The cast only has 2 days to rehearse in the auditorium so the competition is very intense!

Operations SubCommittee

Mr. Burke reported the Operations SubCommittee has not met since the last school committee meeting.

Policy SubCommittee

Ms. Federspiel reported the graduation requirements, school choice and superintendent's evaluation timeline and process will be presented tonight for first reading

SPED PAC

Mr. Burke reported met yesterday, on language, which he reported on at the last School Committee meeting. Mr. Burke would like to inform the district that there is a special theater group that is letting in special needs children grade 3 and up, the group is called the Open Door Theater.

ESBC

Ms. Colletti reported historical consultant submitted report and is available for anyone who would like to review it. Ms. Colletti stated the Stow building project is moving forward, we are now under construction documents. Mr. Wood stating he will be picking out paint color this Friday.

APPROVAL OF THE December 3, 2009 Minutes

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to remove from the table and approve the minutes of December 3, 2009, as amended and seconded by Nancy Federspiel **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED (7-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE January 7, 2010 Minutes

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the minutes of January 7, 2010, as amended and seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, and Monica CampoBasso **ABSTAINED:** Richard Fly **VOTED AND PASSED (6-0-1)**

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF January 22, 2010

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3053	01/22/10	VENDOR	\$ 665,835.22
3054	01/22/10	BENEFIT	\$ 758,321.28
3055	01/22/10	PAYROLL	\$1,131,684.46

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 1/21/10 and noted above and seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED (7-0-0)**

CORRESPONDENCE

Citizens email regarding Scott Brown visit to the Florence Sawyer School
Citizen's correspondence regarding going "green" in Bolton school cafeterias
Teacher thank you to school committee
Citizens email regarding the RTTT (Race to the top) Grant

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(The Superintendent's Report is available in full on the NRSD website at <http://www.nrsd.net>)

Mr. Wood reviewed his written report to the committee. Topics included:

- RTTT Results
- Interim Principal at Hale Update
- Worcester County Superintendent's Recognition Luncheon
- High School Students with perfect scores on the 2009 MCAS
- Early Release on January 15th update
- Late start for High School students during the week of January 19th

Interim Principal Position at Hale Discussion

Ms. CampoBasso stated she would like to caution against the decision to keep Mr. King in an interim position for two years, stating she feels after two years, it will be difficult to add the Assistant Superintendent position back into the budget and concerned it will be difficult to validate the need after not having it for two years.

Mr. Govindan stated he agrees with Ms. CampoBasso.

Ms. Federspiel stating that it is dangerous and feels that it devalues the Assistant Superintendent position. Ms. Busch also stated she believes we also have to acknowledge that Mr. King's staff has to "step it up" when they did not volunteer for that position or extra work load.

Ms. CampoBasso stated she is very concerned of the impact it would have on our middle school, stating, when this situation happened previously, things did go downhill at that time and would hate to see Hale follow that path when they are such a high achieving school. Ms. CampoBasso said she would like to give this more time before a final decision is made.

Ms. Colletti stated she does not know how Mr. King does it, she has heard that he is at many school functions and there is no doubt the student and parents love him, Ms. Colletti stated she is concerned about burn out.

Mr. King replied he does not believe anything is lost on the operations side as he has full time Managers/Directors in all departments and still meets with them weekly for updates. Mr. King stated that he believes he has a keen sense of finance and would like to think he would notice anything out of sort promptly. Mr. King also stated we have a great school community and staff at Hale which make it an easier school to manage and that he has enjoyed the position, stating he does work more hours but is at a place in his life he can afford to do that. Mr. King stated it is a model that works and saves the district \$100,000.

Ms. CampoBasso just wanted to voice one last time, that we cannot look at the person but rather the position, she has to separate the two, asking if the Hale principal line item still remained in the budget and if not can we leave it in there?

Mr. Wood stated while he has complete confidence in Mr. King, he would like to advise that more student monitoring is done out of his office this year, he stated he meets with the principals at their schools every week for updates.

Mr. Fly stated he does understand the concerns but does not share them, he does not think this is out of the ordinary of what other district do in hard financial times.

NEW BUSINESS

FY09 Audit

Mr. King introduced Mr. Dick Sullivan a partner in Powers and Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan provided an overview of the audit statements that were provided to each School Committee member and provided an explanation of how the documents are comprised. Mr. Sullivan reported that all opinions were clean. Mr. Sullivan stated that knowing Mr. King was split in his duties, he heightened the risk this year and everything was still very clean. Mr. Govindan stated the audit committee met and reviewed the audit previous to tonight and had no concerns. Mr. Burke stated we will vote at our next meeting, which will allow everyone to review in more detail before a vote is cast.

School Year 2010/2011 Calendar

Mr. Wood stated the calendar committee meet three times and is recommending the calendar presented tonight by the committee. Ms. Visco, chair of the calendar committee, stated the committee is comprised of seven staff, three parents, and three administrators.

Ms. CampoBasso stated she would like a report of how many parents actually come to the spring conferences, stating she is against these. Mr. Wood stated that they have 95% participation.

Ms. Busch stated her experience in working in the school is that the afternoon conferences are not utilized.

Ms. Federspiel stated that she thinks the conferences are too close together and the March ones are too late and stated that "they kill a full week preparing for the student led conferences".

Ms. CampoBasso asked why the evening conferences are still 5-7, more needs to be done for people who are working, we need to focus more on the evening times. Mr. Wood replied they are until 8 pm.

Ms. Colletti asked when the assessments are supposed to be done. Mr. Wood advised the DRA and math assessments are completed in November and December. Ms. Colletti stated that as a parent she would want to know before December if a child is struggling. Mr. Wood replied within the first six weeks of the school year the students progress is reported out.

Ms. CampoBasso asked, "if the student lead conferences are that important, why are they not being done district wide and why are we basing the calendar on one schools practice"?

Ms. Federspiel asked "if there is any reason we could not move the December conferences to October, if the teachers are already doing their assessment why not have them in October?"

Mr. Burke asked if under the contractual agreement can we eliminate any ER days or PD days. Mr. Wood replied that any ER days can be eliminated but PD cannot.

Ms. CampoBasso advised that PD can be put into the school year starts or after the school year ends so they are not impacting the learning cycle.

Ms. Visco advised that the committee did try to put the PD days on days that would be less interrupting of the learning time.

Mr. Fly stated he believes there is no reason for two vacation weeks and would like to see one in March.

Ms. CampoBasso stated she thinks the December conference is much too late and believes it should be November 22 and 23 which would leave the whole month of December uninterrupted. Ms. Visco stated that was on the proposed calendar but there was parent opposition on the committee.

Suburban Coalition

Mr. Stewart Sklar, member of the School Committee in Harvard, attending the meeting tonight on behalf of the Suburban Coalition. Mr. Sklar provided their position paper for the Coalition and provided an overview of what the Coalition's focus and purpose is.

Mr. Fly asked if the town become members or do committees join. Mr. Sklar replied that committees usually "cut the check", everyone involved is an elected official.

District Improvement Committee(s) Mid Year Updates

Mr. King reported on the sustainable model committee, stating the committee is made up of teachers and administrators across the grade spans and towns. Transportation has been the focus with conversation revolving around looking at three tier busing and students walking who live within ½ mile of the school.

Mr. Roche reported on the Comprehensive Reporting Committee, providing a handout detailing what the committee's focus and goals are. Mr. Roche stated the committee is made up of teachers, administrator and parents from all three towns and all grade levels. The committee has met four times so far this year and is a combination of Standard Based Reporting Committee and the Communications committee from last year. The committee's focus is communication protocols in an effort to be clearer on what the students know and how they are progressing at the various grade levels with respect to the standards. In addition to that a group within this committee is focusing very specially the 1-5 reporting tool district wide. Mr. Roche reported that the committee is in the process of developing an online survey for the parents in the district. Ms. Colletti asked when they meet and how they advertise meetings. Mr. Roche stated the meeting schedule has been out on the list serves and on the district website. Ms. Colletti asked if the teachers are enthusiastic, from what she has heard they are. Mr. Roche says he believes for the most part the teachers are enthusiastic. Mr. Burke would like to make it clear that there is no plan to change the grading system at this time other than grades 1-5.

Graduation Requirement Policy

Ms. Federspiel advised the policy subcommittee met with Mr. Roach to develop the proposed policy and is presenting the graduation requirements policy for first reading tonight. The committee discussed the languages requirements and the wellness requirements. Mr. Govindan voiced his concern that if you allow a student to opt to take computer language instead of a foreign language upon graduation they will not have the required foreign language requirement to attend college. Ms. CampoBasso asked for clarification on having to make up PE classes when you miss a class. Mr. Wood will look into this and report back. Mr. Govindan supports removing the computer language wording. Mr. Fly would like to change the wording to just language and not state specific languages.

School Choice Policy – First Reading

Ms. Federspiel reviewed the school choice policy being presented tonight, explained the changes presented tonight stating the proposed policy would change and be based on our existing enrollment and not a fixed number of seats. The committee had discussions involving the max number of seats, the policy subcommittee will revise prior to next reading.

Superintendent’s Evaluation Policy – First Reading

Ms. Federspiel presented the proposal for the Superintendent’s Evaluation to change the review to once per year instead of twice and the timing was changed so it is not so focused around the budget timeframe. Mr. Wood advised that he has just learned today that the Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that school committees can no longer do private, single evaluation that are not in public, the entire conversation has to be done in public and reached consensus and then you can go into executive session to discuss it further and come up with a composite and then you back out in public and release the composite. Mr. Wood explained you are no longer going to be able to complete the documents are you own a meeting has to be scheduled where you discuss together. Ms. CampoBasso stated that she feels the timeline still represents the budget timeline. Mr. Wood stated that this timeline really represents the cycle in which the School Committee is elected.

MOTION

Richard Fly made a motion to accept the first reading of the Graduation Requirements Policy # IKF, School Choice Policy #JFBB, and Superintendent’s Evaluation Timeline and process and seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Monica CampoBasso and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED (8-0-0)**

OLD BUSINESS

FY11 Budget Meeting Schedule

Mr. Burke requested the committee’s feedback on whether they feel a Saturday budget meeting is necessary. Mr. Wood replied that in normal circumstances the Saturday meeting helps us a lot, because the school principals articulate what is going to be in their budgets, but the fact of the matter is there is not going to be a lot in the budgets and no new initiatives, so therefore the time on a Saturday is not necessary. Mr. Wood stated he does think we need community input and feels the February 4th meeting could be that opportunity. Mr. Govindan asked what the forum for the February 4th meeting is. Mr. Wood replied it will be the regular budget roll-out, then a chance for community input. Mr. Govindan stated he is concerned that will not provide much time for the community to digest the information. Mr. Wood stated we could plan a meeting for the following Thursday if necessary. The general census is to have the budget rolled out at the February 4th meeting, starting the meeting at 5:00 to go into executive session to review litigation strategies, exit the executive session and approve the warrant with the budget presentation at 6:00 with the realization there will be a meeting at the Florenence Sawyer school at the end of February.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

NONE

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to adjourn at 9:13 pm seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Monica CampoBasso and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED (8-0-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

NOTES