

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 3, 2009

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke, Mel Govindan (left at 6:52), Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Maureen Busch, Monica CampoBasso (left at 6:05) and Lynn Colletti

ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM in the cafeteria at the Florence Sawyer School

FY11 Faculty and Staff Brainstorming

Mr. Burke addressed the faculty present and provided an overview of the purpose for the meeting tonight and the order in which the meeting will be conducted. The faculty separated into four groups, two elementary and two high school groups with two school committee members at each table. The groups held open discussions regarding their concerns and visions for their departments/school.

Meeting called back to order at 5:34.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Nicoll

- Athletics
 - Fall sports season is over
 - Thanksgiving Day game – Nashoba won 42-0 against North Middlesex in the morning home game.
 - Football team lost their playoff game this Tuesday 21-7 against Marlboro.
 - Winter sports season has just begun: Alpine & Cross Country Skiing, Nashoba-Clinton Wrestling and Hockey, Indoor Track, and Boys' and Girls' Basketball.
- Quidditch
 - Nashoba finished off its first club Quidditch league. Quidditch is a sport popularized by the Harry Potter series where players run with brooms between their legs and try to throw balls into three tall hoops.
 - The Senior Gryffindors won both of their league games, beating the Junior Slytherins by one goal. Each class represented their own separate "house" with its own colors and mascot.
- Nashoba Spirit/Pep Rally
 - Nashoba had its spirit week and hallway competitions in the days before Thanksgiving Break. The senior hallway triumphed with a carnival theme. The junior hallway had a crime scene theme, the sophomores had a traffic intersection theme, and the freshman had a paper crafts theme. The seniors won the class competitions and won the coveted spirit tambourine.
 - In the hour before Thanksgiving break, the school held its school-wide Pep Rally, which recognized senior athletes and EMTs, the band, the chorus, the matball and Quidditch champions, the cheerleading team, and the football team as well as included a Tug of War between teachers and students.

- Bridges to Nicaragua
 - The Bridges to Nicaragua trip is a 2-week trip to the Siuna region of Nicaragua that gives high school students an opportunity to travel with a team of Tufts medical students to see and experience what it is like to live in a third world country and help out in a local town and clinic by working with patients and building latrines. The high school students travel to Campo Uno, a town of few spread-out houses and little access to health care.
 - There is a scholarship each year for one high school student from Nashoba, Hudson, or Bromfield to travel to Nicaragua free of all expenses each year. This student is chosen through an exam given after two lectures: one on Nicaraguan infectious diseases, the other a lecture in Spanish on Nicaragua's history and culture.
 - This year, the highest scorer on the exam was senior Josh Herbison from Nashoba; however, I know that at least four students are going, some from Nashoba, Marlboro, and Bromfield.

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:

- MASS Overview of Budget and Process for FY2011
- Meeting Schedule
- Best Budgets Thanksgiving Feast
- MASC/MASS Conference
- Stow Benevolent Association Basketball Fundraiser

Mr. Burke advised he does not think it is in the District's best interest to have students volunteer to participate in such competitions such as what took place at the Stow Benevolent Association Basketball Fundraiser. Mr. Fly agrees with the statements of the Chair, stating he does not believe that students should be involved in competitions with adults. Mr. Govindan stated "this is not a School Committee issue and the Committee's role should be limited to setting policies to address such issues or to see whether any such policies have been violated. Mr. Wood advised the Policy Subcommittee is reviewing these policies.

Operations Subcommittee

Mr. Burke reported the committee has been working on setting up communication meetings and will be following up on tonight's results. Mr. Burke advised there is a new Ethics Law which all members will be required to take an online course. Mr. Wood advised all employees in the district will also be required to complete the course and will be discussed further in the first January meeting.

Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Federspiel reported the committee is reevaluating the policy of graduation requirements. Mr. Roche is advising on this policy and the committee will be presenting the policy to the school committee at a future meeting.

SPED PAC

Mr. Burke reported he will not be able to attend the next few meetings. Mr. Burke requested a SPED PAC update document be added to tonight's correspondence.

ESBC

Ms. Colletti reported the committee has met twice since the last school committee meeting; the main discussion is regarding the stone building on the center school property. Mr. Wood reported that the committee voted to move forward with the existing plan, which does include demolishing the stone building. Mr. Wood advised that he has met with the conservation committee and advised if they can raise the funds to move the building within the timeline they may do so.

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF November 13, 2009

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3038	11/13/09	VENDOR	\$ 387,735.79
3039	11/13/09	BENEFIT	\$ 15,973.99
3040	11/13/09	PAYROLL	\$1,277,771.93

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated 11/12/09, noted above and approved by the Operations Subcommittee on 11/12/09 and seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, , Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE November 5, 2009 Minutes

MOTION

Maureen Busch made a motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2009, as amended and seconded by Richard Fly **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, and Maureen Busch **ABSTAINED:** Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED (6-0-1)**

CORRESPONDENCE

MASC Special Information Meeting Notice

NEW BUSINESS

Extended Learning Time – Software Purchase

Mr. Wood provided an overview of the Compass Learning Software being proposed to the school committee tonight. Tracy Conte and Sean O’Shea provided a detailed review of the Compass Learning software for extending learning detailing how this program would operate within the school environment and the ability for parents to monitor from home. Ms. Conte advised that although the primary goal is for At Risk Students there is also an enrichment component.

Mr. Wood advised that 60 licenses would be a cost of \$38,780 annually for PK-12 in all content area, which would include six days of professional development and would be hosted on their server, which means we would not need additional technical support or resources. Mr. Wood stated the company is offering a special of buy two years and get a third year free, which would give us four school years. Mr. Wood advised we would make a transfer from the insurance line into the technology line to fund this. Mr. Wood advised there is also another option, to own the program for \$62,880 which would be unlimited licenses but it would only be ELA and Math for grades 2-5 and there would still be annual charges for updates.

Mr. Fly stated “then his question is, looking forward to the FY10 budget, is this your top priority of resource investment”?. Mr. Wood replied yes it would be it. Mr. Fly asked “there would be no other requests for software, and you have worked this across the district administrators and they are in agreement?” Mr. Wood replied yes, they are excited because it gives us both school time and out of school time advantages. It gives us working with students that we have identified with needs and also has an enrichment component.

Ms. Colletti asked Mr. Wood “for the last two years you have been tutoring kids for MCAS, would this offset that cost”. Mr. Wood replied we hope there will be a reduction in the number of tutors we have to hire because of the flexibility this software gives us we are expecting that there will be students who can’t make the scheduled times so they will be doing this more independently. One of the training we planning on doing is a parent training so they have the opportunity to learn about the program.

Ms. Federspiel objected to making a multi-thousand dollar expenditure right on the heels of an hour long discussion about how our most important resources are people. Ms. Federspiel stated “Why would we spend this kind of money on non-human resources when facing budget cuts?”

Mr. Govindan stated his concern in getting into a long term deal, such as the three year, “will it be used”. Ms. Conte replied that within this program, usage will be able to be monitored and be adjusted accordingly and this is also a program that can be utilized over the summer, we are confident the program will be fully utilized.

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to approve the purchase of the proposed Compass Learning software with the discretion of the administration to choose the plan up to an \$80,000 expense and seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Mel Govindan, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti **OPPOSED:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel **ABSTAINED:** Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED (4-2-1)**

Treasurer’s Contract

Mr. Wood reviewed the 2009-2010 contract for the District Treasurer Services, requesting the School Committee vote to approve the contract to retain Charlotte Noponen as District Treasurer with no change in contract from the 2008-2009 contract.

MOTION

Richard Fly made a motion to approve the agreement between The Oxford Agency of Municipal Services, Inc and Nashoba Regional School District for District Treasurer Services as outlined in the agreement presented and seconded by Lynn Colletti **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

Private School Approvals

MOTION

Nancy Federspiel made a motion to accept the recommendation of Michael Wood as noted in the memo dated 11/18/09 to approve Dr. Franklin Perkins School and New River Academy as private schools within the Nashoba District and seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

OLD BUSINESS

None

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

None

MOTION

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George Babich made a motion to adjourn at 7:03 pm seconded by Maureen Busch IN **FAVOR**: Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

NOTES