

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 17, 2011

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Mel Govindan, Lynn Colletti (arrived 6:04), George Babich and Reta Rupich

**ABSENT:** Brian Burke

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Topics on consent agenda included:

**February 18, 2011 Warrants**

<b><u>WARRANT NO.</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
3139	02/18/11	VENDOR	\$ 353,646.75
3140	02/18/11	BENEFIT	\$ 287,432.10
3141	02/18/11	PAYROLL	\$1,141,550.29

Minutes of the February 3, 2011 meeting  
Minutes of the February 5, 2011 Budget Workshop

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Lancaster Selectman Budget Correspond.

**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:

- Facilities
  - Stow Elementary School Project
  - Up on the rooftops
- Finance – Tri Town Meeting
- Personnel
- School Council Meetings
- Teaching and learning

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Student Advisory Report**

Ms. Cross reported;

#### **Sports**

- Girls' basketball defeated Oxford on Monday night and Bromfield last night. They are playing well and have improved to 5-14. This is the team's best record in the last three years. Their last game will be played in Fitchburg on Saturday.
- Boys' basketball defeated Millbury on Monday night, but lost a heart breaker to North Middlesex last night. The loss put them at 8-11, which means they will not be able to make playoffs.
- Ice hockey lost a tough game against Lunenburg 2-1 on Monday night. They need 3 points (win and tie) to qualify for playoffs. They should be able to pull this off in their last 3 games (Littleton, Milford, Assabet Valley).
- Wrestling has 5 members and 2 alternates competing in the State Championships this weekend.
- Indoor Track is sending 10 girls and 7 boys to the State Championship meet this weekend at the Reggie Lewis Center.
- XC ski team competed in the State Championship yesterday where Abby Hurd finished 12<sup>th</sup>
- Alpine team has an all-star race today and states next week.

#### **Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

- Both the valedictorian and salutatorian for the class of 2011 have been announced
- The valedictorian is Michaela Jacobs (Lancaster) and the salutatorian is Emily Clark (Stow)

#### **ACTFL Podcast Contest**

- It was recently announced that Mme McHale's French class won the ACTFL's podcast contest with their entry entitled Going Around the World in the 21st Century
- The class will be using the prize money to go on a field trip to a French restaurant

#### **Guidance**

- The sophomore class recently activated their Naviance accounts
- Naviance is a great tool to utilize during the college search and includes benefits such as keeping track of each student's GPA and standardized test scores, allowing the student to type up his/her own resume, and scatter-plot graphs of colleges that display points indicating the GPA and cumulative SAT scores of past Nashoba students who have applied to that college and whether or not each student was admitted

Mr. Govindan commented on the four seniors who have reached the status of National Merit Finalists. The seniors are: Nicholas Alberts, Thomas Whitney Granger, Dylan Plaskon, and Caleb Wisch.

#### **Finance Subcommittee**

Mr. Govindan reported other than approving warrants the only discussion held was on the field study with a presentation on the results of this study expected in Mid March.

#### **Personnel Subcommittee**

Ms. Federspiel reported the first meeting was cancelled due to weather; a second meeting is being planned.

#### **Policy Subcommittee**

Ms. Federspiel reported the committee met to review the Cori policy, which will be presented tonight for the first reading.

#### **ESBC**

Ms. Colletti reported that Mr. Wood covered the status of the project during his Superintendent's report.

## **SPED PAC**

Ms. Federspiel stated Mr. Burke is not present to report. Ms. Federspiel reported that the unified sports is very well attended.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Director of Finance – New Position Job Description**

Mr. Wood advised he is proposing to keep Mr. King in a dual role position. Mr. Wood provided the proposed job description of Director of Finance and revised NRSD Organization chart. Mr. Wood advised he is proposing to realign Mr. King to the new position of Director of Finance. Mr. Wood stated he believes this realignment is possible because of the strong administrators and directors currently within the district organizational structure. Ms. Federspiel raised a concern regarding the Director of Finance providing financial advice to Principal whereas Mr. King will be one in the same. Mr. Govindan would like to remind the public this is a stop gap measure; we cannot continue to have one person (George King) holding two positions indefinitely and we will need to budget for both. Ms. Federspiel stated the concern of once this position is cut from the budget it will be hard to get it put back in. Ms. Busch asked what is considered temporary. Mr. Wood stated he is not putting a time frame on this realignment that if and when changes occur this will be reviewed. Mr. Rupich stated she is not as concerned with the public opposition to adding back a financial position given the financial history of the NRSD.

### **MOTION**

Mel Govindan made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to add the position of Director of Finance as outlined in the provided job description seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Lynn Colletti, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, George Babich, Mel Govindan and Reta Rupich **OPPOSED:** Nancy Federspiel **VOTED AND PASSED. (6-1-0)**

### **Cori Policy, ADDA, First Reading**

Ms. Federspiel advised there is no change in district procedures; this policy is being presented as there is not currently a formal policy in the district policy manual. Ms. Federspiel advised committee members to review as this will be voted on at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> school committee meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **FY12 Budget Discussion**

Ms. Federspiel advised the budget was presented at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> SC meeting and the February 5<sup>th</sup> workshop. Ms. Federspiel stated the budget is not being voted on tonight, the committee will have open discussions tonight to ensure that everyone's questions and concerns are answered and the budget will be voted on at the next school committee meeting. Ms. Colletti advised she would like to see a reduction in the budget but is not sure where those cuts should be, she requested the administration submit two revised budgets for consideration one showing a ½ decrease and one with a 1% decrease. Mr. King replied that given the different contractual obligations, i.e. bus contracts, SPED transportation contracts, out of district tuition, etc. any further cuts would be in services. Ms. Owen asked for a definition of what extra curricula coordinators are. Mr. Wood replied they are the coordinators that run the various afterschool clubs. Mr. Babich stated, given these times he was impressed with the budget that was presented. Ms. Busch agreed and stated she is concerned about upcoming years. Ms. Federspiel stated she was extremely impressed with the budget and her only opposition was the Director of Finance situation. Mr. Govindan stated that Mr. Wood and Mr. King have proposed a very lean budget that requests only the essentials to provide quality education to Nashoba's students. Mr. Govindan opposed going down the route of asking the administration to propose the requested cuts, which will involve program cuts and personnel reductions as it will not result in productive discussions. Mr. Lindsay requested as a courtesy to the Board of Selectman in Bolton and Lancaster that the committee honor Ms. Colletti's request to look at revising the budget.

Ms. Federspiel raised the issue of town representation on the School Committee. Ms. Federspiel brought up “the ironic fact that Bolton does not have the smallest student population of the three towns, nor are they paying the lowest assessment of the three towns and yet it is the only town to have two reps instead of three on the school committee.” Mr. Govindan stated the total students in each town's schools, which showed that Lancaster has the lowest enrollment of 730, Bolton next with 807 and Stow the largest with 847. Mr. Govindan stated that Stow's assessment is the largest. Part of the reason for Bolton's higher assessment than Lancaster's is that it has a higher student enrollment and part of Lancaster's responsibility is met by grants from the Commonwealth. Mr. Wood and Mr. King confirmed these statements. Mr. King then gave his explanation as to why Bolton has only two members on the SC. Mr. King reviewed the calculation and the one man, one vote law used to determine how many representatives from each town are seated on a school committee. Mr. King stated at the next meeting this will be explained in more detail.

#### **MOTION**

Lynn Colletti made a motion to request the administration to presented two revised budgets for review to include a ½% and 1% reduction to the current budget proposal; seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Lynn Colletti, **OPPOSED:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, George Babich, Mel Govindan and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND FAILED. (1-6-0)**

#### **Citizens' Comments**

Ms. Romasco stated she would like to see what the district would do with 1 - 2% more in the budget. Ms. Romasco requested the district articulate the calculation of school committee members per town.

#### **MOTION**

George Babich made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 pm; seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, George Babich, Mel Govindan and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aleta Masterson  
Executive Assistant