

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 4, 2010

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso (arrived at 5:35pm), Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch, 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 5:30 PM in the School Committee Conference Room.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

School Committee went into Executive Session at 5:30 pm for the purpose of reviewing possible litigation with our attorney.

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 5:31 pm for the purpose of reviewing possible litigation and negotiation strategy to include Michael Wood, George King, Chris Petrini and Aleta Masterson; seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to reconvene to open session at 6:09 pm; seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Ryan Nicoll

1. Athletics

- Hockey team is doing well - 3 out of four games won, including a 5-3 win v. Groton-Dunstable, who is the league champion.
- All ski teams end their season this week. In Alpine skiing, Cat Malley and Nick Bateman are top 14th in the area, meaning that they will most likely qualify for the state meet. The Nordic ski team is going to the state championships this Wednesday, February 10th.
- The wrestling team is going to Central Mass Sectionals at Marlboro this Saturday. The seatings for this tournament will be announced tonight.
- Boys and Girls Indoor Track are going to the Mid Wach League Championships at Fitchburg this Saturday. Next Saturday will be their District Championships. In two Saturdays, the boys track team will head to Boston to try to hold their 2-year title of Bay State Champions.
- Seniors Kelsey Farrel and Shelby Sirois will represent Nashoba at the National Girls'/Women in Sports celebration at Fanueil Hall.

2. Haiti Relief Fundraisers

- In response to the Haiti earthquake, the Haiti club has been formed to raise funds to donate to Haitian relief victims. All the other clubs have organized and agreed to do one fundraiser per month. This month's fundraiser is Soles 4 Souls, which collects shoes to give to the survivors of this month's tragedy.

3. Class Plays

- 2 weeks ago, each class performed their own 30-minute one act play. The competition is decided by three independent judges. Each class performed extremely well, but the sophomores ended up coming out on top.

Operations SubCommittee

No Report

Policy SubCommittee

No Report

SPED PAC

No Report

ESBC

Ms. Colletti reported that the ESBC did not meet last week due to a posting error, but they have heard from the state that the stone building is not on the historical register and does not qualify.

APPROVAL OF THE January 21, 2010 Minutes

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the minutes of January 21, 2010, as amended and seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF February 5, 2010

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3056	02/05/10	VENDOR	\$ 261,420.43
3057	02/05/10	BENEFIT	\$ 51,217.95
3058	02/05/10	PAYROLL	\$1,135,456.95

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 2/4/10 and noted above and seconded by Richard Fly **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Citizens' comments on 2010-2011 SY Calendar
- MASC new website launch memo
- Bolton resident's letter regarding Scott Brown Visit

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:

- FY 2011 Budget Overview
- 2010-2011 SY Calendar Proposal

NEW BUSINESS

FY11 Proposed Budget

Mr. Wood provided a PowerPoint presentation for the FY11 budget and reviewed each slide. Mr. Wood also provided an explanation of how the budget was built detailing the participation of the administration of the district and the how the state budget impacts our budget. Mr. Burke thanked Mr. Wood and his administration for their work at putting together the proposed budget presented tonight.

Following the presentation a discussion ensued, the following questions/concerns were discussed.

Ms. CampoBasso asked if the implementation of the writing program will be a district wide program. Mr. Wood replied that it is goal to make this district wide and he is 99% sure that goal will be met.

Mr. Govindan asked how old the current middle school math program, stating he thought there was realignment about three years ago. Mr. Wood replied that we just did K-5 last year and about six years ago we did a slight realignment but we did not change our resource dramatically, we purchased a algebra series that they then used through out the district, but we are talking about here are the other 2/3 of the classes, 6, 7 and remaining 8th grade classes.

Mr. Fly asked how much will be left in the E & D account after this year. Mr. King replied he estimates there will be 1.5 million and estimates that we will put back in about \$300,000 by the July 1st certification.

Ms. Federspiel asked about Professional Development on K-8 on differentiating instruction and stated "haven't we been doing that"? Mr. Tucker replied it's on going and it's continuing to give teachers the strengths in those areas to meet the needs of the all students. Mr. Wood replied the piece we have been working on mostly is on learning about formative assessments.

Mr. Burke asked the School Committee if there were any members of the administration they would like to see come before the committee to explain any aspect of the recommended budget. Mr. Burke requested a further report from Tracey Conte regarding the SPED reductions.

Mr. Govindan would like to know how Mr. Roche is going to manage the cuts at the HS. Mr. Roche replied that he will be looking at trends in section development in the next year and make recommendations. Mr. Roche does believe he can manage his school with the cuts and still thrive while maintaining appropriate class sizes. Mr. Burke asked if Mr. Roche could have a plan in the next three weeks. Mr. Roche replied he would not have a definite plan until class registration is done.

Mr. Fly stated he is pleased to see less staff reductions than he thought and asked what the revenue risks are in this budget. Mr. Wood replied that clearly next year in FY12 we are going to have a challenge capturing a million dollars of E&D so that is going to have to be lowered and the one time revenue from reimbursement would have to be recovered. Mr. Wood state we are at least \$554,000 in a structural place will have to make up in by either Chapter 70, regional transportation or gross assessment. Mr. King stated he knows we cannot sustain this but we can "step down" and stated there is a little growth in new revenue.

Ms. CampoBasso asked Tom O'Brien what he thought if we raised user fees. What would the participation impact be? Mr. O'Brien said he believes that we would see enough of a decrease in participation that it would be a wash.

Ms. CampoBasso stated she is concerned for the elementary school's planning time if SPED aides are reduced.

Ms. Federspiel asked if the 1.5 in elementary teacher cuts were across all towns. Mr. Wood replied it is across the district but also stated this is not a lay off, but would be a switch in position and possibly towns.

Citizens Comments

Ann Needle, Stow resident, asked if anyone is getting laid off. Mr. Wood replied there will be some layoffs in Unit C, with the instructional aide positions.

Dave Lindsey, Bolton resident, asked about the investment income the \$60,000 for this fiscal year, is that tracking well, in terms of the lower short term interest rates. Mr. King replied it is tracking reasonable close.

Jim Salvie, Stow resident, asked for an explanation of the one time revenue sources. Mr. King replied that none of them is exactly one time revenue source, this is just the first time we are using them, school choice which is the increase of what we get in verse what we but out in school choice assessment, we have an account which is called a third party reimbursement account, this account is for fund of service we provide to third party, we did use some money from that account, but there is still fund there so it can be used again. The E & D is an unpredictable revenue, it changes every year. So other that the ARRA resources these are not truly one time revenue sources, just source we may not be able to use every year.

MaryAnn Talpey, Stow resident, questioned the IEP services and asked if services be cut from what they are current receiving. Mr. Wood replied that services will not be cut but schedules will be tightened, there are 77 aides current in the district.

David Lindsey, Bolton resident, asked for definition of the social competency program. Mr. Wood replied that it is a common set expectations around classroom behavior, we are currently using RTI in many of our schools. Mr. Lindsey stated the enrollment decline surprises him, any idea why. Mr. Wood replied it appears to be in the Kindergarten class. Mr. Wood stated there are some variables.

Ellen Sturgis, Stow resident, asked what the reserve fund balance is and how much we are allowed to use each year. Mr. King replied \$540,000 we are allowed to use a quarter of this per year.

Kathy McKale, NRHS Teacher, asked about the Hale software program and asked if the other two schools have this and why Hale is the only one to have this. Mr. Wood replied that this in the Hale School Improvement Plan.

Mr. Burke stated this is not your only night for budget discussions, a schedule will be decided tonight and the public will be notified.

Intel Science Talent Search School Award

The Intel Science Talent Search School Award recognizes excellence in teaching and school support of individual student research. Each school receives an award of \$1,000 for each Semifinalist named, Yivan Jiang a Senior at NRHS was named a semifinalist.

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to accept the \$1000 award from Intel for Yivan Jiang being named a semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search and seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

OLD BUSINESS

School Year 2010/2011 Calendar Draft 4

Mr. Wood provided draft 4 of the calendar and advised that the new proposed calendar received a warm reception from the Association. Mr. Wood reviewed the calendar month by month explaining his recommendations and changes has he reviewed.

Ms. CampoBasso asked about the March conference day and asked if this could be a 4-8 day, as she feels strongly about getting the night time availability. Mr. Wood stated with pick a time for the elementary grades he has mandated they be there until 8:00 pm.

Mr. Govindan stated he has been hearing across the board "why do we have some many ER days and what is accomplished" and asked if this is still published on the website. Mr. Wood replied the PD schedules and brochures are listed on the website.

Ms. Federspiel asked why the election day was not on there. Mr. Wood replied that from the district's respective it is managed beautifully and does not feel it is an issue at any of our schools. Ms. Colletti stated to keep in mind we will be in the middle of construction and there will be equipment traffic on Hartley Road.

Ms. CampoBasso stated she is thankful for what was done with the spring conferences.

Maryanne Talpey, Stow resident asked if the fall conferences were contractual and stated she felt that fall conferences in the week of Thanksgiving parents will be more likely to take off earlier and not attend and the teachers would be under the pressure to schedule individual conference outside this window. Ms. Talpey also stated she felt the current number of ER days is doable.

Kathy McKale, NRHS Teacher, asked if the committee has talked to other schools that hold their conferences the week of Thanksgiving to see how successful they are and what the attendance rate is. Ms. CampoBasso stated that her school does do them that week and they are extremely successful and attendance is high.

Mr. Babich stated he would like to eliminate the February and April vacation and would like to see one in March. Mr. Fly agreed.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

NONE

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to adjourn at 8:56 pm seconded by Richard Fly **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

NOTES