

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 3, 2011

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Mel Govindan, and Lynn Colletti

ABSENT: George Babich, Reta Rupich

ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM in the School Committee Conference Room.

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda included:

March 4, 2011 Warrants

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3142	03/04/11	VENDOR	\$ 276,598.48
3143	03/04/11	BENEFIT	\$ 39,124.40
3144	03/04/11	PAYROLL	\$1,206,621.04

Minutes of the February 17, 2011 meeting

CORRESPONDENCE

Stow citizen correspondences regarding FY12 Budget

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
 - Community bean signing
 - Field Proposal
- Finance – Stow Joint Meeting
- School Choice
- School Committee Membership
- SPED
- School Council Meetings
- Teaching and learning

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Advisory Report

Ms. Cross reported;

Sports:

- Ice hockey team has clinched a playoff berth. They will be playing Littleton in the quarterfinals on Saturday, March 5th at 5:00pm at the Groton School.
- Basketball season has come to an end for the Nashoba boys and girls. Both teams did well this year with two first-year head coaches at Nashoba. The boys finished 9-11 missing the playoffs by one game; and the girls finished 5-15, which have been the most wins in a few years.
- Nashoba girls' ski team finished 8th in the state out of 25 schools. Slalom – Rachel Peabody 16th, Jenna Peabody 28th, Kat Malley 78th out of 128 racers in the state. Giant Slalom - Jenna Peabody finished 29th, Rachel Peabody 33rd, Kat Malley 82nd out of 127 racers in the state.
- Nashoba sent five athletes to the all state indoor track meet last weekend. Sophomore John Ojukwu will be competing in the New England championship in the 55 meter dash.
- Spring sports will begin on Monday, March 21st and sign-ups have already begun during all lunches

Math Team:

- The Nashoba Math Team recently competed in the Worcester County Math Meet
- They competed against 600 of some of the best students in Worcester County and placed second
- This marks the third year in a row that Nashoba has made the state finals

Drama Society:

- The Nashoba Drama Society will be presenting Chicago on Friday, March 18th and Saturday, March 19th at 7:30 pm and Sunday, March 20th at 2:00 pm
- The cast has been working incredibly hard and the show promises to be a fun and exciting event and will be an excellent way to end this year's theatre season

DECA

- Eleven DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America; a club involved with spreading business education to high school students) Nashoba students have qualified for the DECA state championship in Boston, MA
- They will now compete in the State Career Development Conference at the Marriot Copley Hotel from March 10-12

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Govindan reported no new business other than warrant approval.

Personnel Subcommittee

No Report

Policy Subcommittee

No Report

ESBC

No Report

SPED PAC

Mr. Burke reported the last meeting at SPED Pac was very well attended, the speaker was Elsa Abele. Mr. Burke also reported the Best Buddies at NRHS is starting a program, putting an end to the "R" word.

NEW BUSINESS

School Committee Representation Update

Mr. Wood advised there is a memo and chart in the meeting packet tonight. Mr. Wood reported that Mr. King compiled the data to support the one man one vote ruling and the NRSD regional agreement and bylaws. Mr. Wood reminded the committee this calculation is based on town population not student enrollment and this will be reviewed when the towns report their certified annual census count. Mr. Wood stated we could still add or subtract school committee members but we would still have to stay within the guidelines, so therefore it would still not be the same number of members for each town. Mr. Burke stated a committee might want to be formed to review the regional agreement.

School Choice Update

Mr. Wood provided the school choice charts of anticipated available seats for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Wood reviewed the availability in each town and grade. Ms. Colletti stated she is concerned we are creating a situation in which we will need to add teachers with the existing numbers and adding more. Mr. Govindan stated to keep in mind it is approx. 159 children going into 100 classrooms, using Lancaster as an example, so the impact is not as large as you think. Mr. Govindan also stated that each class has a buffer of 2 and many times those remain unfilled so therefore we should be alarmed about class sizes going up. Ms. Busch stated her concerns are adding in the lower grades and the move ins over the years will catch up and push us over the edge for class size. Mr. Burke stated this is a new protocol and formula and the Superintendent is following the approved protocol, if the committee does not feel comfortable with the number of school choice added this year the protocol will be voted on again next year and the protocol can be revised.

OLD BUSINESS

FY12 Budget Discussion

Mr. Burke advised he is going to allow the Superintendent to provide his thought following the last meeting, he will then allow the School Committee members to present their thoughts. Mr. Burke will then allow the public to present their comments with a limited to three minutes per citizen. Mr. Burke also advised this budget has nothing to do with the teachers contract that is up for renegotiation this year, what we do or not do does affect the negotiations and if this budget were to be voted down we would still be paying the teachers the same amount. Mr. Burke stated we are very mindful there is a great deal of interest on this topic, but you must understand that right now this budget does not anticipate any increase in COLA for next fiscal year.

Mr. Wood stated the purpose the administration has in developing the budget is to best reflect needs of the children to meet the standards we have set, while keeping in mind the economics of the community. Mr. Wood also stated this is a very time intensive and thought out process, the administration spends hours determining what is absolute and necessary. Mr. Wood stated his responsibility is to bring forth a economically sound budget to the school committee, which he believe he has.

Mr. Burke asked the school committee to express if they have any questions or concerns that have not been answered in the previous budget meetings. Ms. Colletti asked for a clarification of the teacher insurance cost in the budget. Mr. Wood replied it is a 70/30 split for medical, the district pays 70% and the employee pays 30% and the dental is a 50/50 split. Mr. Wood stated that moving to the collaborative (MIIA) we have seen savings the last couple years. Mr. Wood stated we have been given a window for the anticipated increase and we have pegged it for the middle, if the rates come through on the higher end it will impact the budget and we will have to transfer funds from another line.

Mr. Burke asked Mr. Wood to provide an overview of the breakdown of the town assessments to the member towns. Mr. Wood replied Bolton is slightly above 2%, Stow is about 1.8% and Lancaster is about 1.7%, with a net overall increase of about 1.6%

Ms. Bushe read the question from a Stow citizen, of "where are we in getting the teachers on the state health care program". Mr. Wood stated we did that analysis before we switched over to MIIA and because of our experience ratio we were not in a position to save.

Mr. Peter Rhodes, Stow resident, stated he is a long time member of CCS and an original member of the Stow building committee and has an understanding of what the SC is here to accomplish and is not here to criticize, he stated his points are to ask the school committee to think of the people who live in Stow, including the elderly and unemployed, 2/3 of taxes go into schools, citizens will see an approx. \$500 increase for the new school. Mr. Rhodes asked why doesn't the district have professional representation for Union negotiations. In closing Mr. Rhodes stated he knows that the administration is doing this, but it time to pear down.

Mr. Martin, Stow resident stated he sees some places the economy is going up and some places it's going down. Mr. Martin asked if the 70/30 insurance is comparable to what other districts pay. Mr. Wood stated that is on the lower side.

Mr. Byron stated he feels slighted that his correspondence was not recognized because all members of the committee received it. Ms. Busch apologized stated she must have overlooked it but will forward to make sure it is included in correspondence. Mr. Byron stated that when you have the numbers in front of you, you use percentages, it might be an eye opener if you use dollar amounts. Mr. Bryon asked if the 70% of the insurance the district pays the norm. Mr. Wood replied it is actually on the low side and has been for years, we are the lowest of all in the collaborative we belong to.

Mr. Lindsay stated he is very disappointed in the budget and the assessments and stated it was very wrong for the school committee to not review the budget as requested at the last meeting and felt they were obligated to do that. Mr. Lindsay thinks it is wrong the town has to cut police, public works, etc to support this budget when the district did not even look at reductions. The school district is 58% of their operational budget.

Mr. Burke stated the bylaws require 2/3 of the school committee members be present to vote the budget and it requires five yes votes to pass budget.

Ms. Federspiel stated that she takes offense to the comment by Mr. Lindsay that the school committee did not pay attention to the requests of the selectman from Lancaster and Bolton, we did indeed, in fact we had the word from you way before anyone put pencil and paper to this budget, we knew the sentiment was do not increase spending and do your best to keep it down and that is what we did and to say that we ignored that request is unfair on both the part of the administration and the school committee because we did listen and we did share that sentiment, we did not add any new programs or positions and were very conscientious and I think it is an unfair statement to say we ignored that. Ms. Federspiel stated, we do have a high tax rate in Bolton, and I think it is unfair to blame it on the school district, I will not deny we are a large part of the budget, but we have to look at the kind of town we are, we are not a town that attracts businesses and get tax dollars from businesses, we are a rural community that values that, are taxes are high but please do not blame the school system, our school system is not outline with other things.

Mr. Govindan stated he would like to agree with Ms. Federspiel, we are rural towns and the school system cannot be blamed for that. Mr. Govindan stated he believes the administration has done it's job and presented a budget that is as pared down as possible.

MOTION

Nancy Federspiel made a motion to approve the FY12 NRSD Budget as presented by the Superintendent in Draft1 in the about of \$45,098,577 with grant offsets of \$1,770,332 with a net budget of \$43,328,245 ; seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, and Mel Govindan **ABSTAINED:** Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. (5-0-1)**

Cori Policy, ADDA, Second Reading

Ms. Federspiel advised there is no change from the first reading; this policy is being presented for a second reading and adoption.

MOTION

Nancy Federspiel made a motion to accept the Cori Policy, policy ADDA for second reading and adoption; seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

Citizens' Comments

Mr. Byron stated he does not believe a long term contract should be negotiated, he suggests a one year contract and stated he thinks the steps should be eliminated.

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to adjourn at 8:07 pm; seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant