

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 4, 2010

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE:** Brian Burke (left at 7:30), Monica CampoBasso, George Babich, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch, Richard Fly and Lynn Colletti

**ABSENT:** Nancy Federspiel

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM in the School Committee Conference Room.

**Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Ryan Nicoll**

**1. Jeans for Teens Fundraiser**

- Sophomore Tamika Isaac held the Jeans for Teens fundraiser, which donates jeans to teens who are homeless and raises awareness about teenage homelessness in the United States.
- Her drive collected over 100 pairs of jeans to be donated to homeless shelters.

**2. Robotics**

- Robotics shipped its robot yesterday for the FIRST Robotics competition, which will be held March 26th-27th
- The competition is held at Boston University's Agghanis Arena
- The robot has to play soccer while maneuvering around speed bumps and score points in 4 goals.
- The team has been working on the robot for many, many hours for the last month and a half, with physics teacher Mr. Fordiani as their chief mentor along with student parents and community members acting as mentors
- The robotics team has programming, fabrication, electronics, and CAD components that work together to create their final product.

**3. Winter Carnival**

- Last Saturday, Student Council and the NRHS Hockey team held a winter carnival in order to raise funds to go towards Rachel's Challenge and other student council events.
- The carnival ran from 9am - 3pm on Saturday, February 27th at Nashoba Regional High School.
- The carnival featured rides, games, food, and prizes. Over one hundred people were in attendance. I personally was in charge of a duck pond with prizes. The carnival was geared towards children and their parents and will be held again next year.

**4. Nashoba EMS annual CPR marathon**

- The Nashoba Cadet EMS program is holding a 24-hour CPR marathon from 5pm March 19th to 5pm March 20th.
- EMS cadets and adults will perform CPR on a mannequin for approximately 30 minutes to an hour and then switch off with another pair of EMTs.
- There will be raffles and games for kids and their families, as well as a Saturday morning community CPR class.
- All EMTs have to raise pledges from the community in order to raise money for this marathon. All money raised will go towards the Red Cross and the Bonozzoli Scholarship, which is awarded to a senior EMT each year for commitment and dedication to the EMT program.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

School Committee went into Executive Session at 6:10 pm for the purpose of discussing negotiation strategy and possible litigation.

### **MOTION**

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:10 pm for the purpose of discussing negotiation strategy to include Michael Wood, George King, and Aleta Masterson; seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

### **MOTION**

Mel Govindan made a motion to reconvene to open session at 6:23 pm; seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

Mr. Wood advised the association has agreed to the following terms for the purpose of amending the timing of wage payments as provided in the collective bargaining contract for Fiscal Year 2011 only. All wage steps and other salary conditions as stated in Article VI will remain the same unless specifically stated below:

1. The salary schedule in terms of total compensation will remain as negotiated. However, a portion of the salary, (approximating one half of the FY 11 COLA) will be paid as a lump sum in a separate paycheck on the last pay day (June 25, 2010) of fiscal year 2010 to any employee to be employed by the District at the outset of the 2010-2011 school year. The exact lump sum amount for each step is indicated in the attached schedule. The balance of the salary due for the year will be paid out over either 22 or 26 weeks as elected by the employee under the provisions of Article VI, section 6.2, during the regular course of the 2010-2011 school year.
2. Any teacher newly employed by the school district effective for the start of the 2010-2011 school year will receive the lump sum portion of the annual pay in a separate paycheck on the same date as their first regular paycheck. Any teacher who leaves the employ of the District after being paid the lump sum check will be subject to the provisions of Article VI, section 6.3.

Mr. Burke advised that this was released to the public in part by a press release issued earlier this week. Mr. Burke also stated this is something we have been discussing for some time and is financial advisable to pay part of the contracted increase for next year this year because we have the money this year and next year is uncertain.

### **MOTION**

Richard Fly made a motion to approve the memorandum agreement between The Nashoba Regional School Committee and the Nashoba Regional Education Association for the purpose of amending the timing of wage payments as provided in the collective bargaining contract for Fiscal Year 2011 only as outlined in the memorandum; seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **FY11 Budget**

Mr. Burke stated that we had productive conversations at the Budget Workshop on February 25<sup>th</sup> and several concerns were raised on items the Superintendent proposed and will be addressed tonight. Mr. Burke also stated that the member of the community have to understand that this budget, if it is accepted tonight, is predicated on receiving state aid at a rate of 5% less than we received this year and there is a possibility that when the state releases their numbers later in the Spring that we are faced with a greater state aide shortfall, in which case we would have to come back to the table.

Mr. Burke asked the committee if any members had any concerns regarding the Hale Principal position, no concerns were raised. Mr. Burke asked if we can be assured this is the last year that Mr. King will serve in two roles. Mr. Wood replied yes.

Mr. Burke asked the committee if any members had any additional concerns regarding the reduction of the six instructional aides, no concerns were raised. Mr. Govindan stated he had requested Ms. Conte attend the last meeting and does not have any concerns after her presentation.

Mr. Burke asked the committee if any members had any additional concerns regarding the 4% salary increase for administrators as indicated in the budget. Ms. CampoBasso stated she thinks this sets a bad precedent and she truly believes that at some point the insanity needs to stop, obviously we are tied to a contract so we cannot bargain with the teachers. Everyone here knows how hard an administrator works, but just because we are employed through state and city budgets I do not think it is fair to feel like we are entitled to have these raises on going year in and year out. Ms. CampoBasso also stated that \$80,000 built into this budget which is a teacher, at some point we need to ask what value is being added to our students. Mr. Burke advised he wanted to remind everyone that last May the administrators agreed to a zero percent net increase, the increase they received was just to cover the increase in insurance costs. Ms. CampoBasso stated she is not advocating for no increase but 4% across the board in this economy, I am having a hard time with that. Mr. Fly stated he also believes that 4% is excess but believes 0% is unfair. Mr. Govindan stated he feels that since they were generous to forego last year, we should leave it, this line being the first we would look at if the budget needs to be adjusted. Mr. Babich stated he supports a middle ground and would like to see some increase between 2-3%. Ms. Colletti said she would like to see some increase, as she feels if not it would be one sided.

Ms. CampoBasso stated she wants to come back to something we discussed weeks ago, she would like to see Mr. King compensated for his dual roles this year, FY10 and would like to know how this is going to be done, he has not been compensated for his roles this year and if you need to use the money to do that, she would fine with that. Mr. Wood replied that he will certainly address this year's compensation in next year's contract negotiation.

Ms. CampoBasso proposed a 3% increase across the board, which would be \$20,000 savings, not a lot to the towns but something. Mr. Wood replied that as you know we did meet the financial objectives of the towns in terms of the overall assessment, we are very tight in terms of any flexibility and as we discussed about aides, in the course of the year we will have some sort of movement, if the time comes necessary to have funds available for a new aides for example, the flexibility of knowing there was \$20,000 in the budget would be comfortable.

Mr. Govindan stated he would like to make it clear to the public that this is the last year that Mr. King will be principal at the Hale school and next year this will be added back into the budget.

Mr. Govindan stated that we have three National Merit Scholarship finalists this year (Samantha Lindsay, Samantha Squires, and Zachary Wassal which proves that even with tough economical budget times we are still providing an excellent education to our students.

## MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the FY11 Budget as presented by the Superintendent and administration to include assessments recommended; seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

### **SY2010-2011 Calendar**

Mr. Wood stated the calendar on sharepoint is the same calendar reviewed at the last meeting; we have been talking about this at length, trying to address the conference piece around the fall and the week of Thanksgiving.

Ms. CampoBasso stated her concerns is that 11/22 – 23 are not indicated as no school days on the calendar that the public has been viewing and stated she thinks we should make this clear on the calendar and give the public another week to review it. Mr. Govindan stated he disagrees and believes that the calendar has been posted long enough and it clearly states PD days. Mr. Fly and Ms. Colletti stated they agree with Ms. CampoBasso.

Linda Hathaway, Stow Town Clerk, addressed the committee and requested that November 2<sup>nd</sup> be a PD day to accommodate the citizens voting needs. Mr. Wood stated he is convinced that the district can manage the traffic and needs of the election. Ms. CampoBasso stated she would like to revisit a PD day on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms Colletti advised the ESBC has not discussed staging as of yet and once they do set up, you cannot enter so there would be no parking in this area.

Ms. Busch stated with the building project in Stow she would like to see November 2<sup>nd</sup> as a PD day and the Thanksgiving week as ½ days as she feels that you will lose momentum for December.

The committee consensus is to hold the vote and the Superintendent will present two revised versions with the suggestions made tonight at the next meeting.

### **Audit FY09**

## MOTION

Maureen Busch made a motion to accept the FY09 Audit as presented at the January 21, 2010 School Committee Meeting; seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Operations SubCommittee**

No Report

#### **Policy SubCommittee**

Mr. Wood reported they did meet and will have two policies at the next meeting, graduation requirements and school choice.

**SPED PAC**

No Report

**ESBC**

Ms. Colletti reported they met and casted to two votes, one was to do a probe on the existing septic system, the second was the Apple Barn memorial, we voted for an 18" high wall.

**APPROVAL OF THE February 4, 2010 and February 25, 2010 Minutes**

**MOTION**

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2010 and February 25, 2010, as amended and seconded by Richard Fly **IN FAVOR:** George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

**APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF March 5, 2010**

<b><u>WARRANT NO.</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
3062	03/05/10	VENDOR	\$ 423,952.19
3063	03/05/10	BENEFIT	\$ 525,763.04
3064	03/05/10	PAYROLL	\$1,189,521.33

**MOTION**

Richard Fly made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 3/4/10 and noted above and seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

MASC Bulletin  
Day on the Hill Notice

**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:

- FY2011 Budget Overview
- Calendar Proposal
- District Professional Development Day, March 5<sup>th</sup>
- Legislator Visit
- Teacher of the Year Nominee

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Dave Lindsay, Bolton asked when existing contract with the teachers expires. Mr. Wood replied June 30, 2011. Mr. Lindsay asked if a teacher was paid the lump sum and leaves, is there language in the agreement that would allow the district to recoup that money. Mr. Wood replied yes there is. Mr. Lindsay would also like to note that the \$20,000 saves from going from 4% to 3% on the administrators salary increase would mean approx \$4.00 per household and feels that is significant.

**MOTION**

George Babich made a motion to adjourn at 7:41pm seconded by Richard Fly **IN FAVOR:** George Babich, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, Maureen Busch and Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

The meeting adjourned 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aleta Masterson  
Executive Assistant

**NOTES**