

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

June 11, 2009

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan and Maureen Busch

ABSENT: Richard Fly

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM in the Superintendent's Office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Committee went into Executive Session at 6:05 pm for the purpose of negotiation strategy.

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to enter into an Executive Session at 6:05 pm for the purpose of negotiation strategy to include Michael Wood, George King, Monica Visco and Aleta Masterson.; seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR: IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to reconvene to open session at 6:38 pm; seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

Meeting reconvened at 6:46 pm in the Auditorium at the Florence Sawyer School.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON BUDGET IMBALANCE

Mr. Burke opened the public budget discussion by providing an overview of the state budget projections and steps that lead to the Superintendent's actions this past week. Mr. Burke advised that the school committee has not made a decision, the letters were sent in accordance with the contact for notification and the budget is still in flux until the state budget is announced.

Mr. Wood provided an overview of the areas that we can expect the state cut; transportation, chapter 70, circuit break, and stated we have to be conscious of the revenue picture of our member towns. Mr. Wood reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that is currently on the district website and was provided to the staff at the staff meetings last year.

Following the presentation; Mr. Burke stated the projections of state aid were based on the recommendations made in February and March. Mr. Burke stated that the union contract does not allow us to unilaterally cut or freeze salaries as you have seen in recent news with regards to the Boston Globe. Mr. Burke advised that the Superintendent will provide an update on the discussions with Union Leadership.

Mr. Wood advised that the Union Leadership has declined to meet with the District Administration for discussions, stating they were waiting to see what the state budget will reveal.

Public Comments/Questions

Bolton Resident - When will we know when the Union will discuss or have accepted no pay raises? Mr. Wood replied he does not have a date; it is up to the union, as of today they have declined to meet.

Bolton Resident – Teachers received notices in the middle of the day and were expected to return to the class; do you feel it was the best way to handle it.? Mr. Wood replied that the letters were not delivered to the schools until 1:30 and stated that there was a plan in place to have someone return to the classroom if the teacher felt they could not and given was reported back of what was said to students, yes I would definitely handle it differently if this was ever to happen again.

Bolton Resident – Did you bid the health insurance plans for the district, it seems like a very high increase percentage and why offer the higher priced plan? Mr. King replied that we are required by law to offer the indemnity plan and that we have had very good success in moving staff off this plan onto the less expensive plans.

Stow Resident – stated the news released today is that there will be \$500M for state stimulus; do you have plans to apply for these funds? Mr. Wood replied that they are funneled through chapter 70 which the district is not eligible. Can we wait until the state budget is announced? Mr. Wood replied, we certainly could wait as we have a passed budget, but the challenge is gearing up for the start of school year.

Stow Resident – requested the names and email addresses of the Union Leadership, she believes that they should hear the voice of the citizens as many families in the district have lost jobs or not received pay raises in years or have given them up to save positions at their employers and feels the union should do the same.

Bolton Resident– requested better notification of meetings; he stated that he did not receive his notification until 6:05 tonight. Mr. Burke replied that we meet every two weeks and the schedule is published on the website for the entire year. Resident asked for Unit A & C Union Leadership be invited to a meeting so they can hear their side of the negotiations story.

Bolton resident – asked if 3% freeze is being asked for all employees not just union? Mr. Wood replied it would be all employees union and non union.

Stow Resident- feels Stow is bearing the most of the cuts, what is your rational on that? Mr. Wood replied that as stated it was based on class size across the district.

Bolton Resident – asked after the cuts are done can you tell me how many people are in central office? Mr. Wood replied with the naming all titles of staff in Central Office. Resident then asked what does a curriculum coordinator do? Mr. Wood replied they coordinate the curriculum across the district. Resident suggested removing SBR from the professional development calendar since the citizens are against it.

Bolton Resident– have you as a School Committee voted to approve the SBR? Mr. Wood replied no there has been no vote, as it's in the pilot, (fact gather) stage. Resident suggested we look at athletics for cuts.

Lancaster Resident - why did it go to the middle school so quickly? Mr. Wood replied we have the flexibility there with the class size.

Stow Resident – wants to hear more about how the impact of the cuts will affect the current teaching model.

Bolton Resident– would like to compliment the school committee and administration for responding very quickly to a deteriorate economic situation and believes we have to start with plan A, stating that more than half the households in Bolton do not utilize the school system, he does not feel anymore financial burden should be placed on the tax payers.

Stow Resident– asked we don't have to cut any teachers if the union agrees to pay freezes, correct? Mr. Burke replied yes that is true and explained the process of the union makeup, stating the School Committee cannot speak with the teachers we must deal with the union leadership.

Bolton – wants to hear from the union leadership. What is plan B does it involve any cuts. Mr. Wood replied it only deals with vacant positions. If any positions could be saved would they be teachers – Mr. Wood replied yes the same way the positions were selected they would be reinstated.

Bolton Resident - can we go back to the town and ask for money? Mr. Wood replied yes we could, the FinComs for the member towns would have to agree. Ms. CampoBasso stated the towns are not in a position to ask for more money and would not be in support of going back to the towns.

Stow Resident – asked why we can't charge for buses or is there other costs we can charge or way the citizens can contribute. Mr. Burke stated that regional school district are not permitted by law to charge for busing. Mr. Wood stated we can certainly take a look at fees, the school committee had voted last year not to raise fees but we could relook at this, the problem with fees is they are directed toward the activity/sport they are charged for and can only be used to support that activity/sport.

Stow Resident – stated plan A and B are both not acceptable and the non union admin staff should automatically take the 3% freeze and urged the School Committee to go back to the drawing board to come up with a plan C.

Beacon Villager Reported – asked how much will the district save by not moving forward with the SBR. Mr. Wood replied there is a minimal cost which has not been determined.

Bolton Resident – stated as someone very unhappy with plan A I would like to know what the plan moving forward is. Mr. Burke replied we will take all suggestions into consideration and everyone is invited to present their ideas at the budget workshop next Thursday night, June 18th.

Stow Resident – stated you should consider the cost of loosing students to school choice, charter schools if you proceed with Plan A as she as heard of parents who will pull their children out of the Nashoba Regional School District if Plan A is approved by the School Committee.

Bolton Resident – asked, do you believe that our voice is being heard by the union leadership? Mr. Wood replied that there are members in the audience tonight that can relay your voice to the leadership.

Meeting recessed for break at 8:55 pm.

Meeting reconvened at 9:15 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF June 12, 2009

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2991	6/12/09	VENDOR	\$ 313,661.62
2992	6/12/09	BENEFIT	\$ 42,374.23
2993	6/12/09	PAYROLL	\$1,113,509.14

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated 6/11/09 and noted above and seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti,

APPROVAL OF THE May 28, 2009 MINUTES

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 2009, as amended and seconded by Nancy Federspiel **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, and Maureen Busch **ABSTAINED:** Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-1)**

CORRESPONDENCE

MASC Bulletins

Budget Imbalance Correspondence

DESE Press Release

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:

- *Update on Joint Conference*
- *District Improvement Plan*
- *Deficit Reserve Fund Update*
- *Athletics*
- *Hall of Fame*
- *PowerLunch*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Nicoll

1. The TAMY Awards -
Nashoba received 15 nominations for its March production of the musical *My Fair Lady*. It won 6 categories: Melissa Hoffman for Best Choreographer, Best Stage Crew, Best Playbill, Best Lobby Display, Rebecca Shoer for Best Cameo Performance, and Kyle Mendes for Best Supporting Actor.
2. Senior Awards Night –
Senior Awards Night was held last week in order to recognize high scoring students in senior classes and to award scholarships and other honorary awards. Many awards and scholarships were given out. Underclassmen award night will be held Monday, June 15th
3. Senior Banquet –
Senior Banquet was held on Thursday, June 4th. Almost the entire class was in attendance. Senior banquet is free to all seniors who have paid their class dues. It was a great evening of dancing and singing at Wedgewood Pines in Stow.
4. Graduation –
Graduation was held last Sunday on the track outside Nashoba. It was a gorgeous, sunny afternoon, and all the students were very excited. Valedictorian Marjie Lam, Salutatorian Ramesh Govindan, President Meg Ryan, and Chieftains' speaker Lauren Nisotel made speeches.
5. MCAS Science –
Engineering and Biology MCAS tests were taken last weeks by sophomores and freshman on Thursday and Friday. These MCAS tests are required for graduation from high school.
6. Robotics Club –
The Robotics Club, not directly affiliated with the FIRST Robotics Team, competed in an interscholastic competition at Oakmont in a club setting. The competition was to create a robot which could play mini-golf on a mini-golf course. The Nashoba robot won by 11 strokes, and is now featured at Mulligan's Mini Golf course in Sterling.

7. Nashoba Math Team –

The Math team recently competed in a national math competition at Penn State. Our school competed with 2000 of the best math students in the country. Steven Tang and Madeline Jenkins were top scorers in their division. At the Worcester Country Math team, the freshman team placed first and the Varsity team placed 5th. The Varsity team went on to place 7th in the State.

7. Athletics –

Boys' track was the District Champions, and went on to finish 5th in the state competition. Junior Coby Horowitz won the 2 mile and Senior Joe Doyle got 2nd in the 800 at the state competition. Girls' track placed 5th at the District Championship. 5 girls qualified for the all-state meet, of which Rachel Busch and Casey Teska qualified for the all-New England meet. Girls' softball was 10th seat in District tournament, winning three upset games and losing 2-0 in the District Championship game. Baseball won the annual umpire sportsmanship award, which will give a \$750 scholarship for a baseball senior who will be determined.

Operations Subcommittee, by Mr. Burke

No Report

Policy Subcommittee

No Report

SPED PAC, by Mr. Burke

No Report

ESBC by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood reported MSBA voted and approved Pompo to move forward, the biggest hurdle with MSBA is the enrollment numbers which we are working on with them.

NEW BUSINESS

Signatory Authorization for ESBC Member

Mr. Burke advised that the MSBA is sending documents to the school committee regarding the Stow building project; not realizing this is a town project and recommends we authorize Lynn Colletti to sign all documents MSBA/ESBA related. Mr. Wood stated he would respectfully disagree and believes that the Chair should sign.

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to give Lynn Colletti signatory authorization to sign MSBA documents as an ESBC member seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Mel Govindan, Lynn Colletti, George Babich and Maureen Busch **ABSTAINED:** Monica CampoBasso and Nancy Federspiel **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-2)**

District Improvement Plan

Mr. Wood advised the new plan is included in your packet and after the budget has been finalized the School Committee should revisit.

Strategic Planning for June 18th Meeting

Mr. Burke asked the committee for their suggestions on how we prepare for the next meeting. The committee discussed their opinions for the strategy for the next meeting. Ms. CampoBasso asked if the union leadership attended tonight, Mr. Wood replied yes they were in the audience. Ms. CampoBasso stated what we heard

tonight was pretty loud and clear, and requested the Superintendent to go back and look at other positions not just the middle school model. Ms. Federspiel stated she thinks the challenge is going to be using next week's meeting productively and not a repeat of tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

NOTES