

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

September 3, 2009

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Maureen Busch, Mel Govindan 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 6:00 PM in the School Committee Conference Room

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF September 4, 2009

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3019	9/04/09	VENDOR	\$229,639.85
3020	9/04/09	BENEFIT	\$ 23,762.59
3021	9/04/09	PAYROLL	\$999,788.98

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated 9/3/09 and noted above and seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Maureen Busch, Mel Govindan and Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE August 20, 2009 Minutes

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the minutes of August 20, 2009 as amended and seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Maureen Busch, Mel Govindan and Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

CORRESPONDENCE

None

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:

- *Student Performance*
- *Facilities Update*
- *Add / Renovation Project in Stow*
- *Teaching and Learning*
- *Finance Update*
- *Human Resources Update*
- *Search Process for New Principals*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Nicoll

- Athletics
 - Over 350 students competing in Nashoba fall athletics, more than 1/3 of the student population.
 - Fall sports all officially began last week
 - Scrimmages have been going on all this week, first games next Tuesday for golf. Field Hockey has their first game at home on Tuesday against Ashland.
 - Two new varsity coaches: Steve Beckwith – Boys XC, Holly Boulay – Cheerleading.
- Freshman and New Student to the District Orientation
 - 98% of freshman and new students came voluntary to the 2 hour day last Wednesday
 - Students met their homeroom teachers and began learning procedures such as those in the handbook.
 - Seventeen upperclassmen volunteers as tour guides and ice cream social helpers.
- First Day: Some Changes
 - We've continued with rotating schedule, but the long block has been moved to lunch periods in order to create 4 lunches to accommodate the large student body (currently at 994 students and still rising).

Operations Subcommittee, by Mr. Burke

Mr. Burke reported that he sent an email to Steve Cullinane, President of the Association requesting a meeting, Mr. Burke will report back when Mr. Cullinane accepts or declines the meeting request. Mr. Burke reported he received an email from the Town Administrator of Maynard, Mr. Burke stated that he replied stating the Nashoba Regional was the utmost respect for Maynard and it's students but that they have some threshold issue they may want to address first, but he would be happy to meet.

Policy Subcommittee

No Report

SPED PAC, by Mr. Burke

No Report

ESBC by Mr. Wood

Ellen Sturgis, Chair of ESBC, provided an overview of the Stow Building Project, detailing the timeline, and the next step in the process. Ms. Sturgis reviewed in detail the architectural drawing Site Plan Option D, explaining the layout of the school, the parking lots, how the drop off and pick up would work, surrounding wetlands, outside play areas and fields and classroom/room layout. Ms. Sturgis also reviewed what would be done with the existing buildings including the old stone building which would be taken down with pieces of the old structure incorporated in new building. Ms. Sturgis stated that this project would be voted at Town Meeting on Oct. 18th. Mr. Wood stated the School Committee will have to pass a vote on the project.

Mr. Burke thanked Ms. Sturgis and the ESBC for their efforts

NEW BUSINESS

Deficit Bond Renewal

Mr. King reviewed the deficit bond bids. Mr. Burke asked Mr. King to review the origin of this debt for the new school committee members. Mr. King stated it is a result of a 2002 budget debt, original debt being 3.8 million.

MOTION

George Babich made a motion to approve the \$1,225,000 deficit bond renewal awarded to Eastern Bank as outlined in the memo from Charlotte Noponen to the School Committee dated 8/27/09 seconded by Mel

Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Maureen Busch, Mel Govindan and Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

Late Bus Request (Fall Only)

Mr. Wood stated the second late bus was eliminated at the high school this year, we have had requests from parents to reinstate the 6:00 pm bus in the Fall only. Ms. CampoBasso questioned what the ridership was for this bus. Mr. Wood stated it was high, primarily with Stow students. Ms. CampoBasso questioned if it was worth it to offer to just Stow. Mr. Fly asked "if we don't reinstate, is this going to keep a student from participating in athletics". Mr. Wood replied it possibly could. Ms. Sturgis asked if the committee does decide to cancel the later bus, if a consideration would be made to move the first late bus to 4:30 or 5:00. Mr. Burke stated he does not want to make a decision on assumptions and questioned if we can stop the use of one bus if we find that a route does not have enough ridership. Mr. Burke requested that the bus be reinstated for a two week trial phase and findings be reported back at the next meeting.

MOTION

Richard Fly made a motion to approve the reinstatement of the high school 6:00 pm late bus for a trial period ending 9/17/09, to be extended if trial period results warrant the extension seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Richard Fly, Maureen Busch, Mel Govindan and Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

School Bus Runs

Mr. Burke stated that the school bus routes have been under active reorganization by the administration. Mr. Wood stated that this is the first week with the new bus carrier. Mr. Wood stated that the administration is meeting with First Student tomorrow to discuss the problematic bus issues that have been brought to their attention. Mr. Wood stated there are only 2 or 3 buses in Stow that will have a major route change.

Missy Reed, Stow Resident, stated she did an analysis of bus 11, stating that it is a 46 minute ride, there are 33 stops on bus 11. Ms. Reed stated that the 45 minute bus ride is a burden to the families and she feels as though that route is a "catch all".

Kathy O'Keefe, Stow Resident stated that her children have an 84 minute round trip ride. Ms. O'Keefe also stated that the bus driver on bus 26 is not following the printed route. Ms. O'Keefe feels the entire routing system needs to be reevaluated so that children are not moved from bus to bus.

Mr. Babich asked Ms. Reed and Ms. O'Keefe if they have any solutions for this problem. Ms. Reed stated she believes the "zig-zag" route needs to be a more direct route.

Ms. O'Keefe asked when the soonest possible change would be. Mr. Wood replied it would be next week as the meeting with the bus company is scheduled for Friday.

Ms. Busch questioned why kids are riding on different buses in the morning/afternoon. Mr. King stated that there are buses that are maxed out in certain areas so therefore reassigning is needed so that the buses are not carrying more students than allowed.

Mr. Fly asked if students are taking different buses in all three towns or is just in Stow. Mr. Wood replied we have the same situation in Bolton on a couple routes.

Ms. Sturgis questioned if we can encourage more cluster stopping, stating she has noticed houses right next door to each other and the bus stops at each house. Mr. Wood stated that is certainly something we keep encouraging.

Ms. Colletti questioned if the fairness issue (first on, first off) will be resolved when meeting with the bus company. Mr. Wood stated it will be discussed.

Mr. Burke stated we need to bring to the Pompositticut Street issue to the attention of the bus company. Mr. Wood replied that he was informed this afternoon that the bus company has worked out a solution for turning the bus around, but the bus will still stop at number 33.

OLD BUSINESS

District Improvement Plan

Mr. Wood stated that the plan in the packet is the district improvement plan for next year and that we are required by law to have a district improvement plan. Mr. Wood explained that this was developed using the smart goals planning process and was built using our existing plan and moving forward the work we are ready to do. Mr. Wood provided the draft plan that was developed by the administration at the 2009 Summer Admin Retreat and reviewed each category. Ms. CampoBasso stated she is not seeing a lot of carryover from last year's plan. Mr. Wood replied that Comprehensive Reporting System (CRS) is still on the plan and Foreign Language at Middle School was removed during the budget process. Ms. CampoBasso stated that the At Risk program is #5 on the new district improvement plan and does not want to see that "go away". Mr. Wood replied that is embedded in the bulk of identify instructional strategies that will improve learning strategic goal and this is foremost in the mind of the people that sit on that committee. Mr. Babich stated that assessments are ongoing that lead to the next step in the process, so therefore he feels the plan is right in line.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Burke stated that he feels, as a citizen and a school board member, he would have liked to have been given more notification on the Obama speech to students scheduled for next week.

MOTION

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

NOTES