

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

September 16, 2010

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch (arrived at 6:10), Kathy Owen, and Reta Rupich

ABSENT: Mel Govindan, George Babich

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM in the Superintendent's Office.

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda included:

September 17, 2010 Warrants

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3103	09/16/10	VENDOR	\$ 630,525.40
3104	09/16/10	BENEFIT	\$ 241,406.78
3105	09/16/10	PAYROLL	\$1,131,788.24

Minutes of the September 2, 2010 meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Athletic Screening Presentation

Mr. Wood introduced Tom O'Brien; Mr. O'Brien presented a powerpoint presentation detailing the new legislation that was passed on athletic screening and student notification of previous head injuries and the steps that Nashoba is taking to become compliant with this new legislation. Ms. Federspiel asked if anything is different this year. Mr. O'Brien stated the heart screening is something that was not really covered previously. Mr. Burke asked Mr. O'Brien if he was aware if any other school systems offered heart screening. Mr. O'Brien stated that not that he is aware of. Mr. Burke requested Mr. O'Brien to research the Harvard Study on this and report back to the committee on their findings.

MCAS Results 2010 Presentation

Mr. Wood introduced Tanya Sekhon and John Tucker who attended the meeting to present a presentation on the 2009-2010 ELA and Math MCAS results. Mr. Tucker provided an explanation of what AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) is, which is the tracking of progress points in accordance with state set thresholds, which mandate that by 2014 all students meet 100% of state standards. Ms. Sekhon and Mr. Tucker reviewed the difference between aggregated and sub groups. Mr. Burke requested that the next presentation include a comparison of area schools. Mr. Tucker replied that information is currently being compiled and will be reported out in a future meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Citizen Emails regarding School Choice

School Choice Discussion

Mr. Burke asked the committee if they had any objections to address the correspondence received at this time. No objections from the committee.

Ms. Federspiel asked for clarification if the vote can be moved up instead of waiting until spring. Mr. Wood replied that yes that is why the Policy Committee is reviewing this policy now with an anticipated vote in December in preparation for budget deliberations.

Ms. Federspiel stated that if she summarizes the correspondence she has received she can safely state that no one is pleased with the number of school choice students entering the district this year.

Ms. Rupich stated that in the middle school level there are classes with 28 when the guidelines are 20-24, how that decision is made. Mr. Wood replied that is a school based decision on how the classes are clustered that happens without school choice playing a role in this. Committee discussed class size.

Heather Tanashian, Bolton resident, stated her daughter is in 7th grade, and is experiencing class sizes beyond the district guidelines and questioned if we have all this money coming in from school choice, why can't a seventh grade Spanish teacher be added. Mr. Wood replied we are a district so that would be a programmatic change we would have to add to all three towns and it was decided during budget deliberations those types of changes could not be made when we were experiencing layoffs.

Denise Murphy, Bolton resident, stated she has twins in the 6th grade and does not want to see class sizes become any larger than they are currently are and asked if she can become part of the committee that determines that. Mr. Wood replied it is a school committee subcommittee, but meetings are public and she is welcome to attend.

Ms. Federspiel stated as a wrap up for this conversion, the policy committee will review the school choice policy at the next meeting on October 7th and stated she would like the discretion of how many seats are open each year be given to the school committee.

Ex-Officio Report by Lizzy Cross

Sports

- Soccer and football have not started off the seasons with wins (although when varsity played against Fitchburg, it was a very close game)
- JV football and cross-country, however, have started off with wins
- Clinton football game will be tomorrow at Nashoba, and most sports/clubs are holding a spirit day tomorrow in order to garner enthusiasm (though not much is needed as we will be playing our rivals)

Book Fair

- There will be a book fair held at the Leominster Barnes and Noble on October 7th
- Nashoba students will be volunteering to read to children there and it promises to be a fun night

Guidance

- Guidance has finally opened up to students with non-scheduling issues, although not all scheduling issues have been resolved
- Seniors began their Senior Guidance seminars on the 14th where guidance will walk them through the college process

Drama Society

- The drama society has chosen the cast for the fall play, Noises Off
- Once again, the office was bombarded with curious drama students until the cast list was posted (announcement?)

SAT

- The SATs will be on October 9, however, Nashoba does not host this date despite the popularity of it for early decision seniors
- Possibly look into it for next year?

New Rules

- Phones: cell phones are allowed in the cafeteria, but more stringent rules will put in place for if cell phones are found in use outside of the cafeteria
- Headphones: headphones will now be taken away from students if they are found in use in the hallways/in classrooms
- Dress-code: slight changes have been made to the dress-code including a change in a requirement of 2-inch sleeves to a requirement of 1-inch sleeves

SSAC Grant

- One of the members of the State Student Advisory council was able to get a grant for \$15,000 towards drop-out prevention information across the state
- More information will be presented once the program gets on its feet

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
- Finance Update
- Human Resources Update
- Professional Development
- School Committee Sub Committee meetings update
- School Committee role in calendar development
- Teaching and Learning – MCAS Performance
- Teaching and Learning – Substitute Orientation
- Tri-Town

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance SubCommittee

No Report

Personnel SubCommittee

Mr. Burke reported that the committee will be meeting on September 30th.

Policy SubCommittee

Ms. Federspiel reported the committee met last Thursday and will be presenting the Acceptable Use Policy (internet use) tonight for first reading. Ms. Federspiel stated that the committee also discussed the school choice policy and will resume work on this policy at the next meet on October 7th, and the building use policy will also be reviewed at this meeting.

ESBC

Ms. Colletti reported the committee held a discussion on 4 additional classroom and it was determined the enrollment does not support that.

SPED PAC

Mr. Burke reported the unified soccer program started this weekend is off to a very good start. Mr. Burke advised the first meeting for SPEC PAC is September 28th at 7:15 at the Luther Burbank Middle School.

Acceptable Use Policy (First Reading)

Mr. Wood advised the Acceptable Use Policy is being brought forward tonight for the first reading, this policy revision is to bring the district in compliance with the new CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act).

MOTION

Lynn Colletti made a motion to accept the first reading of the Acceptable Use Policy, Policy # IJNDB seconded by Reta Rupich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

OLD BUSINESS

None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Dave Lindsay asked how much money is in the budget from school choice this year. Mr. King replied \$100,000. Mr. Lindsay then asked if the number for next year is \$750,000. Mr. King replied is he would not recommend using that number, but yes it is conceivable. Mr. Lindsay stated he would be against any school funded heart screening; he believes that is a family decision.

Dr. Tuttle, Bolton resident stated he is a Harvard grad and will research this and report back at the next school committee meeting.

MOTION

Maureen Busch made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm seconded by Lynn Colletti **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant