

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

September 2, 2010

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

ABSENT: 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 6:01PM in the Superintendent's Office.

MOTION

Nancy Federspiel made a motion to add the topic of School Choice to the 9/2/10 agenda under New Business seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Mel Govindan and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda included:

September 3, 2010 Warrants

| <u>WARRANT NO.</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 3103 | 09/03/10 | VENDOR | \$ 153,602.20 |
| 3104 | 09/03/10 | BENEFIT | \$ 17,404.28 |
| 3105 | 09/03/10 | PAYROLL | \$1,019,211.70 |

Minutes of the August 19, 2010 meeting

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to remove the minutes of 8/19/10 from the consent agenda to amend to include that "Mr. Burke stated at the beginning of the 8/19/10 meeting his appreciation for the work done over the summer by the Finance SubCommittee, especially Mr. Govindan and Ms. Busch, of approving the warrants, minutes approved after amendment seconded by Kathy Owen **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Mel Govindan and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

CORRESPONDENCE

Citizen Email regarding School Dude

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 Reading Book
- Teaching and Learning – NCLB Requirements
- Teaching and Learning – Orientation
- Transportation Update

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Lizzy Cross

New Year:

- A new year means a new class, and although this year's freshmen are not the largest grade in the school (that award, I believe, goes to the juniors), it is larger than last year's senior grade
- Due to this influx of students, there was a shortage of lockers, necessitating the installation of new locker units in the Social Studies hallway and next to the Media Center (due to the small width of these hallways in comparison to others around the school, this does lead to some major traffic jams on the second floor)
- Although we now have over 1,000 lockers in the school, with the seniors this year being the smallest grade in Nashoba and upcoming class sizes larger than ever, this will continue to be a problem in years ahead as our school size now is approximately 992

Schedules:

- As always the beginning of the year brings with it schedule conflicts, causing back-ups in the guidance department (at the beginning of the day on Tuesday, the first day of school, there was a line for guidance assistance going out of guidance and down the hallway towards the main foyer)
- This causes a problem as students without major schedule concerns are put on the back-burner despite the fact that their schedule is incorrect or they have other pressing issues
- It should clear up soon, however, and students will be able to go to guidance for needs other than scheduling

New Initiative: Nashoba Reads

- As a new initiative at Nashoba this year, all English classes will be expected to hold a free-reading period every Friday (or every other Friday for classes whose teachers determine they would be losing too much class time with this) in order to foster reading outside of the classroom
- As a student myself, and from talking to other students, it is clear that this program has a large support base and will be received positively, and not just for the fact that we are missing a class period. Students that I've talked to (and granted these are mostly AP/Honors English students) are very excited simply to have the opportunity to pursue books that are not being taught in class, not being over analyzed, and that they will not have to write a paper on. A book they can simply read for the joy of reading.

Drama Society News

- Over the summer, the drama society manned its normal face-painting booth at the Bolton Fair
- This year we were able to raise over \$600 to go towards production costs for the fall play and spring musical
- Auditions for the fall play will be September 13th and 14th

Finance SubCommittee

No Report

Personnel SubCommittee

No Report

Policy SubCommittee

No Report

SPED PAC

Mr. Burke reported that unified soccer will begin next week. Mr. Wood report that the NRSD Best Buddies chapter has been recognized as an Outstanding Chapter by the national organization. To grasp the magnitude of this, our group of students and advisors are in the company of only 20 other programs in the United States. Nashoba's chapter was also the only one recognized amongst the 67 chapters in Massachusetts.

ESBC by Ms. Colletti

Mr. Wood reported the project is going well with a few minor issues included some complications with the forced main and explained those complications.

NEW BUSINESS

BAN Approval

Mr. King reviewed the Bond Renewal memo from Charlotte Noponen to Mr. King. Mr. Govindan provided the background of this Bond renewal for the new members of the school committee.

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to approve the sale of a \$760,000 1.15 percent State Qualified General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note (the "Note") of the District dated September 10, 2010 and payable September 1, 2011, to Eastern Bank at par and accrued interest, if any as outlined in the memo from Charlotte Noponen to the School Committee dated 8/26/10 seconded by Reta Rupich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Mel Govindan and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

Alice Eaton Grant Approval

Mr. King stated that the Hale School applied for the grant to equip a fitness room at Hale Middle School.

MOTION

Nancy Federspiel made a motion to accept a grant in the amount of \$3250 award to Hale Middle School by the Alice Eaton Fund Inc for the purchase of a treadmill seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Mel Govindan and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

School Choice

Ms. Federspiel stated she was surprised to see that there were 64 school choice students at FSS and questioned if the money received for each student goes to the school directly where the student attends or if it was distributed throughout the district. Mr. Wood replied the revenues are not added directly to the school budget but is in a revolving school choice account which could be used for adding teachers if needs demand such. Mr. Wood stated he would like everyone to keep in mind that with the added students the district is still within it's class size guidelines. Ms. Federspiel stated she is not sure this is what we want for our schools, to reach maximum class size. Ms. Federspiel stated she does not feel that the total number of seats that were going to be opened was clearly explained during the voting of this policy last year. Ms. Colletti requested this be added to the agenda for the next Policy SubCommittee. Mr. King explained in detail the financial aspect of students that choice in and out of the district. Ms. Colletti requested more information regarding students who "choice out". The committee had an open discussion and it was decided the policy will be reviewed by the Policy SubCommittee. Mr. Govindan stated he would like to attend the policy meeting when this policy is reviewed if Mr. Babich is unable to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Dave Lindsay, Bolton Selectmen, asked if there were any enrollment numbers available yet. Mr. Wood replied that accurate enrollment numbers will not be available until Oct. 1st. Mr. Lindsay stated that Congresswoman Nikki Tsongas sent out a budget memo that did not list Nashoba but did list Nashoba Tech, Mr. Lindsay asked if they were one in the same. Mr. Wood replied they are not Nashoba Valley is a technical school in Westford. Mr. Lindsay stated that regarding the school choice situation, if Bolton had to add new class space to accommodate choice students there would be a big push back from the community.

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 pm seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Mel Govindan and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant