

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 30, 2009

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Lynn Colletti(arrived at 6:24), Richard Fly, Mel Govindan, David Horne(arrived at 6:10) and Ex-Officio Ryan Nicoll

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cathy Giunta called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM in the Superintendent's Office.

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF MAY 1, 2009

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2979	5/01/09	VENDOR	\$ 339,031.58
2980	5/01/09	BENEFIT	\$ 40,947.87
2981	5/01/09	PAYROLL	\$1,062,446.53

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated April 30, 2009 and noted above and seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Mel Govindan, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE April 16, 2009 MINUTES

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the minutes of April 16, 2009, as amended and seconded by Don Adams **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Mel Govindan, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

CORRESPONDENCE

Misc citizen correspondence regarding the Comprehensive Report System.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wood recognized and thanked Ms. Giunta, Mr. Adams and Mr. Horne for their years of service and dedication to the community by serving on the School Committee.

Mr. Wood reported on the Comprehensive Report System forum held on April 29th. approx. 125 citizens attended the two hour forum. There was a strong theme in comments regarding not making any changes at the High School in regards to grading and transcripts, citizens expressed strong feels of being part of any decision making process on this topic.

Mr. Burke asked the committee, does it make sense to form a subcommittee to monitor or should a SC member be part of a committee. Mr. Fly replied he believes this should be part of policy subcommittee.

(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:

- State Budget Update
- Local Budget
- Upcoming Presentations to School Committee
 - *Harvard Astrophysics Laboratory Internship*
 - *Nicaragua Medical Trip*
 - *Pirozzolo Experiential Learning*
 - *Renzulli Learning*
- School Choice
- Comprehensive Reporting System
- Annual Town Meeting
- 11th Annual Children's Day Fair
- Swine Flu Epidemic

Ms. Specht and Ms. Allaire provided a presentation on the Nicaragua Medical Trip and Pirozzolo Experiential Learning, Erin Salder from Nashoba, the winner of Dr. Lisse contest, reported on her experiences on the trip and what she took back from the trip. Ryan Nicoll who also went on the trip provided his insight of the trip, the impression that stood out the most were the people of Nicaragua, they are not materialistic and very patience. Mr. Nicoll also state that this experience also brought awareness to him for the dire need for better global health care.

Nicaragua Medical Trip

Dr. Brian Lisse coordinates a trip to Nicaragua each year. Dr. Lisse goes each year to Nicaragua (taking medical students) to provide health care to remote villages. About five (5) years ago he opened this up to NRHS students and in fact funded the first trip himself. Being selected to go is competitive - there is a medical lecture portion and an exam, which is taken in Spanish. About three (3) years ago he opened it up to other towns and it was last year that the top scorers were tied – they decided to split the cost between them and cover the other half out of their own pocket. This year Dr. Lisse has opened the trip to other interested students as long as they can cover the costs themselves.

Pirozzolo Experiential Learning

The Pirozzolo Family finances an experiential learning opportunity every year for a junior. It is for a student in the summer between their junior and senior year. The project must have some connection back to the school or community, and a faculty mentor – other than that it is wide open. The Pirozzolo's evaluate the student proposals and interview the student/faculty team. Last year Brianna Smith and Leah Sutton were awarded \$2500 to take courses at Kripala on Yoga instruction for people with special needs. They are running "Best Buddies" yoga classes with students this year.

Harvard Astrophysics Laboratory Internship

Dr. Ed DeLuca of Stow provided a powerpoint presentation and handout outlining his field and the intern program from student selection to what is learned during the internship. Dr. DeLuca offers a student an internship with him at the Harvard Astrophysics Laboratory in Cambridge for the summer between the student's Junior and Senior year. He works with the skills the student brings, but there is a focus on math, science and computer skills. It has been a fantastic benefit to each student he has worked with – the experience has been great, the students are paid for the summer, and it is an activity looked at with significance by college admissions.

Mr. Govindan thanked Dr. DeLuca, and stated Ramesh had a great experience on his internship last year.

Renzulli Learning

Ms. Winin, Mr. Bates and Ms. Larsen, Technology Coordinator, presented on the use of Renzulli Learning as part of our School Wide Enrichment Model. Mr. Bates provided an overview of Renzulli Learning via a powerpoint presentation, handouts, and providing an overview of the Renzulli website. Mr. Bates and Ms. Winin explained how student selection is determined, the amount of subscriptions purchased vs. the actual numbers of users and faculty training.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Nicoll

1. Athletics

- Baseball team – 5-3, won first three games
- Softball – 7-2, undefeated in its first two league games
- Boys/Girls Tennis – 6-3
- Boys Tracks won all meets going into yesterday
- Boys Lacrosse 8-2
- Girls Lacrosse 8-1-1 with most recent game tie. They had a game today.
- Nashoba Hall of Fame

2. Regional Student Advisory Council

- Nashoba recently had its first two delegates from the Student Advisory Council, Molly Flynn-Alling and I, attend the Central Mass Regional Student Advisory Council, which works to fix student problems within Central Mass and lobby for legislation from the Board of Education, of which one of the members of the State Student Advisory Council is a fully-voting member.

3. Junior Prom!!

- Nashoba's junior prom will be held at the International Golf Club next Friday, May 8th, from 6-11 pm. The event will hold around 300 people and is sure to be very exciting! All students are being encouraged to attend the school-funded After Prom party at Orchard Hills because it is essentially a safe, \$5000 party that is going to be very fun. It will include everything from a tarot card reader to 2 am swimming to a gigantic moon bounce.

Facilities SubCommittee, by Mr. Govindan

No Report

Finance SubCommittee, by Mr. Burke

Mr. Burke reported the SubCommittee has reviewed the fee structure and is not recommending any changes at this time.

Policy SubCommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported the subcommittee will be presenting the Animals in the Classroom Policy for a second reading tonight.

Personnel SubCommittee, by Mr. Adams

No Report

SPED PAC, by Mr. Burke

Mr. Burke reported he did not attend the SPED PAC meeting this week.

ESBC by Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood reported the committee is hoping to get on the May 14th board meeting for approval.

CCC by Ms. Giunta

No Report

Joint Planning by Mr. Govindan

No Report

NEW BUSINESS

Student Activity Financial Statements

Mr. King provided the Student Activity Financial Statement, reviewing each page with the Committee. Ms. Giunta requested an explanation of the line item office children, Ms. CampoBasso requested the name of the schools on the state be corrected, and Mr. Burke requested time to review the report before a vote is made.

Preparation for Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Wood requested that each respective town representative be present should budget questions arise and stated that district administration will also be present in each town. Mr. Wood advised that he does not anticipate any presentation being made but each district administration representative will be provided a thumb drive with a presentation if they should need it.

OLD BUSINESS

Animals in Schools Policy – Second Reading

MOTION

Don Adams made a motion to accept the second reading of the Animals in the Classroom Policy, policy number IMG and seconded by David Horne **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Mel Govindan, Lynn Colletti, David Horne and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED.**
UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)

School Choice

Mr. Wood directed the school committee to the revised recommendation of open school choice enrollment for kindergarten (half day only) to a maximum of 5 students per grade, per town; open school choice enrollment for grades one through five to a maximum of 5 students per grade per town; impose grade level caps at High School instead of a school wide cap.

Mr. Govindan stated he feels that this recommendation is worse than the first recommendation and cannot support this recommendation. Ms. CampoBasso asked if Mr. Wood researched how Harvard's school choice program worked, Mr. Wood replied, he had and they pick and choose on a yearly basis. Ms. CampoBasso stated she will not support this recommendation. Ms. CampoBasso recommended we look at this on a grade level by grade level capacity to determine what school the school choice students will be assigned. Mr. Fly feels that a 40 per grade cap at the high school is too high but would support a lower number maybe 30. Mr. Adams also feels that 40 is to high and would like to take a look at the class levels. Mr. King stated from a financial point of view it is cheaper for the district to school choice students in then to have families move into the district, if we did have to add a new class it pays for itself. Mr. King stated it can be managed by voting on this year to year. Mr. Horne suggested we keep capacity to 80% of cap.

MOTION

Don Adams made a motion to accept the School Choice initiative for 2009-2010 as half day kindergarten and grade 6-8 with a cap of five seats per town per grade for kindergarten and grades 6-8, 25 seats for grade 9-12 seconded Mel Govindan.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

Richard Fly made an amendment to the motion to accept School Choice initiative for 2009-2010 as half day kindergarten and grade 6-8 with a cap of five seats per town per grade for kindergarten and grades 6-8, 30 seats for grade 9 and 25 seats for grades 10-12 to seconded David Horne **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Mel Govindan, David Horne and Brian Burke **OPPOSED:** Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-1)**

MOTION

Don Adams made an motion to accept the amendment to the motion to accept School Choice initiative for 2009-2010 as half day kindergarten and grade 6-8 with a cap of five seats per town per grade for kindergarten and grades 6-8, 30 seats for grade 9 and 25 seats for grades 10-12 to seconded Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Mel Govindan, David Horne and Brian Burke **OPPOSED:** Lynn Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-1)**

CITIZENS' COMMENT

None

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to adjourn seconded Don Adams **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Mel Govindan, Lynn Colletti, David Horne and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

NOTES