

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

June 25, 2009

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

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 Superintendent's Office.

RECONGITION

Mr. Wood along with the School Committee recognized Kyle Mendes for winning The TAMY Award for Best Supporting Actor in Nashoba's production of the musical My Fair Lady. Nashoba received 15 nominations, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MOTION

Richard Fly made a motion to enter into an Executive Session at 6:05 pm for the purpose of negotiation strategy and non union contracts to include Michael Wood, George King and Aleta Masterson.; seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly and Maureen Busch

VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)

MOTION

Maureen Busch made a motion to reconvene to open session at 6:29 pm; seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly and Maureen Busch

VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF June 26, 2009

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2994	6/26/09	VENDOR	\$ 379,931.65
2995	6/26/09	BENEFIT	\$ 495,383.06
2996	6/26/09	PAYROLL	\$3,740,788.37
2997	7/01/09	VENDOR	\$ 502,932.00

MOTION

Richard Fly made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated 6/25/09 and noted above and seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly and Maureen Busch

VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)

APPROVAL OF THE June 11, 2009 and June 18, 2009 MINUTES

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2009 and June 18, 2009, as amended and seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Burke reviewed his correspondence regarding regionalization with Maynard. MASC Legislative Bulletin.

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*
- *Budget Recommendations*
- *Deficit Reserve Fund Update*
- *District Improvement Plan*
- *Deficit Reserve Fund Update*
- *Hall of Fame*
- *End of Year*
- *Retirements*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Mr. Nicoll

1. Finals

- As you all know, the final days of classes and final exams were this week. Today was the last day of classes: G period finals and make-up finals were today.

2. Athletics

- All seasons have concluded
- The athletic director recently hired a new cross country coach: Steve Beckwith, a retired former cross country coach from Pelham, NH who coached five state championships.
- Several athletes competed in the New England Track and Field Championships in Burlington, VT. The relay team of Coby Horowitz, Joe Doyle, Brendan Aylaian, and Miles Hodge finished fourth in New England.
- Casey Teska and Rachel Busch – top 15th in New England Championship in the pole vault
- Brendan Aylaian scored 8th in the 5000 meters and Joe Doyle scored 28th in the 800 meters at the Nike Nationals. The relay team of Amanda Abraham, Aubrie Vanesse, Emily Clark, Alee Wade scored 13th.

Operations Subcommittee, by Mr. Burke

No Report

Policy Subcommittee

No Report

SPED PAC, by Mr. Burke

No Report

ESBC by Mr. Wood

No Report

Meeting recessed for break at 8:22 pm

Meeting reconvened at 8:35 pm

NEW BUSINESS

FY10 End of Year Budget Transfers

Mr. King reviewed the budget transfers as outlined in his memo to Michael Wood dated June 19, 2009.

MOTION

Richard Fly made a motion to approve the transfers outlined in the memo and spreadsheet to Michael Wood dated June 19, 2009 seconded by George Babich **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

Comprehensive Report System Study Proposal

Mr. Wood reviewed the CRS Study Proposal posted on SharePoint. Mr. Burke asked the committee their thoughts on whether they feel this draft should be put on the website. Ms. Federspiel stated that with all the changes regarding No Child Left Behind, it makes sense for us to wait and see what happens. Mr. Wood stated we do need to move forward with a district report card for grades 1-5.

Assessment Changes

Mr. King advised of the projected assessment changes that will be forwarded to the communities, with a slight increase to Stow and a slight decrease to Bolton and Lancaster. Mr. King advised the school committee can address these at the first school committee meeting in August.

OLD BUSINESS

FY10 Recommended Budget Adjustments

Mr. Wood provided his final recommended budget adjustments spreadsheet, reviewing each line. Mr. Wood stated the spreadsheet is now prioritized as requested by the School Committee at the June 18th budget workshop.

Mr. Wood reviewed the late bus, stating that he believes we if charge a fee it would reduce, if not eliminate ridership. Mr. Govindan stated he believes in these times this is a luxury we cannot afford. Ms. CampoBasso questioned if we could reduce it to one bus instead of two.

Mr. Wood reviewed what the instate travel line in the budget is used for, it is for staff members who travel within the district as part of their job responsibilities.

Mr. Wood stated we are currently within the range of the district guidelines for class size.

Mr. Wood stated he recommends that the school committee vote the final recommendation tonight, stating the fiscal year begins July 1.

Mr. Burke stated he would like to get the thoughts of the committee before citizen's comments and thanked the Senior Administration for their sacrifices. Mr. Burke stated that as to date the Union has not been willing to meet and advised that the Senior Administration has agreed to forgo their raises and thanked them .

Mr. Babich asked what is the consequences if we do not have a budget in place July 1. Mr. King replied that we do have a budget in place, but it is imbalanced so we would not be subject to any penalties.

Mr. Fly stated that although he is disappointed with the foreign language cut, he has come to realize given the 2011 economic forecast this is not feasible.

Ms. Federspiel asked if the deficit money does not come through, do you know where it would come from. Mr. King replied we are relatively confident it will come through, but we manage the budget all year and will manage this situation as well.

Ms CampoBasso stated she is very concerned about FY11 and is glad we did not touch the Middle School model, but we need to be very conscious about starting the budget conversation sooner than later and we will have to look at the high school class size.

Mr. Govindan stated he also believes that FY11 will be worse and to keep in mind that the adjustments made are not sustainable and we may be looking at some of the same cuts in FY11.

Bob Czekanski, Bolton, thanked members of the administration for keeping their pay level. He stated he is disappointed with the School Committee and does not feeling they have really gone back and looked at where to cut, they just followed the Superintendent's recommendation. He stated he does not understand why the wide area network is being installed. Mr. King stated they are under contract and that it is needed for our infrastructure.

Mr. Govindan stated that it is the Superintendent that has to manage the budget, he does not believe it is the school committee's responsibility to micro-manage the budget.

Bobbi Laird state she wants to thank the administration team and the school committee for coming up with options to minimize the teacher cuts, she had been very pleased and thinks the school committee and Administration did a great job.

Dr. Robert Tuttle, Bolton, stated he would like to see some forecasting from the school admin for the coming years. Mr. Burked replied there will a lot of discussions in August about the coming year and years and everyone is welcome to attend.

Tammy O'Connor ,Bolton, asked what the projected class size is for the 6th grade. Mr. Wood replied it would be 25. Mr. Fly advised that we need to prepare ourselves; this is the smallest class size you will probably see in coming years.

David Thombs, Bolton stated he would also like to applaud the administration for not taking pay increases, and asked if we do approve the budget does that take the pressure off the unions to negotiate. Mr. Wood replied we are continuing to discuss insurance options with union leadership, which could provide that "cushion", the communities should continue to talk to each other and the administration, that is going to help all of us to try to get the union leadership to the table. Mr. Thombs asked at what point do negotiations with the union stop? Mr. King replied they do not ever stop it is ongoing.

Ms. CampoBasso stated what she believes the school committee has heard from the residents their thoughts on the unions position regarding not wanting to discuss changes and these points will be raised at the next contract negotiations.

Mr. Burke asked for the committee's thoughts on whether they should vote the recommendations tonight.

Mr. Govindan stated he is ready to vote tonight.

Mr. Fly stated he believes it makes sense to have a balanced budget in place, yet still believes we are just delaying the pain. Mr. Fly asked the administration to look at the cost savings for cutting the late bus to one, possible and to survey the parents to determine fee structure and ridership.

Ms. Federspiel stated if we did not sacrifice the math teacher and grade 3 teachers at FSS she would be comfortable voting the recommendations tonight. Mr. Wood replied that cost would be approx. \$100,000 and this is where the sustainability comes in.

Mr. Ryan Nicoll stated that he has ridden both the 4:00 and 6:00 and the ridership is much lower on the 6:00 late bus.

Mr. Babich does not believe cutting buses is the answer and believe that students should be allowed to be at school when they want or need to be.

Mr. Roche provided an overview of what class sizes will be at the high school next year.

Tim Castner advised that without the .6 teacher the class size will increase by approx. 1.5 students.

Mr. Fly stated he would like the custodial position left vacant.

Mr. Burke stated we have great teachers, wonderful technology, but you must be aware we cannot continue with giving cola and steps, we need to get the union to the table.

Bobbi Laird – stated there has been lots of talk at the teacher level about giving up cola and would like the parents to know she is speaking from a teacher point and not union leadership.

MOTION

George Babich made a motion to accept the FY10 budget adjustments as outlined in the Final Recommendation spreadsheet from Michael Wood dated 6/24/09 seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Lynn Colletti, Nancy Federspiel, George Babich, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

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, Richard Fly and Maureen Busch **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

NOTES