

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Appendix I

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 20, 2008

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke (left meeting at 9:03), Richard Fly, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Lynne Colletti (arrived at 6:04) and Cristina Shea.

ABSENT: David Horne, Monica CampoBasso

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cathy Giunta called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM in the Superintendent Office.

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF March 21, 2008

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2865	3/21/08	VENDOR	\$397,218.28
2866	3/21/08	Benefit	\$641,352.52
2867	3/21/08	Payroll	\$1,058,563.04

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated 3/21/08 and noted above and seconded by Don Adams **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE March 6, 2008 MINUTES

MOTION

Don Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of March 6, 2008, as amended and seconded by Brian Burke **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, Don Adams, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE March 13, 2008 SPECIAL BUDGET MINUTES

MOTION

Don Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of March 13, 2008, as amended and seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, Don Adams, Lynne Colletti, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

CORRESPONDENCE

NESDEC Enrollment Projections Mr. Wood provided an overview, stating we have been doing these projections for three years. The short analysis is we are stagnate, over the course of the time (5 year analysis), they look at the overall composition of the community. NESDEC projects there will be no growth up to 2012, which is what we are seeing. We will keep an eye on this and report back in August when registrations are complete.

Mr. Fly stated that the NESDEC has understated in previous years, Mr. Fly advised to take this information with a "grain of salt". Mr. Wood stated there are a lot of variables factored into this, including build permits in the towns and whether those projects come to fruition and bring young families into the district.

JAZZ EMSEMBLE RECOGNITON

Mr. Wood along with the School Committee recognized members of the Intermediate and Advanced Jazz Ensemble for their accomplishment of winning the Outstanding Musicianship Award at the International Assoc. of Jazz Education, Central Massachusetts Jazz Festival on March 5th. Members of the Ensemble receiving this award included P.J. Gjeltema, Max Doucette, Michael Flaherty, Giulia Rizzo, Travis Johnson and Ellen Hartford.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(The Superintendent's Report is available in full on the NRSD website at [http://www.nrsd.net/](http://www.nrsd.net/http://www.nrsd.net))

Mr. Wood reviewed his written report to the committee. Topics included:

1. **Facilities Update** – The Facilities Committee met on Wednesday night. We will have a number of facilities related matters for discussion later on agenda.
2. **NRSF Phone-a-thon** – We had a number of high school students and parents involved in the NRSF Phone – a – thon held on Sunday and Monday evening. The event raised pledges of \$13,500. Congratulations!
3. **School Choice** – In conversations with Mr. Roche and Mr. King we are looking to propose expanding school choice at our high school for the coming year. We currently allow sixty (60) seats, but would like to expand that to ninety (90) seats. There is room as our own enrollment has not grown significantly and this added number will help to offset school choice and charter school enrollment. This will be on an upcoming agenda for discussion and a vote.
4. **Health Credit** – Nashoba Regional High School has been looking at its Health requirements and has a plan for adding a health credit for graduation purposes. A proposal will be forthcoming later this spring.
5. **Unit C Negotiations** – Negotiations start with our support staff on March 26th.
6. **Literacy Performance** – The District is currently undergoing a data review for Literacy. The mid year assessments are now being cataloged and a new data form is being used throughout the district. The district started this past fall with our plan to get all schools aligned with the same assessment model. I hope to have the data available, along with a conversation with our Literacy Specialists at the first meeting in April with the School Committee. We are using common practices including Kindergarten "Jump Start" Program with all three Kindergarten programs using this program beginning next fall.
7. **Recruitment Fair** – NASHOBA will be holding its own Recruitment Fair on March 28 at NRHS beginning at 10 am and going to 1:00 p.m.. We will have booths representing the different levels of education and special education.

8. **Math Pilot** – We will be putting together a math curriculum committee for District wide review of our math curriculum and deciding on whether to change main resources for the K – 5 classrooms beginning with FY 10. A pilot of a variety of resources will be discussed as part of the curriculum review.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-officio Report by Ms. Shea

School Committee Student Report for 3/21/08

1. Spring Sports:
 - a. Began this week:
 - b. Track:
 - i. Off to a good start. Girls led by new coach, Mr. Glover. Have huge membership this year. First meet against Quabbin, Friday the 4th of April (boys home, girls away)
 - ii. Looking forward to seeing our star distance boys (who placed 5th in Nationals last weekend at the National Scholastic Indoor Track & Field Championships in New York City in the 4 X mile relay) continue in outdoor track
 - c. Cut sports are having try-outs all week (lacrosse, tennis, softball and baseball)
 - d. New Girls Lacrosse head coach: Laurie Griffin (also a gym teacher)
 - i. Four state championships & 13 league titles on her resume
 - ii. She helped begin Algonquin's girls varsity lacrosse and worked for 13 years at Wayland High
 - iii. She is starting off Nashoba Girl's Varsity Lacrosse, and the boy's are having their first year of varsity as well
 - iv. 55 girls trying out for the team- growing interest in the sport at Nashoba
 - v. First game is April 3 against St. Peter-Marian
2. NRSF Phonathon:
 - a. This pass weekend at Sawyer School
 - b. Raised more than \$12,000, with top raisers Steph Martinek and Jessica Giunta
 - c. Students from all grades volunteered for the two shifts
 - d. Fun time filled with delicious food and relaxed community service
3. Nashoba Drama:
 - a. Talent Show:
 - i. Last Friday's fundraiser for the Drama Society
 - ii. A surprisingly impressive show-
 - iii. Irish Step Dancing, interpretive dance, piano playing, singing duets, acapella
 - iv. Also used the night to get the word out about...
 - b. Spring Musical:
 - i. Thoroughly Modern Millie
 - ii. Next week is tech week! Students will be practicing vigorously every day until it's just right
 - iii. 3 performances next weekend: Friday and Saturday the 28th and 29th at 7:30 pm and Sunday the 30th at 2:00 pm
 - iv. Over 30 students will perform in what Nashoba Drama is calling, "a play full of stenographers and aspiring actresses, flappers and speakeasys, romantic miscommunication and mysterious antics."

4. Robotics:

- a. Nashoba Robotics shipped their completed robot to compete on Feb. 19th
- b. This year's task: Score points by making laps around a track and moving extremely large balls over and under overpasses
- c. They will compete against 50 other teams at the Agganis Arena March 28th and 29th
- d. The Blue man group will make a special appearance, so its sure to be an exciting competition

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities SubCommittee, by Mr. Govindan

Mr. Govindan reported the SubCommittee met yesterday to discussed the proposal for the turf field, the community is recommending a proposal of which Mr. King will provided details. Second item addressed was the bids for the district office space, Lancaster did bid, but had to be rejected because that building will not be ready for approx. one year. Municipalities do not need to respond for the RFP and Administration will follow up with a meeting.

Finance SubCommittee, by Mr. Burke

No Report

Policy SubCommittee, by Mr. Fly

No Report

Personnel SubCommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported the SubCommittee is continuing to meet with Unit A regarding negotiations with this unit, but advised they did not meet this week. Mr. Adams advised the SubCommittee will begin meeting with Unit C next week. Mr. Adams requested the Superintendent Evaluations back from the School Committee

SPED PAC, by Mr. Burke

Mr. Burke reported that the Special Advisory council now has its own website, and advised it can be linked to from the NRSD Site. Ms. Giunta suggested the link be on every school site not just the main site. Mr. Burke asked it be noted that Joan Finger put on a program last night on transition, and advised she did a great job putting this program together. Mr. Burke advised the next meeting is April 23rd which will include a movie about mainstreaming entitled, *Including Samuel*.

ESBC by Ms. Colletti

Ms. Colletti reported the SubCommittee met with the MSBA, and provided a presentation and were basically told that if we wanted funding we needed to wait, the issue of regionalization with Maynard was factored in, MSBA is pushing for this. Nashoba is one of 127 that was slated to move forward, so we are in the pipeline, it's just a "hurry up and wait" situation.

Mr. Burke stated that he heard that the MSBA is strongly suggesting the regionalization to include Maynard. Mr. Burke asked if that was Mr. Wood's understanding of the meeting. Mr. Burke stated that if the MSBA is going to insist on regionalization, we need to make it clear we have investigated it thoroughly and advised the Committee to keep in mind we may be addressing this issue again.

CCC by Cathy Giunta

Turf Project will be reported on later in meeting by Mr. King.

NEW BUSINESS

2008-2009 Calendar

Ms. Giunta advised the Committee the calendar will be discussed but not voted on during this meeting, the vote will be held at the April 3rd meeting. Ms. Giunta stated the Calendar Committee did an excellent job. The School Committee reviewed both the Calendar Committee proposed calendar and the Superintendent's proposed calendar and the calendar survey. Ms. Giunta asked each one of the members to state their comments or concerns and advised the Citizens they will have the opportunity to voice their concerns once the Committee has finished their discussions.

Committee's comments/concerns:

Mr. Adams questioned the start before Labor Day and stated he thought the contract did not allow this. Ms. Giunta replied the contract states you can not start more than two weeks before Labor Day. Mr. Adams thanked the Superintendent for his proposal. Mr. Adams made the statement while finalizing the calendar we need to think "education not vacation". Mr. Adams comments/concerns were; to much time off at Christmas on the Calendar Committee proposal, expressed keeping the April/Feb vacation, defended the development days, stated "there is great value in having these days, there are sound studies behind the need for development days. Mr. Adams also stated he has heard a lot of comments regarding the feelings that the Calendar Committee was not listened to.

Mr. Govindan stated parents in Lancaster are totally opposed to changing the vacation to only March, and he supports this opposition. Mr. Govindan is in favor of starting before Labor Day and stated two weeks at Christmas is not necessary. Mr. Govindan also stated there are too many ER days, advised this is the third year bringing this up.

Mr. Fly advised he likes the Superintendent's proposal best, prefers to start after labor, and is in favor of March only break suggested it be implemented in 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Fly also does not feel that two weeks at Christmas is needed.

Ms. Giunta stated she feels that two weeks at Christmas is not needed, stated she would like to see the Calendar approved for a two year period. Ms. Giunta stressed the need for the early release for the Bolton Fair stating that this allows for our students to get involved in community service. Ms. Giunta stated she has no preference of on the start before or after Labor Day issue.

Mr. Burke stated he would like to consider looking at the Superintendents proposed calendar for upcoming years, but not for next year. Mr. Burke would also like to review ER days with committee. Mr. Burke introduced Linda Hathaway, Stow Town Clerk, who is present at the meeting to bring her concerns to the School Committee's attention regarding school being held during on Election Day, asked the Committee to please strongly consider this day as a Professional Development Day for the safety of the students. Ms. Hathaway also stated the Hale school is the only Municipal Building in Stow that is Handicap accessible, so Elections must be held there. Ms. Giunta is not convinced that school can not be in session while Elections are held. Mr. Burke agrees that Nov. 4th be a development day, and child safety should be a priority.

Mr. Wood state "we have only had one chance to manage this, we can certainly manage the students in the building", he does not have any concerns that the election can not be held in the building.

Ms. McKale asked the Committee to consider other options such as having the 8th grade tour the high school that day and field trips for the 6-7th.

Citizens' comments were concerning the school calendar and are as follows;

- ◆ Please be good neighbors and have Professional Development day on Election Day, this will be a big election year. Please keep our children's safety in mind.
- ◆ Calendar Committee members present stated the decisions made were based solely on the survey, why do we have a Calendar Committee if the School Committee is going to totally change things anyway. Ms. Giunta replied the School Committee did not totally change the calendar, only two changes and advised members of the Calendar Committee present that it is their job to provide a proposal and the School Committee's job to amend and vote on a final calendar.
- ◆ John Kilgor, resident, stated he felt that ER days are a wasted day, take a good look at how many are really needed, suggested the day off before Thanksgiving maybe teachers could use this for development.
- ◆ Donna Piper, Luther Burbank Aide, stated she believes the February vacation is needed because of kids need the rest from sickness and to clear the germs out of the school. Ms. Giunta asked if she had any studies that supported this theory.

Turf Field and Track Project

Mr. King directed the committee to view the power point presentation on the SharePoint site. Mr. King reviewed the slides covering the history, challenges and advantages of both natural grass and Synthetic Turf. Mr. King's recommendation is to approve option 1, replace present natural grass with a new Synthetic Turf field and new Track.

Open discussion ensued; Committee raised the following concerns:

Mr. Burke stated, "the question is not what do we need to do, the question is why we have not been able to fund this through contributions". Mr. Burke foresees hours of hours of discussions at town meetings, and feels they are not apt to adopt it. Mr. Burke feels we will have to explain why this was not underwritten with contributions.

Mr. Wood advised that fund raising is not finished, we can still fund raise after completion. He believes we have not found the "hook", that one big contributor.

Mr. King stated it is extremely difficult for public schools to raise large amounts in fund raising.

Mr. King advised the committee has the legal right to issue a bond for 10 years; the town has a 60 day window to object. Decision for the school committee is whether you think we can manage this in the coming years, he feels the town is not concerned about how the school committee spends the budget, just the bottom line.

Mr. Govindan asked if there was room in the sport fees charged.

Mr. Adams asked what the life of field was? Mr. King responded 15-20 years with an 8 year warranty. Mr. Adams asked how much in contributions we have raised to date? Mr. Wood replied \$5400. Mr. Adams asked if the town select boards have been approached? Mr. Wood replied they have not approached the board, but have been in the public enough and have not heard any negative thoughts on this project. The

reality is as we look forward and say to ourselves that next year will be another tough economical year.

Committee decided to wait until next meeting to vote on this item.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Ms. Giunta requested a motion be raised to adjourn and the business of the school calendar, Turf Field Projects and the FLLAC be voted on at the next School Committee Meeting.

MOTION

Don Adams made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mel Govindan. **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Lynne Colletti, and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

NOTES