

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 10, 2008

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Richard Fly, Lynn Colletti, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Cristina Shea

ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools, George King, Assistant Superintendent, Tracy Conte, Director of Special Education, Jeremy Roche, Principal of NRHS,

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cathy Giunta called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. in the Office of the Superintendent

Executive Session

There was a motion by Don Adams to go into executive session for the purpose of hearing a grievance from the Nashoba Regional Educational Association (NREA) for Unit A. The session is to include Michael Wood, George King, Ken Tucker, Principal, Pam Marston, NREA member, Larry Isomaki, NREA member, and Steve Cullinane, President of the NREA.

RECOGNITIONS

The Nashoba Regional School Committee recognized Mr. Don Gribbons, Coach of the Cross Country Team for the past thirty six (36) years, and presented him with a certificate. Mr. Gribbons also was recognized as he retired from the science department where he as taught these past thirty six years. The School Committee also recognized the team for their winning the Districts and place third in the State finals. Each member of the team was introduced and special recognition was given to the team captain and senior, Anthony Raduazo. It was noted that he has earned early acceptance at Williams.

The Nashoba Regional School Committee recognized Mrs. Chris Way as a Friend of Education. Ms. Way was presented a plaque by Mr. Wood on behalf of the School Committee and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

Mr. Wood took this opportunity to recognize Miss Cristina Shea of Stow as this year's recipient of the Massachusetts's Association of Superintendent's Honoree from Nashoba. Miss Shea has learned she has received early acceptance from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF January 11, 2008

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2844	1/11/08	VENDOR	\$462,622.55
2846	1/11/08	Benefit	\$36,286.47
2848	1/11/08	Payroll	\$997,670.63

MOTION

Monica Campobasso made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated 1/11/08 and noted above and seconded by Brian Burke **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, Lynn Colletti David Horne and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE November 15, 2007 MINUTES

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to approve the minutes November 15, 2007, as amended and seconded by Monica Campobasso. **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Lynne Colletti, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0,)**

There were no changes.

Audit Report

Mr. Richard Sullivan, from Powers and Sullivan Certified Public Accountants, reviewed the audit report for FY 07. He stated that they have confidence that given the findings that the practices of the district in accordance with the Directors policies and bi laws of the organization. He went on to say that not very much changes in the expenses or revenues from the previous year. He noted that the district's recovery plan is in progress, reviewed how the district is meeting GASB 45 requirements and that the fraud and risk assessment showed our systems are transparent. He said this report is as high a compliment as auditors can give to an organization.

Mr. Govindan reported on behalf of the audit advisory committee noting that they reviewed the document thoroughly and was satisfied with the report.

The committee asked for more time to review before voting. The vote will be scheduled for January 24, 2008.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Wood reviewed the correspondence in the evening's packet, which included:

- ◆ Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Project Listing (Excel Spreadsheet)
- ◆ MSBA slide presentation on the criteria used to make decisions for project priorities
- ◆ NRHS slides on the schedule model proposed for next year
- ◆ Letter from U.S. News and World Reports noting NRHS as a Silver Medal Winner
- ◆ Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators recognition of Mrs. Morgan's participation in a presentation on Advisor Advisee Programs for Middle Schools
- ◆ Department of Education Letter noting approval of the District's Technology Plan
- ◆ A letter from Symphony Publishing recognizing Don Moultroupe as Massachusetts's representative as 50 Directors Who Make A Difference
- ◆ Department of Education Letter noting approval of the District's Special Education Program Plan Statement

Mr. Burke mentioned he received correspondence about the bus bid request for proposals and wanted people to know their points were raised and taken into consideration.

Ms. Campobasson acknowledged that she had correspondence and would get it to us for the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

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

- Executive Assistant Search Status
- CISCO Donation to NASHOBA First
- NAYEAC Accreditation
- Progress Reports for Middle School Students
- Bus Transportation Pre Bidder's Conference
- FY 09 Budget process
- Assabet Collaborative Update
- Board of Education Commissioner Search Update
- Governor Patrick's Education Secretary Proposal
- Board of Education Budget News

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Ms. Shea

Ms. Shea reported in New Business that Mid-terms are to be held the week of 1/22-1/25. Student Council is helping to alleviate the stress with exam care packages (candy, pencils, etc). The Class Plays will be held on Friday January 18th at 6:30 pm. Next week is tech week at the high school. There will be a Blood Drive on March 20, 2007 and the Red Cross Representative spoke with Student Council on Tuesday.

NHS Winter Ball was a success- much better turn out than last year. The next dance is Valentines dance hosted by the senior class. Now they are working on a group project for local nursing homes combining pen-pal project w/ regular visits and a senior prom.

Seniors are also working on senior projects:

1. Lindsey Horowitz- Valentines for patients at Emerson
2. Alyssa Browne- raising money for a summer scholarship for a student at Nashoba

Nashoba Robotics received nearly half of their funding this year from Cisco Systems (\$5000) so that they can compete in March and are in building season right now- until Feb. 16th.

In a Sports Update, Indoor Track Boys are 2-1 in dual meets. Many runners have qualified for districts and 7 boys out of the small team. The next meet is this Saturday against Leominster and Gardner at Fitchburg. The Girls have a 1-2 record. Talented freshman such as Emily Clark (hurdles) show that the team will be strong for the next few years. They will be participating in a relay race @ Reggie Lewis Center in Boston for the first time next week. The Hockey team has difficult games ahead, but hopes to qualify for the playoffs. Senior Geoff Rosen is the leading pt. earner for the team. Our Ski Team is off to a great season. Captains are Megan Powell, Jesse Way, Margy Robinson, and George Fischer. The 1st alpine meet is today. There have been 2 XC meets already. The Alpine team led by Travis Johnson & John Malley- hopefully will head to states.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities SubCommittee, by Mr. Govindan

Mr. Govindan reported on the recent meeting where Mr. King reviewed three options for relocating administrative space. He also provided the financials for each option. The sub committee is also awaiting a report by the Lancaster Green Committee on the feasibility of renovating the Memorial School. The Facility Committee is leaning toward leasing space in a private building, possibly in business park in Bolton.

Finance SubCommittee, by Mr. Burke

Mr. Burke reported out for the finance committee reviewed the budget transfers, and heard about an offer to submit an RFP for children from DEVENS to attend area schools. The committee recommended seeking more information before submitting the RFP.

Policy SubCommittee, by Mr. Fly

Mr. Fly reported that the sub committee reviewed and edited the three policies before them tonight, discussed the Resource Officer Policy and discussed out of district field trips (over night).

Personnel SubCommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported that negotiations with Unit A have begun. He also asked that School Committee members return the Superintendent's evaluation by January 24, 2008, but definitely by the end of the month. Ms. Campobasso inquired when we should meet with the school councils and Mr. Wood offered to get the dates of the next meetings.

SPED PAC, by Mr. Burke

Mr. Burke shared they had a very successful holiday celebration on December 12, 2007. he noted that their next meeting is January 16th at the high school with nationally recognized speaker Michael Wood presenting on Americans with Disabilities and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act.

ESBS by Ms. Colletti

Ms. Colletti informed the committee that the ESBC has not met since our last meeting. The next meeting is Monday, January 14, 2008.

CCC by Cathy Giunta

No Report.

Tri Town by Mel Govindan

Mr. Govindan reported on Tri Town held Wednesday night. The group discussed public access television and what they could do with and for the schools. They asked for budget numbers, and were told that the budget schedule. Discussion of the Administrative Space Needs arose and the options were discussed. There was mention that there were funds available for a space study for Lancaster's MRE/LBMS schools and there was a suggestion that a committee be formed to discuss use of these funds.

NEW BUSINESS

MCAS Data for Special Needs Students

Ms. Conte, Director of Special Education reviewed the MCAS data for our special education students. It was noted that the sample size is so small that it is difficult to determine trends. Each student, though, should have a success plan. This data is reviewed at each school with teachers and principals. It was noted that these results have not had a particular impact on any one school, however, MRE did not make AYP this year for this category and low income.

Grant Acceptance

Motion moved by Mr. Burke to accept the \$4000 grant for physical education and health from the Alice Eaton Fund for Pompositicut and Center Schools and a grant from the Mabel Hale Fund of \$2000 for the Hale Middle School, seconded by Mr. Horne **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, David Horne, Brian Burke and Lynne Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED. In Favor:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, David Horne, Mel Govindan and Lynne Colletti **(8-0-0) Unanimous**

Private Schools

Motion moved by Ms. Campobasso to move the school approval for Triviam and New River Schools in Lancaster having met the NRSD checklist for Private School Approval, seconded by Don Adams. **Voted and Passed_In Favor:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, David Horne, Mel Govindan and Lynne Colletti **(8-0-0) Unanimous.**

Second Quarter Financial Update

Mr. King reviewed the second quarter finances of the district. The district is in sound financial shape. There are some transfers that are needed for salary changes over the course of the summer. The typical "budget buster" items are being monitored but are in good shape. Utilities are in good shape even in light of the early start to a cold winter. Overall, the salary account District wide is in good shape.

Transfers

Mr. King reviewed the transfers requested, but acknowledged that we should hold off as there are some anomalies in a few of the School Salary account lines that he would like to review with his staff. Mr. Adams asked about the Central Office Administration line to which Mr. King noted that Mr. Wood's annuity was not budgeted correctly. Ms. Campobasso asked about the Center School line which Mr. King pointed out was one of the anomalies he would like to research more fully. She also asked about the SPED Admin line which had to do with the addition of the Assistant Director position to the budget which is being paid for partially out of grants.

OLD BUSINESS

Policies

Mr. Fly reviewed the policies with the committee. There were slight changes made to the Employee Email Policy in the the first line of the second paragraph was struck. On the Class Size policy the work will in number 2 was changed to should.

Motion

Moved by Monica Campobasso to approve the Entrance Age Policy as written. It was seconded by Don Adams. **Voted and Passed In Favor:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, David Horne, Mel Govidan and Lynne Colletti **(8-0-0) Unanimous**

Moved by Richard Fly to approve the Email Policy as amended. It was seconded by Monica Campobasso. **Voted and Passed In Favor:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, David Horne, Mel Govidan and Lynne Colletti **(8-0-0) Unanimous**

Moved by Monica Campobasso and seconded by Don Adams to approve the Class Size Policy as amended. **Voted and Passed In Favor:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, David Horne, Mel Govidan and Lynne Colletti **(8-0-0) Unanimous**

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Esther Ramirez spoke on the issue of not enough openings in full day kindergarten in Lancaster. Her son did not get in but she has a first grader already in the school and she would like the district to consider the same option as Pre School lottery whereby if you have a sibling in the school you get in automatically. The issue is the half day program switches and she can not find transportation to a day care provider.

MOTION

Motion moved by Ms. CampoBasso to adjourn Seconded by Mr. Horne **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, David Horne, Mel Govidan and Lynne Colletti **VOTED AND PASSED 8-0-0 UNANIMOUS**

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael L. Wood
Superintendent of Schools