

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Appendix II

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 6, 2008

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Richard Fly, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Lynn Colletti (arrived at 6:08) and Cristina Shea.

ABSENT: David Horne

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 Superintendent Office.

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF February 22, 2008

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2858	2/22/08	VENDOR	\$ 394,202.90
2859	2/22/08	Benefit	\$ 663,677.97
2860	2/22/08	Payroll	\$1,028,203.29

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed above and in the memo dated 2/22/08 seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF March 7, 2008

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2861	3/7/08	VENDOR	\$ 391,008.63
2862	3/7/08	Benefit	\$ 25,316.42
2863	3/7/08	Payroll	\$1,040,611.23

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed above and in the memo dated 3/7/08 seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE January 26, 2008 MINUTES (Budget Workshop)

MOTION

Don Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2008, seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Lynn Colletti, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE February 7, 2008 MINUTES

MOTION

Don Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of February 7, 2008 with amendments noted, seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Lynne Colletti, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

INDOOR BOYS TRACK TEAM RECOGNITION

Mr. Wood recognized the team for the accomplishments of winning Division II – State Champions, District E, Division I – Runner-up, Mid-Wach B – League Runner-up and MSTCA State Relays – Runner-up. Team members present were, Doug Koury, Andrew Wade, Layne Sadler, Conor Megee, Anthony Raduazo and Coach Ley Ricker. Attending team members were presented certificates by Mr. Wood and Coach Ley Ricker.

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.

1. **Tri – town** – Mr. King met with the Tri Town members last night and reviewed the current status of the FY 09 budget. There is a consensus that if the school district can reduce its budget to at least the end of tier four and then another \$200,000 it would be greatly appreciated. The District essentially will be at a level services budget with this proposal.
2. **Track Team Honors** – I am pleased to have representatives of the NRHS Indoor Track Team here tonight. They were the Division III State Champions. Congratulations!
3. **Spelling Bee Champion** – Mallika Govindan won the regional spelling bee last night. She attends LBMS and is an eighth grader. Blitzkrieg was the winning word! Congratulations!
4. **Robotics Event** – March 28 and 29 is the robotics competition at the Agganis Arena at Boston University.
5. **Turf Field /Track Proposals** – We have received 11 proposals. They are being evaluated now. We will need to have a facilities meeting to review and make a recommendation.
6. **CASE** – CASE is involved in teacher negotiations and I am representing the Board of Directors in this process.
7. **Special Education Parents** – I met recently with parents about special education programming and staffing. The outcome of the meeting once they heard about how the classrooms were being staffed was very positive. An outgrowth of the meeting is to look at our summer programming and look at options for extended year services.
8. **Lip Sync** – Center School and Pompositticut School recently held their annual lip sync performances. The productions are on Channel 9 in Stow. All students involved did an outstanding job.
9. **AT Risk Conference** – Four staff attended the At Risk Conference in Savannah, GA. I am planning to set up a meeting with them to hear about their experience, but initial conversations with Mr. Roche suggest it was very worthwhile.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Ms. Shea

School Committee Student Report for 3/6/08

Students Honored with Various Award:

◆ **Scholastic Art Awards**

- Regional art competition awards administered by the Alliance for Young Artists
- These regional contests are nationwide- This year more than 75,000 young artists and writers were recognized across the country
- Silver Key: Mary Larousse; Honorable Mention: Cole Gibson, Lindsey Gonzalez, Meghan Laflamme

◆ **Lions District Speech Contest**

- Lindsey Horowitz, a Stow senior and running all-star, is going on to compete at the state level
- Competed against students from 11 other towns in the speech contest on Feb. 16th after winning in the Stow Lions Club competition, she came in 1st place at that contest.

Upcoming Events:

◆ **Foreign Language Week:**

- Annual tradition involving daily spirit days celebrating various cultures
- These days usual include: Spanish day, Latin Day, German day, French day
- Also have cultural trivia competitions and music playing over the intercom from various countries in the mornings
- Includes a foreign language buffet- we had it today and all students got to try an assortment of ethnic foods

◆ **Robotics:**

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

◆ **Frankie DeMeo Scholarship Fundraiser**

- This weekend at the Nashoba Youth Basketball League play-offs @ Nashoba and Sawyer
- All proceeds from admissions and concessions will go to Frankie's Scholarship fund, so everyone is encouraged to attend

Sports:

- ◆ Many successful athletes competing in end-of-the season regional and state competitions

◆ **Boys' Ski Team –Last Tuesday's Alpine Ski Meet at Wachusett**

- Which was 1st state tournament for Nashoba Apline Skiing
- 10th place out of 25 teams
- 5 students were sent – Senior Travis Johnson placed 14th in the slalom
 - John Malley came in a close 18th place
 - Nick Sirois, Jesse Way, and Reed Tucker also performed very well

◆ **Nashoba Wrestling:**

- Senior DJ Siewierski and junior Dan Trefry qualified for the MIAA All-State wrestling meet last weekend at Salem High School
- 1st time Nashoba has sent wrestlers to the all-state meet
- At the Reading invitational meet (where they qualified), Siewierski came in 3rd overall and Trefry came in 6th

◆ **Nashoba Volleyball:**

- Anyone can participate- range of levels from novices to competitive teams
- Going on for past 2 weeks
- More than 12 teams involved- seems to be growing every year
- Finals: Fighting Ducks (mostly teacher team) vs. Exit 27 (Juniors)
 - Fighting Ducks win! (including staff –Mr. Spedding, Ms. Hastlett, Mr. Castner)
- Dodgeball:
 - 1st year
 - Double elimination tournament

◆ **Spring Sports Meeting:**

- Sports: Lacrosse, Track, Baseball, Softball, Tennis
- Start March 17th- everybody is busy training

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Subcommittee, by Mr. Govindan

No Report

Finance Subcommittee, by Mr. Burke

No Report

Policy Subcommittee, by Mr. Fly

No Report

Personnel Subcommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported that negotiations with Unit A continue.

Requested the return of the Superintendent evaluation from the Committee.

SPED PAC, by Mr. Burke

Mr. Burke attended the Feb. 27th meeting along with an Autism Representative. Joe Kennedy from Lancaster also attended to discuss the special Olympic baseball team, next meeting is March 19th regarding transition of special needs.

ESBC by Mr. Burke

Ms. Colletti advised that the State has responded and the next meeting with MSBA is on March 12th.

CCC by Cathy Giunta

No Report

NEW BUSINESS

Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve

Mr. Wood addressed the Committee in regards to posting The Statement of Support For The Guard and Reserve in support of our Employees serving in the Guards.

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the above mentioned Statement of Support; seconded by Don Adams **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Lynne Colletti, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

OLD BUSINESS

Text Book Adoption

Mr. Wood addressed the committee regarding the FY08 Text Book Sally Sullivan and Suzanne Wintle present. Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Wintle reviewed the handouts while Committee asked the following questions, answers are in brackets.

Are they all new books or replacing old books? [not all are replacements some are for placement of books for areas that there were none, to be inline with the new benchmarks and to install consistency in the district.]

What is the difference on the grade 4 level? [there are three different levels, and it depends on teacher, the advance of the New Bridge book is they publish a large and small]

Very little time is spent on science in a day, do you feel they will sit on a shelf? [they will take the literacy block and integrate with science]

What approach was taken in the grade 9 offering? [Ms. Sullivan has spoken with Mr. Roche and advised he felt that books will help with the science technology exams. Mr. Wood stated he is satisfied that there is not a need to change the cycle of offering at this point. Advised that next year the AP physics will be offered.]

What is the cost per book? [Mr. Wood advised that this if the first science adoption in 10 years, hence the reason for the large amount. Grade 4 is \$48.85 each; grade 6 and 7, \$67.88; 300 books]

Mr. Wood explained that there is a lot more to the adoption than just the books, the companies supply teacher tools with use of smart boards, DVD's, other technology.

Has it been your experience that these tools will get used (directed to Ms. Sullivan and Ms Wintle)? [They believe they will be used because the vendors will be coming to the District and training the teachers on how to use the technology. Mr. Wood advised that a lot of the technology is woven into the text. All the students texts are all on line and students call access on line from any computer]

Is there a contract that states the vendor obligation to provide the online service? [We are dealing with long standing publishers. Mr. Wood stated there is no contract and agreed that there is an element of risk and will look into the contract]

Ms.CampoBasso stated that this publisher is very good and she is very supportive of these books.

Mr. Burke stated, since we are already drawing down from the E & D, why can't we just factor this into next year. Ms.Giunta replied sees no difference in spending this money now and prefers to handle this as a transfer.

Ms. Giunta noted that the School Committee adopts a total budget and not specific line items and is allowed and expected to manage within and across those line items so this is an acceptable transfer.

Ms. CampoBasso is still not convinced on the sequence and the Science. [Ms. Sullivan advised it is not about the sequence it supports the subject not the sequence]

MOTION

Don Adams made a motion to transfer \$187,338.98 from out of District Special Ed Account to Teaching & Learning /SPED Text Book Account. Seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Lynne Colletti, **OPPOSED:** Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. (6-1-0)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Committee went into Executive Session at 7:22 for the purpose of negotiation strategy and a legal matter.

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to go into an Executive Session at 7:22 pm ; seconded by Brian Burke **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Lynne Colletti, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

MOTION

Don Adams made a motion to reconvene to open session at 8:02 pm; seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Lynne Colletti, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

The Committee reconvened to open session at 8:02 pm

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Mr. Wood addressed the committee regarding the spreadsheet handed out today. He reviewed the spreadsheet line by line with the committee. Open discussion ensued with the following points raised;

Mr. Govindan questioned the stipend for the Dept. Chair Position and asked if there is a way to consolidate the number of Chairs.

Mr. Adams asked why an Asst. Principal would be kept instead of a Dept. Chair when that impacts education directly. Mr. Wood advised that we need a ratio of 1/30 teacher/admin to be able to manage the curriculum instruction and advised there is 900+ students. Mr. Adams asked if there was a chance the Dir. Of Athletics could step in to help. Mr. Wood advised that he is directing 6-12 grades in two schools.

Ms. CampoBasso, in looking at Tier 4, is concerned about eliminating any of the school secretary, assistant principal, guidance at high school, or chair positions.

Mr. Fly is in agreement with Ms. CampoBasso, he can not support a cut in an assistant principal or guidance at the high school, he feels that Florance Sawyer seems to be getting hit harder than the others – why? Mr. Wood advised that this is the only elementary school in the district that has double in some positions which he feels can be managed with the use of other District Admin. Staff.

Ms. Giunta stated she is okay with losing the secretary, but not the Guidance at the high school.

Ms. CampoBasso proposed to cut the 5th grade teacher in Bolton. Ms. Giunta asked why the cut in Bolton and not in Stow, Ms. CampoBasso agreed they should be cut at both. Mr. Fly stated he does not support this. Mr. Burke advised he is against cutting teachers and more apt to cut the admin. positions.

Mr. Adams asked for another week before making a vote on the budget.

Ms. CampoBasso stated that she feels she can not support the District Office move, in this state of economy; also stated we need to look at the food service and put more accountability on the parents for the children's wellness and feed the kids what to produce high sales and not so much focus on wellness food.

Mr. Adams questioned other areas, copy machine expenses, sub teacher expenses, can we strive to improve teacher attendance, also looking at other fees, school lunches, athletics, etc. Mr. Wood advised we have made strides in attendance of teachers by tying this into evaluations.

Ms. Giunta noted areas she believes needs to be readdressed at the next meeting.

Tier 5 items

Adding \$100,000. from E & D

Cutting Literacy Specialist in Stow

Cutting both 5th Grade Teachers

District Office Space

Food Service Plan Subsidy

LITERACY SPECIALISTS DISCUSSION

Handout was given to the Committee;

Mr. Wood advised that when we looked at this in the past we agreed on 3 per town. We identify the kids being seen by using the common assessment, the common score, the numbers are relative to each community. Mr. Wood explained each school based their criteria differently, so therefore we need to move to a more consistent District wide criteria.

Mr. Wood advised that you have to take the model we are using into consideration; we are using Reading Recovery, which is a one on one model and Wilson Reading which is a model that can be used in a group setting.

Ms. CampoBasso stated that we have talked about the District Wide criteria for four years, why has this not been done. She feels that this is not being managed well District Wide.

Mr. Wood explained the difference between Special Ed needs and literacy needs in children.

Ms. Colletti requested this form be revised to breakdown the by the time spent tutoring not the number of teachers used.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Lindsay questioned the need for the addition of all the teacher positions and wanted the Committee to consider the possibility of making the Asst. Principal position a part time position (school year). In speaking for the advisory committee he advised that they are comfortable in going into Tier 5 and advised we need to take a look into this.

Ken Troup, Bolton, B.O.S. is appreciative that the Committee is getting to the level 4, speaking as a citizen he feels it should stop there and not go into Tier 5.

Erin Keaney, 4th Grade Teacher and resident of Bolton, is here to voice her opinion regarding class size and the need to keep that size or lower by adding the 5th Grade teacher positions.

MOTION

Don Adams made a motion adjourn seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Lynne Colletti, Mel Govindan, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

NOTES