

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Appendix II

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 17, 2008

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Richard Fly, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, David Horne, Lynn Colletti and Ex-Officio Cristina Shea.

Mr. Fly and Mr. King left the meeting at 7:20 to attend the Bolton Selectman Meeting to present the Turf Field presentation.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cathy Giunta called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM in the Superintendent Office.

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF April 18, 2008

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2873	4/18/08	VENDOR	\$341,006.57
2874	4/18/08	Benefit	\$609,009.85
2875	4/18/08	Payroll	\$1,061,558.21

MOTION

Brian Burke a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated 4/18/08 and noted above and seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, David Horne, Lynn Colletti and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE April 3, 2008 MINUTES

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the minutes of April 3, 2008, with amendments seconded by Brian Burke **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Wood, along with the School Committee recognized members of the Freshman Math Team, for First Place Champions, Worcester County Math League and members of the Varsity Math Team for 4th Place at the 2008 Massachusetts State Math Competition.

CORRESPONDENCE

NEASC Findings –Mr. Wood directed the Committee to a letter from NEASC noting that they have continued the school’s accreditation and removed NRHS from warning for the remaining standard of Leadership and Organization. Specifically the Commission was pleased about the progress of curriculum development and the information regarding the new schedule for 2008-2009. Many have contributed to this success but most notable are the leaders of the school (Jeremy, Brian and Tracey), but also I want to note the teacher leadership of the curriculum facilitators and department chairs who have been instrumental in the work done these past two years.

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)
<http://www.nrsd.net>)*

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

1. **NEASC Findings** – In your packet under correspondence you have a letter from NEASC noting that they have continued the school's accreditation and removed NRHS from warning for the remaining standard of Leadership and Organization. Specifically the Commission was pleased about the progress of curriculum development and the information regarding the new schedule for 2008-2009. Many have contributed to this success but most notable are the leaders of the school (Jeremy, Brian and Tracey), but also I want to note the teacher leadership of the curriculum facilitators and department chairs who have been instrumental in the work done these past two years.
2. **Facilities Update** – The Facilities Committee is met on Thursday, April 10, 2008, to work on developing the presentation on the Turf / Track renovation project. Mr. King and Mr. O'Brien will be presenting to the Town of Bolton officials on April 17th.
3. **Community Competition Complex** – The donations are rolling in! Since the School Committee took its affirmative vote, the fundraising committee has received \$3500.00 in donations. We have a meeting scheduled for Monday, April 14, 2008, beginning at 4:00 p.m. to discuss further opportunities for fundraising.
4. **Foreign Language Committee** – The committee is meeting on Friday, April 11, 2008 to further refine the standards according to classes offered. The committee had been working toward this with the implementation of a seventh grade class, but due to the budget decisions will be revising this work.
5. **CCC Warrant Article** – There has been some discussion by the Town of Stow as to the preferred language for a warrant article and subsequent debt exclusion article that they prefer to tie to an affirmative vote at Town Meeting regarding the CCC project. I have asked our counsel to review their language as it may be void in light of how the school committee passed the measure under M.G.L. 71 Section 16 Sub section d. The Town of Stow has approved similar bond warrant articles in the same way for the high school renovation and the deficit bond and prefers to continue tying the votes together so that they don't push up against their tax levy. I am in support of their having the debt exclusion article, but am concerned that the manner in which it is being proposed circumvents the intent of the law. I hope to have more information at our meeting.
6. **Unit C Negotiations** – Negotiations have begun with Unit C.
7. **Recruitment Fair** – NASHOBA had its first ever recruitment fair on March 28th. Despite the foul weather it was extremely successful with over 65 participants in the three hour span. Ms. Visco and Mr. Cote will be attending two additional recruitment fairs one at UMASS Amherst and one in Boston in late April.
8. **Coordinated Program Review** – The District will be undergoing a Coordinated Program Review the week of April 28. Members of the Department of Education will be on site for five days to interview administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students with regard to special education, civil rights, and ELL. A report will be forthcoming about six months later. They have already received the paper work documentation and will begin that review prior to being on site. They will begin their site review of student records on April 23 and 24th. I want to publicly thank Sally Sullivan, Tracy Conte, and Monica Visco for the tremendous amount of planning, coordination and file recovery they have done to make this a comprehensive review. In addition their support staff has been instrumental in putting the boxes of files together for delivery last Friday to Malden for review.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Ms. Shea

School Committee Student Report for 4/17/08

1. Sports:

- a. Boys' Tennis
 - i. slow start practicing- took two weeks for the ice to melt off the tennis courts
 - ii. once they got started, things went well- 4 victories
 - iii. facing the 3 toughest opposing teams this week (Groton-Dunstable, St. Peter Marion, Westboro)
 - iv. Team Captain is Jeff Stefanis (junior from Stow)
- b. Girls' Track
 - i. Lost Tuesday meet against Marlboro, with a close score
 - ii. Star performers were Lindsey Horowitz, Izzy McKean, Molly Porcher, Alee Wade, and Risa Langelo
 - iii. Next meet is far away- 2 weeks. Team will continue practicing hard throughout vacation to be ready for Westboro on the 29th (home).
- c. Boys' Track
 - i. Won once again on Tuesday
 - ii. Team driven by boys distance
 - iii. Also have had strong contributions from senior sprinters Layne Sadler, Andrew Wade, and Doug Koury and thrower Nick Trueblood, a newcomer to track
- d. Boys' Lacrosse:
 - i. Record of 4-0 for the first year varsity team
 - ii. Has beaten teams, such as Leominster (who they beat on Tuesday) who have had varsity programs for years
 - iii. Goalie Chris Winkler out with an injury for much of the season, though
 - iv. the coaches have gotten pro players from the Boston Cannons to come to run drills for the boys lacrosse players

2. College Update

- a. Accepted too many schools: Barnard, Bentley, BC, BU, Bowdoin, Brown, Cornell, Harvard, Villanova, West Point, Rice, Tufts, etc.
- b. 73.2% of seniors reported plans to attend a four year college
- c. have had a 35.8% acceptance rate this year
- d. Many have already made their decisions: some, such as Marie DeLuca, who was accepted to Brown's medical program, got the process done last year
- e. Others are still deciding- in the past 2 weeks, we've had many college visits
- f. Many students are traveling this week and next week to make their final college decisions
- g. Only 33 out of 231 have reported a final college decision to guidance

3. Mr. Nashoba:

- a. Being organized by Student Council for May 10th
- b. Proceeds go to the Alison Murphy Scholarship Foundation
- c. Male beauty pageant to find the boy with the most school spirit
- d. 4th year running, includes swimsuit competition, talent show, question and answer session

4. Senior Project:

- a. Seniors are cleaning up one of Nashoba's courtyards as their senior class gift
- b. removing a large tree to allow other plants to grow
- c. Buying a plaque for Frankie DeMeo
- d. planting flowers
- e. painting concrete Nashoba colors
- f. National Honor Society will also help with the workdays on May 16th and 17th

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities SubCommittee, by Mr. Govindan

Mr. Govindan referred to Mr. Fly to report. Mr. Fly reported the Facilities SubCommittee met last week to plan strategies on presenting the Turf Field Project to the towns.

Finance SubCommittee, by Mr. Burke

No Report

Policy SubCommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported the Policy SubCommittee met this week and reviewed policies regarding health and wellness which will be presented to the Committee at a later date for a vote.

Personnel SubCommittee, by Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams reported the Personnel SubCommittee continues negotiations with Unit C. Mr. Adams requested for the Committee Members who have not submitted their evaluations to please submit those.

SPED PAC, by Mr. Burke

Mr. Burke reported the SPEC Pac played the movie entitled Including Samuel last night, he was not available to attend, but suggested the Committee to view the film.

ESBC by Ms. Colletti

Ms. Colletti reported that the MSBA has moved the Stow building project to the feasibility stage. Ms. Colletti has also heard that MSBA was impressed with the Nashoba presentation and that MSBA has exhausted the Maynard regionalization idea.

CCC by Cathy Giunta

Ms. Giunta reported that she spoke with the person in charge of the St. Michael's Raffle. Ms. Giunta is planning to meet with her, as she provided several good ideas that Ms. Giunta would like to look into for fund raising. Ms. Giunta also has contacted Jen Benson, SC Chair for Lunenburg regarding their fund raising efforts for their new turf field.

Ms. CampoBasso stated she felt the flyer that was sent out was very well done and thought the pledge was a good idea.

Ms. Giunta stated she is also looking into the idea of a road race. Mr. Govindan stated he felt that was a good idea. Ms. Giunta asked the Committee to send any other ideas to her.

NEW BUSINESS

BUS TRANSPORTATION AWARD

Mr. Wood directed the Committee review the bus memo on the SharePoint. Mr. Govindan questioned why the contract was for one year. Mr. King replied we wanted to get a contract in place quickly for next year so therefore only requested a one year bid. Mr. Burke asked if all other terms remained the same. Mr. King replied they did.

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to award a one year transportation contact to Dee Bus as outlined in the April 10, 2008 memo seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

OLD BUSINESS

2008-2009 CALENDAR

Mr. Wood advised the Committee an error was made on the date of the Bolton Fair and asked the Committee to vote to accept the calendar with the correct date of September 26th.

MOTION

Richard Fly made a motion to a adopt the 2008-2009 Calendar as previously proposed with the amendment of changing the Sept. 19th early release day to September 26 seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (8-0-0)**

TURF FIELD AND TRACK PROJECT

Mr. Wood directed the Committee to review the memo on the update of the Project. The communication being received from the Towns is that they would have preferred better communication. Mr. Wood stated he takes full responsibility for that. We still have the issue of the warrant article in Stow; their position is to have this be a positive vote.

Mr. Govindan stated, we need to make it clear that this proposal has no implication in the 09 Budget that is being approved by the towns.

Ms. Giunta advised the Committee expects to present slides tonight for Bolton Selectman. Mr. Fly wrote a letter which is available on the SharePoint site. Ms. Giunta advised Bolton is running this letter in the town paper, and asked all members to get in their town papers, if the town Reps prefer she will do as Chair.

Mr. Govindan stated that he was going to write a letter to the editors of local newspapers when he received Mr. Fly's. Now he would like to use it, instead. Mr. Govindan was particularly upset at the newspaper report that none of the Lancaster SC members attended the Lancaster Select Board meeting implying that it was deliberate. We were not informed of the meeting. Furthermore, Mr. Govindan stated that the proposal should not have been a surprise to the towns since the project has been on the table for discussion for more than one year.

With regard to the dual vote proposed in Stow, Mr. Adams state he does not remember having to go for a ballot vote on past debt exclusion. He advised to check with Lancaster, he recalls they do not have to go to a ballot vote.

Mr. Burke stated that going forward what you really have to keep in mind, while we think we may be clear on the law, it may not be the case and you are still going to need Bound Counsel to approve it. Mr. Burke advised we have to reduce distraction. Based on the memo that stated if Stow was to pass the warrant article, but vote it down at the ballot, counsel would still need to approve the financing. If the School District did not make a commitment right up front to abide the issue either way, the Stow ATM discussion on the issue will be distracted. We should therefore tell Stow what we plan to do at the outset.

Mr. Adams stated that it would be difficult to support the project going forward if the vote should fail at the ballot in Stow, since it may hurt the relationships with Selectman. We can be right within the law but could be cutting ourselves off in other areas.

Ms. Giunta advised we need to focus at the project at hand, and avoid the distraction, focus on providing the answers to the questions that will be asked.

Ms. Colletti asked if it would be possible to make the presentation into a film? If it is being filmed tonight can we pull it aside?

Mr. Wood agrees with Mr. Burke to not focus on the distraction, it is important that while he understands the towns' position, to focus on what we already voted, let's let the town do what they have to do; we need to focus on getting the correct information out there.

Mr. Govindan asked why is this different than the high school bond? Mr. Wood replied the size, it's much smaller, the reality is about the law, and the law clearly states that all they have to do is put on the floor for a vote. Our job now is about the school and their needs.

Mr. Adams opposed a motion that gives the veto power to Stow. It is premature to make motion contingent on what another town does, let's go to the town meeting and see what comes out of it.

Ms. Colletti stated that if the project has validity it has validity; she is hearing from Town's people that we took away the vote, and by passed the process. Ms. Giunta stated we did not take away the vote, which is why we voted earlier enough to get this on the town ballot. We now need to go and present the case in each town, let the voters decide.

Mr. Govindan asked if the town of Stow wants to put this inclusion, how would they do it. Mr. Wood replied they could do it in a separate vote.

Mr. Horne asked how did we do the high school? Ms. Giunta advised "the same way".

Ms. Giunta asked the presentation be added to SharePoint and requested feedback.

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to accept Stow Selectman's decision to tie the passage of financing on the Turf Field Project in a debt exclusion ballot vote seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Brian Burke **OPOSED:** Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND FAILED. (1-6-0)**

FY09 FINAL ASSESSMENTS

Mr. Wood directed the committee to memo on SharePoint. Mr. Wood asked the Committee if there were any questions and requested a vote to approve assessment as stated in memo.

Mr. Burke asked if these are the same figures as previously provided. Mr. Wood replied they are.

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the FY 09 Municipal Assessments of Bolton, \$10,612,936; Lancaster \$9,475,167. And Stow \$12,607,228. theses amounts will be offset by school building assistance funds in the case of Lancaster and Stow seconded by Brian Burke **IN FAVOR:** Monica CampoBasso, Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Andrew Martin attended the meeting tonight to present ideas to reduce the Green House Gas Emmissions.

Mr. Martin would like to see the number of students driving to school reduced and teach the students the value of public transportation. He proposed increasing the parking fee by doubling or tripling and providing more late buses. Mr. Martin stated, if we were to adopt this policy it would save lives, money and help the environment. Mr. Martin also feels that some students are not participating in after school activities because they do not have sufficient late transportation.

Ms. CampoBasso stated she can't say she disagrees, but a couple years ago we did a survey on this and it fell flat, agrees that it should be reconsidered again.

Mr. Wood stated he thinks the Committee should research further and advised the Finance Subcommittee should consider this project.

In Mr. Martin's closing statement, he thanked the Committee for their time and asked them to "Take a Risk" for the students' benefit and the environments' benefit.

MOTION

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant

NOTES