

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Appendix II

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 3, 2008

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Burke (left meeting at 6:42; returned at 7:26), Monica CampoBasso, Richard Fly, Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, David Horne (Arrived 6:04), Lynn Colletti (Arrived 6:06) and Ex-Officio Cristina Shea.

ABSENT: Don Adams

ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools, George King, Assistant Superintendent, Tom O'Brien, Director of Athletics, Ken Tucker, FSS Principal, Jeremy Roche, Nashoba HS Principal

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cathy Giunta called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM in the Superintendent's Office.

APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF February 8, 2008

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2870	4/4/08	VENDOR	\$ 252,267.23
2871	4/4/08	Benefit	\$ 55,075.13
2872	4/4/08	Payroll	\$1,054,685.94

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memo dated 4/4/08 and noted above and seconded by Monica CampoBasso **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE March 20, 2008 MINUTES

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to approve the minutes of March 20, 2008, as amended and seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, and Brian Burke **ABSTAINED:** Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED (4-0-1)**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- 1. Massachusetts School Building Authority Meeting** – I hope to be attending a meeting on April 2 regarding the MSBA Board's decision as to communities' they may fund in the near future. I will update the School Committee upon my return. Mr. Wood updated the committee on the results/progress of the March 2nd meeting.
- 2. FLLAC Charter Revisions** – These are revisions proposed by the Board of Directors of FLLAC, of which I am a member, and have to do with the changes over the years of how the collaborative is run.
- 3. School Choice** – The School Committee is required by law only to take up the matter of school choice if there is a change or if they wish to bring the matter to end for the following school year. This year, I will be asking the School Committee to entertain the notion of raising the number of seats at our high school only. I am recommending we go from 60 to 90 seats available. The high school has not seen the resident enrollment increase as expected and these additional thirty seats would help to offset any students who exit the district for choice or charter schools, and could be looked to as seed money for offsetting the cost of any track and field

upgrades. An additional thirty students would bring in approximately \$150,000 if all filled and that would be an annual revenue stream until they graduate. Mr. Roche will be on hand to answer any questions, and he and the principal's council are in support of this measure.

4. **Wellness Credit** – The Wellness Department at the high school which includes physical education, health and consumer science, has recommended and Mr. Roche has accepted a proposal to allow high school students to take up to six credits in the Wellness Department toward their ninety for graduation purposes. This would not increase the total credits required, just broaden how students could attain them. (See attachment describing the changes.) According to Instructional Program Adoption Policy IH I am informing the committee of this change. It does not require additional resources, but it does provide students with greater flexibility in earning their full graduation credits.
5. **School Calendar** – There is a draft calendar in the folder for all to review. I put this together based on our last meeting. The only thing not completed debated is the issue of the early release for high school students throughout the year. I am proposing that we only have the September 21 early release (as discussed last week) and then consolidate the professional development time around the mid term and final exam weeks which would give the high school 8 total late start times. School for students will start around 10:00 am. Along with the advantage of giving students additional study time in the morning, and proper sleep before taking the exams, it will give the high school teachers more connected professional development and meeting time, something discussed previously. It will also give the food services department an additional eight days on which to sell lunch. With the school committee's approval we will note this on the calendar.
6. **Track and Field Project** – The School Committee should vote the solution it wishes to have for the deteriorating condition of our fields at this meeting. Mr. King and I can answer questions regarding finance plans for either option before you. A letter will go out after you vote to the Boards of Selectmen to inform them of your decision and what steps are afforded them.

RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Wood, along with the School Committee recognized Mallika Govindan for the accomplishment of winning the North Central Massachusetts Regional Spelling Bee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex-Officio Report by Ms. Shea

School Committee Student Report for 4/3/08

Sports:

1. Varsity Softball

- ◆ Last year of coaching for Mr. Allard
- ◆ Pitcher Rosie Manzo, Senior from Hudson
- ◆ Other Senior Co-Captains: Captains Hannah Pirez and Jessica Ray
- ◆ First game home against Milford tomorrow, April 4th

2. Track:

- ◆ First Meet this Friday against Quabbin canceled
- ◆ Girls have been training hard with new coaches Mr. Glover and Coach Langelo
- ◆ We will be ready for our next meet on Monday against Hudson (Girls are home, boys are away)

3. Lacrosse:

- ◆ 1st Varsity Boys team coached this year by Terry Boots
- ◆ 1st game against Leominster on Monday canceled
- ◆ Next game away at Marlboro

4. Girls Lacrosse:

- ◆ Varsity is led this year by Senior Captains Cat Philbin, Megan Powell
- ◆ Last year the JV team went undefeated so this years varsity team has a good chance for success
- ◆ 18 members on Nashoba's first varsity team
- ◆ 1st game against St. Peter Marion

Thoroughly Modern Millie:

- ◆ Nashoba had a theatrical weekend.
- ◆ All three shows this weekend were a success
- ◆ 37 student actors plus a student tech crew
- ◆ The show starred Seniors Kelly McCue, James Gold, Meaghan O'Toole, and Junior Kyle Mendez
- ◆ Every show was followed by a cast party for the cast
- ◆ Received multiple standing ovations
- ◆ Was entered in the Theatre at the Mount TAMY Awards- judged during the performances- we will know later if they won an award

FIRST Robotics Competition

- ◆ Results of Last weekend's competition:
 - Team was at the competition at the Agganis Arena from Thursday to Saturday
 - Thursday was spent repairing the robot after shipment
 - Friday they participated in preliminary rounds, facing a slight roadblock when part of their robot broke
 - Continued in Saturday's preliminaries, but robot was not chosen to continue for the finals
 - Still, they did a commendable job, and placed 14th overall
 - Many members believe that this years robot was the most sophisticated robot that the Nashoba team has ever built

Harvard Smithsonian Internship:

- ◆ One member of the robotics team, Ramesh Govindan (Junior), was awarded the Harvard-Smithsonian Internship this year
- ◆ Ramesh will work with the TRACE team analyzing specific solar events observed by a small explorer satellite that has been in space for 6 years

Music Department:

- ◆ Another upcoming event: MICCA Festival Approaching:
- ◆ Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors' Association
- ◆ Our music department competes every year, hoping to earn a gold medal (gold, silver, or honorable mention awards are given)
- ◆ Band: Saturday, April 5th
- ◆ Chorus: Sunday, April 5th (Madrigal, Women's, Concert)

Ms. Giunta asked the Committee and citizens present to acknowledge and congratulate Cristina for being named Valedictorian of the 2008 graduating class of Nashoba Regional High School. Ms. CampoBasso would also like the Committee and citizens present to congratulate Cristina on her recent acceptance to several Ivy League University.

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 Ms. Giunta in Mr. Adams Absence

Negotiations continues with Unit C and A. Ms. Giunta requested the Committee please submit their evaluations if they have not done so.

SPED PAC, by Mr. Burke

Mr. Burke stated nothing new to report, working on the suggestion made by the Committee Chair at the last meeting.

ESBC by Ms. Colletti

No Report

CCC by Cathy Giunta

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

TURF FIELD AND TRACK PROJECT

Mr. Wood directed the Committee to review the memo posted on SharePoint by Mr. King. Mr. King reviewed the document in detail. An open discussion ensued; following are the concern/comments from the Committee and Citizens present.

Ms. CampoBasso addressed Mr. O'Brien, asked if the funds that were raised previously for scholarships were still available, Mr. O'Brien advised that they are still available. Ms. CampoBasso asked Mr. O'Brien if he thought we would have the same participation if fees were increased, he replied yes, he feels that the same hardships would still be applied for.

Mr. Horne asked if the fund raising was still being done, Mr. Wood replies yes and we received two checks this week.

Ms. CampoBasso stated she does not feel there is any other way we can support the sports without moving forward with the turf field project. She wants the public to be aware how much time and effort the committee has put on issue.

Mr. Fly agrees with Ms. CampoBasso, stated status quo is not acceptable, believes there is benefit for a large number of students as well as the community. Mr. Fly believes that we need to pursue and the private fund raising needs to continue.

Mr. Burke advised he agrees with his colleagues on the need for the project itself, but does not believe that it is acceptable to allow funding to go forward as it has in the past. Our student athletes, administration, and faculty need to do better than raising \$5,000. per year against the service cost of the bond. Mr. Burke was not willing to support funding the measure without a \$100. increase in athletic fees to participate in Fall and Spring sports, with possibly a mechanism for reducing these fees if there is a corresponding increase in capital contributions. Mr. Burke stated that he felt that the District should place the burden of funding a large portion of this project on those who are its primary beneficiaries, at least in the first instance.

Mr. Horne questioned the capital campaign effort, and stated importance to show how we can self fund this to the town. Mr. King replied we would notified the town they have 60 days to object, if they do not object we would start construction the day after graduation with a completion date of late August. There is no positive action required by the town.

Mr. Govindan stated he was opposed to the idea last year, but has come 180, now believes there is no option we need to go forward with the turf field, is in favor of the \$50.00 athletic fee increase.

Ms. CampoBasso does not want athletic fees to be raised so high it will deter students from participating, particularly students who may be trying a sport for the first time.

Ken Tucker – Turf field is a project that benefits every sport, we can regenerate the other fields for practice. Mr. Tucker has been here a long time coaching football, has seen a lot of deterioration of the fields. He feels Nashoba Athletics are first class organization and wants to see that continue. He stated a turf field is a much safer field than a grass.

Mr. Govindan asked Mr. Tucker, when sliding on turf, is there more chance for injury? Mr. Tucker replied no that myth was from the old turf fields, the new ones are much safer for injury than grass fields.

Ms. Jen Benson – Chair of Lunenburg SC, here to volunteer her help in fund raising or if we wanted to see their new turf field.

Mr. Tom O'Brien advised the safety issue is a big one, studies show it is safer, less head injuries, all teams would benefit, baseball, field hockey, soccer, lacrosse. We can take greater advantage of the stands and lights. The revenue opportunities are there, the new field would be able to be used "24/7" if needed. Regarding raising the fees, Mr. O'Brien does not believe that a \$50.00 increase would effect the participation but suggests a family cap.

Mr. Tucker stated he has always been a strong opponent to user fees, he believes \$150.00 is too high.

Mr. Chuck Schoolcraft, Nashoba Baseball Coach advised that more gym classes could be outside with the new field, believes with the new field we could attract more tournaments because of stands and lights.

Mr. Horne asked, how do we get the commitment to keep fund raising momentum going to offset the expense? Mr. Wood replied in talking to experts in fund raising, you need to have some sort of large mass (one large donation) we have not had that yet.

Mr. Kevin Murray, Stow Resident is in attendance to support the Turf Field and stated there are a lot of opportunities for the community not just sports related.

Mr. Jeremy Roche stated there will be an academic benefit, it is proven the more students participate in after school extra curriculum activities the better they do academically.

Mr. Bob Hatch – Town League Soccer Coach and Volunteer Assistant Girls Varsity Soccer Coach, stated with the use that the present fields get, there is not much fun in playing on them in the condition they are, the conditions are only going to get worse. Mr. Hatch stated to consider the district/state championship opportunities the turf field would bring.

Mr. Terry Boots –Nashoba Lacrosse Coach, believes the revenue of user fees are being underestimated, there is a shortage of playable fields now in the region.

Ms. Colletti asked who would be responsible for scheduling of the new field. Mr. O'Brien would handle as he does know. Mr. Spratt advised that we own the software for on line scheduling which will be in place in this fall.

Mr. Horne stated, we need show a committed plan to the towns on how we are going to raise the \$159,000 annually.

Mr. Wood advised we need to separate the two issues of committing to the conditions at the high school and the fund raising.

Mr. Frank Chiodo, President Nashoba Youth Football, has heard a lot of family's committed to the fund raising, he sees a lot of revenue/savings like bus rentals when we have to go to other fields because we can't use our own, camps, etc. Mr. Chiodo stated we use the best helmets for our children's safety, why won't we do the same for the playing field, how do you put a price on safety?

Mr. Bob Williams, Father of Captain of Football Team, believes the turf field is the best thing as far as safety for our kids.

Ms. Jaime Mariani, Nashoba Field Hockey Coach, stated lower ½ of softball fields are in very bad condition, safety and the game will be a much better game play with the turf field, advised a lot of coaches look at running clinics, district games, always a need for fields which would generate revenue.

Mr. Fly wants it noted that this School Committee is committed to fund raising for this project.

Mr. Horne addressed the citizens, everyone who spoke tonight, we need community commitment on fund raising as the School Committee is committed.

Ms. Giunta stated the towns need to be aware that it is included in the operating budget, not a separate expense.

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to award the track and field construction contract to Quirk Construction of Georgetown, MA contingent on financing approval seconded by Mel Govindan. **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

MOTION

Richard Fly made a motion to authorize the issuance of \$1,280,000. of long term debt, for a term not to exceed ten years, for the construction of a synthetic turf field and new track at Nashoba Regional High School and provide the required notification to each member town as authorized by MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16 seconded by Mel Govindan. **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, and Mel Govindan **OPPOSED:** Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. (6-1-0)**

NEW BUSINESS

FLLAC CHARTER

Mr. Wood advised the changes are outlined in the proposed changes to the FLLAC Charter Agreement memo dated 11/29/07 on SharePoint and reviewed the changes with the Committee.

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to accept changes to the FLLAC Charter Agreement as outlined in the 11/29/07 memo seconded by Mel Govindan. **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

SCHOOL CHOICE

Mr. Wood, advised the Committee the vote tonight is to add 30 additional seats to the High School School Choice, we are required by law by May 1st to notified if we plan to stop school choice and by June 1st if we plan to add seats. We currently have 60 seats and have filled 56 seats. Mr. Wood is requesting that we open

Mr. Roche stated he wants to increase the number to offset the expense of outbound tuition of students who go to charter schools.

Ms. CampoBasso is concerned about the class size, what is the impact?

Mr. Roche, as soon as we know who is coming in the better we can manage the sections. Stated that not all 30 would be in the same graduating class, should be able to manage this with the spread on the number of sections we offer. Mr. Roche advised we have tried hard to reach out to parents when they have heard a student may be leaving. He stated they ran an add in T & G for the March open night and had a great response.

Mr. Burke stated he would like some hard numbers, what are the in/out numbers. Mr. Wood replied we have 56 current coming in.

Ms. Colletti asked if 30 students will impact the curriculum and concerned "you don't know what you will get". Mr. Roche replied, he is confident that we can handle the curriculum without a dramatic impact. Ms. Colletti stated she is not concerned with class size but parity, the district is moving toward promoting better parity, and how will this impact if we do not know where the students coming in are coming from. Mr. Wood advised that for a student to break away from their school at that age, shows they are a leaders and self confident student which he feels will compliment the student body.

Mr. Govindan stated we have three levels, so he feels that new students coming in will be placed appropriately.

Mr. Burke asked Historically, how do school choice students do? Mr. Roche replied he feels they do very well and are very successful, 15 different communities are represented at the HS in the current school choice, he believes these students are successful, socially adapted, he would say they are normal students integrated into the fabric of the school.

Ms. CampoBasso is concerned about the lower grades coming up, concerned about the addition of sections. Can we limit the number per class? Mr. Wood replied are own policy allows us to say our students get first choice of courses, if a class is full they can opt out of school choice at that point.

Mr. Roche advised when a student does not get what they want, it tens to be an elective. Mr. Roche stated in 2004-2005 the high school had 50 sections with 25 or more, in 2007-2008 they had 31 sections with 25 or more.

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to increase the School Choice from 60-90 seats available at the high school with the provision there is a cap of 10 additional seats per grade seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, David Horne, Mel Govindan, and Brian Burke **OPPOSED:** Lynn Colletti, Cathy Giunta **VOTED AND PASSED. (5-2-0)**

NL SOPHOMORE WELLNESS – Mr. Wood informed the committee a new course will be added, NL Sophomore Wellness. Sophomore Wellness is a 2 credit class where class time is split equally between a physical activity component and a health component.

OLD BUSINESS

2008-2009 Calendar- Mr. Wood advised he did his best to incorporate the suggestions made at the last School Committee meeting, including starting after Labor Day, shorten Christmas break, two vacations, election day, etc. Ms. CampoBasso requested the data on Good Friday which is posted on SharePoint.

Ms. CampoBasso advised she feels strongly about keeping Election Day as staff development. Stated for reference that Leominster holds conferences Thanksgiving week with early release for students on Monday and Tuesday. She is not convinced of the worthiness of a Calendar Committee. She has a huge concern regarding the need for early release and conferences in March; parents should know at this point where their children stand with all the resources available there is very little need for conference time in March/April. Eliminate the June 5th early release day.

Mr. Burke addressing Ms. CampoBasso, Do you propose to eliminate the conferences in March? Ms. CampoBasso replied, yes.

Mr. Fly advised the March conference in middle school are student lead conferences, he finds value in those conferences and is opposed to eliminating these.

Ms. Kathy Kelly, Hale Teacher, she believes that parents of 8th graders need the March conferences to explain the course selections for HS.

Ms. Colletti stated it makes sense for the 8th grade conference; do know how many parents attend these? Mr. Wood replied approx. 90%.

Ms. Giunta finds Ms. CampoBasso's suggestions of moving the conferences to November have some merit, questions the need for the student driven March conference, with personal experience she does not see this as having any value. Ms. Giunta stated she would like to see the June 5th early release removed from the calendar.

Ms. CampoBasso objects to the April 17th and May 8th early release days due to attendance before School Vacation and MCAS following May 8th date.

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to move business to after 9:00pm seconded by Mel Govindan. **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, Mel Govindan, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to amend the 2008-2009 Calendar by removing the April 17, 2009 and May 8, 2009 Early Release days from the calendar seconded by Mel Govindan. **IN FAVOR:** Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, and Mel Govindan **OPPOSED:** Richard Fly, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND FAILED (3-4-0)**

MOTION

Brian Burke made a motion to amend the 2008-2009 Calendar by removing the June 5, 2009 Early Release day from the calendar seconded by Lynn Colletti. **IN FAVOR:** Lynn Colletti and Brian Burke **OPPOSED:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, David Horne, Mel Govindan, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND FAILED (2-6-0)**

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to amend the 2008-2009 Calendar by removing the March 20, 2009 Early Release day from the calendar seconded by Mel Govindan. **IN FAVOR:** Lynn Colletti and Brian Burke and Monica CampoBasso **OPPOSED:** Cathy Giunta, Richard Fly, David Horne, and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND FAILED (3-4-0)**

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to amend the 2008-2009 Calendar by removing the May 8, 2009 Early Release day from the calendar seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, David Horne, Lynn Colletti and Mel Govindan **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

MOTION

Mel Govindan made a motion to accept the proposed 2008-2009 calendar as amended with the exception of the Early Release days at the High School, that schedule to follow; seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **IN FAVOR:** Richard Fly, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, David Horne, Lynn Colletti and Mel Govindan **OPPOSED:** Monica CampoBasso **VOTED AND PASSED. (6-1-0)**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No Citizens' comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Committee went into Executive Session at 9:45 for the purpose of negotiation strategies.

MOTION

Monica CampoBasso made a motion to go into an Executive Session at 9:45 pm to include Michael Wood, George King and Aleta Masterson ; seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

MOTION

David Horne made a motion to reconvene to open session at 10:26 pm; seconded by Mel Govindan **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Mel Govindan, Richard Fly, Monica CampoBasso, David Horne, Lynn Colletti, and Brian Burke **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

The Committee reconvened to open session at 10:26 pm

MOTION

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant