

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 26, 2011

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Jeff Odell, Julie Fay, and Reta Rupich

**ABSENT:** George Babich and Lynn Colletti

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Federspiel called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM in the School Committee Conference Room.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Topics on consent agenda included:

**May 27, 2011 Warrants**

<b><u>WARRANT NO.</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
3160	05/27/11	VENDOR	\$ 395,295.47
3161	05/27/11	BENEFIT	\$ 846,238.62
3162	05/27/11	PAYROLL	\$1,414,755.53

Minutes of the May 9, 2011 meeting  
Minutes of the May 12, 2011 meeting

**Student Recognition**

Mr. Wood recognized Brendan Alylward. Brendan currently serves as president of the Best Buddies Organization at the high school and is being recognized tonight for his work and dedication to the Nashoba unified sport program and his overall contributions to the special education community. Mr. Roche added that he would like to thank Brendan for his participation in the Best Buddies program, he has been a driving force in getting the entire student body involved in the program and will be sorely missed next year.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Kathy Owen stated she has received phone calls voicing concern regarding the science positions at the high school. Mr. Roche stated they are currently working on this, stating that the good part of this situation is that the science department has the largest staff and smallest class size and although we do not like to see any course reductions, if there must be, science is a department that can withstand it. Mr. Roche explained that all college requirements will be met.

Ms. Federspiel stated she had one correspondence from a citizen regarding the possibility of having exit interviews with athletes so they can express their opinions on how the coach staff performed. Ms. Federspiel reported that Tanya Rich is working on this.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Student Advisory Report**

Ms. Cross reported;

#### **Sports**

- \* Baseball: The varsity baseball team has an overall record of 12-7. They are ranked eighth in Central Mass among all teams. The team is hosting Shrewsbury on Friday in their last regular season game. The team clinched a playoff berth a few weeks ago. They will find out where they are seeded and who/when they will play next week.
- \* Softball: Softball has dropped to 5-13 this season. The team has suffered a few key injuries over the last couple of weeks. Despite not qualifying for playoffs, the team's morale is still high and they have continued to work hard this season.
- \* Lacrosse:
  - Boys' lacrosse completed their regular season play this week with a loss to Wachusett. The team finished the season 11-8 and has qualified for the post-season.
  - The girls' lacrosse also qualified for playoffs with a 10-7 record. They were playing their last regular season game this afternoon.
  - Both teams will find out where they are seeded and when they will play their first game tomorrow morning.
- \* Track and Field:
  - The boys' track team won the Class C Championship last weekend. The girls' team took second place in the class meet.
  - This weekend we have 61 student-athletes from our boys' and girls' track teams who qualified to compete in the Central Mass Division Meet being held at Fitchburg State College.
- \* Tennis: The boys' tennis team has improved to 6-7 while the girls' tennis team is 8-7. Both teams have had a very busy week playing numerous matches - even double-headers - trying to get all competitions played before the MIAA deadline. Both teams are in position to secure playoff spots.

#### **Theatre News**

- \* Nashoba Drama recently competed in the Theatre at the Mount Awards for their production of Chicago.
- \* They received 17 nominations, and won three of those categories: Best Playbill, Best Lobby Display, and Best Actress.

#### **School Events**

- \* Junior prom took place on May 14th at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. Everyone remained safe, had a great time at the prom itself, and enjoyed all of the festivities at the after prom party at Orchard Hills.
- \* The freshman and sophomore classes will be hosting a joint dance on June 3rd to help raise money for their classes. Tickets will cost \$15, but an appetizer, salad, spaghetti dinner, and dessert are all included in that price.

#### **Senior Events**

- \* The last day of classes for the senior class will be tomorrow, May 27th. Senior finals will be held next week, May 31st to June 4th, from 7:40-11:14.
- \* Senior field day will take place on Monday, June 6th and will include fun activities such as inflatable games, a giant Slip-N-Slide, and various sports.
- \* Senior awards night will also take place on June 6th in the high school auditorium at 6pm. This is a great chance for seniors to be recognized for their great achievements and for some to receive scholarship money!
- \* A mandatory graduation rehearsal will take place for the seniors on June 9th in the upper gym at 9am, followed that evening by Senior Banquet at the Hudson Portuguese Club from 6-11pm. Senior banquet is an opportunity for the seniors to spend one more night dressing up, dancing, and having fun before graduating.
- \* Speaking of graduation, it will be taking place on June 12th at 12:30 at the DCU Center.

#### **Finance Subcommittee**

Ms. Busch reported the warrants were approved and no other business was conducted.

#### **Personnel Subcommittee**

No Report

**Policy Subcommittee**

No Report

**ESBC**

No Report

**SPED PAC**

No Report

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Summer Enrichment Program**

Steve Grant and Monica Visco are attending the meeting tonight to present the proposed Summer Enrichment Program. Mr. Grant provided the background of this project which involved a parent survey with a lot of positive feedback supporting this program. Ms. Visco stated they also researched area districts with similar programs. Mr. Grant stated this will be a multi workshop program with both morning and afternoon sessions from Monday-Thursday for two weeks with class sizes between 8-12 students. Ms. Visco reviewed the sessions that will be offered, both educational and crafts. Mr. Odell asked if there was a concession between sessions. Ms. Visco replied that if a student stays the full day there will be a lunch break, students will provide their own lunch and snack. Ms. Federspiel stated the program is self funding and Ms. Visco also added the instructor is also responsible for providing all materials needed for the course out of there stipend. The program will be run in Lancaster.

**MOTION**

Maureen Busch made a motion to authorize a district summer enrichment program for grades 1-5 seconded by Kathy Owen **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Jeff Odell, Julie Fay, and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

**CRC Committee Update**

Mr. Wood introduced Joel Bates, Jeremy Roche and Karen Mayotte, Grade 1 Teacher at Pompo/Center. Mr. Wood advised the committee is made up of administrators, teachers and parents. Mr. Bates provided a powerpoint handout detailing the work the committee has done and the work for the future. Mr. Roche provided the history of the CRC Committee stating this is the second year the committee has been work on this initiative. Mr. Bates and Ms. Mayotte reviewed the slides on the handout. Mr. Odell asked if something other than a binary scale was considered. Mr. Roche replied they had several discussion around this and it was determined the "comments section" would be used if detail is warranted. Mr. Bates provided an overview of implementation and what the objective for the work over the summer will be.

**School Improvement Plan Presentations**

Ms. Federspiel advised these presentation are for information purposes only used to set the foundation for our district improvement plan. Mr. Wood advised the school plans are built in preparation for the budget process so if there are budget implications tied to their improvement goals it will be in the budget for next year. Mr. Wood advised that school councils vote on and approve these plans.

**Luther Burbank Middle School**

Mr. Perkins provided the Luther Burbank School improvement plan, reviewing the mission statement and goals of the school. Mr. Perkins stated the focus areas in the improvement plan are climate and safety, creating a respectful environment, technology and a creating a challenging, rigorous curriculum. Mr. Perkins reviewed the plan for improving MCAS to meet AYP.

### **Pompo/Center Elementary School**

Mr. Irvine provided the Pompo/Center Elementary School improvement plan. Mr. Irvine stated they have had outstanding year and he is very pleased with the initiatives the school has taken on this year as well as the ones the school council has completed. Mr. Irvine advised that one project was to revise the vision statement going into a new building, Mr. Irvine read the new vision statement. Mr. Irvine also advised the other areas of the school improvement plan are student assessment, student achievement and student safety.

### **Nashoba Regional High School**

Mr. Roche advised the school council has been meeting over the past year to revise the school improvement plan for the next three years. Mr. Roche provided a handout detailing the six goals and new ideas of the improvement plan and reviewed each goal.

### **Sixth Grade Teacher Position at Hale**

Mr. Wood advised that in preparation of the budget, the class size of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at center school was overlooked, there are 108 students who will be entering sixth grade in the fall at Hale, there were 105 this year which went over the guideline so 108 would be getting further away from our guidelines. Mr. Wood is recommending adding a fifth section, this would be funding by the downsizing of the teaching and learning department with a curriculum coordinator position being cut to part time and there could also be some savings in new teacher hiring. Ms. Busch asked for clarification on how this would work with 4 core subjects. Mr. King explained the class rotation cycle. Ms. Busch questions what kind of teacher qualifications you will be looking for to fill this position. Mr. Wood replied it would be a certified 1-6 with a strong ELA background and some math background.

### **MOTION**

Nancy Federspiel made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to add a sixth grade section and hire an additional teacher with transferred funds within the budget at Hale Middle School the seconded by Reta Rupich **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Jeff Odell, Julie Fay, and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

### **School Committee Calendar**

Ms. Federspiel advised the calendar is posted in the packet tonight and asked if anyone had any objections or if any discussion is needed.

### **MOTION**

Reta Rupich made a motion to adopt the 2011-2012 school committee meeting calendar as presented seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Jeff Odell, Julie Fay, and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

### **Assabet Valley Collaborative Charter**

Mr. Wood provided a history of the collaborative, stating we used to belong to three when we became a region, two years ago we did an analysis of what collaborative was most in line with our district and recognized that Assabet was the one we most aligned with and where most of students were and at that time we phased out of CASE and FLAC. Mr. Wood advised that Cathy Cummins the Executive Director of AVC outlined the changes in the current charter which were mostly generated by Mass General Law. Mr. Wood asked the committee to review the document and it will be voted on at the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Federspiel suggested the committee think about the areas of District Improvement Goals, School Committee Goals and Superintendent Goals and these will be discussed at the next meeting. No objections were raised.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

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

- ❖ **Facilities Updated**
  - ❖ Stow Elementary School Project
  - ❖ Sign at Mary Rowlandson and Luther Burbank
- ❖ **Finance**
  - ❖ Senate Budget News
- ❖ **Personnel**
  - ❖ Administration
  - ❖ Teachers
- ❖ **School Committee**
  - ❖ Goals
  - ❖ Organization
- ❖ **Teaching and Learning**
  - ❖ Summer Enrichment Camp
  - ❖ Retirement Gala

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

NONE

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Committee went into Executive Session at 8:28 pm for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy and include Michael Wood and George King with no business to be conducted after.

**MOTION**

Maureen Busch made a motion to go into executive session at 8:28 pm for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy to include Michael Wood and George King with no business to be conducted after; seconded by Nancy Federspiel.

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|----------------|-----|
| Ms. Owen       | Yes |
| Ms. Federspiel | Yes |
| Ms. Busch      | Yes |
| Ms. Rupich     | Yes |
| Mr. Odell      | Yes |
| Ms. Fay        | Yes |

**MOTION**

Maureen Busch made a motion to reconvene to open session at 8:58 pm; seconded by Reta Rupich

Ms. Owen	Yes
Ms. Federspiel	Yes
Ms. Busch	Yes
Ms. Rupich	Yes
Mr. Odell	Yes
Ms. Fay	Yes

**MOTION**

Maureen Busch made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 seconded by Reta Rupich **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Jeffrey Odell, Julie Fay, and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (6-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aleta Masterson  
Executive Assistant