

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 1, 2012

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

ABSENT: George Babich

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Federspiel called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM in the School Committee Conference Room.

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda included:

March 2, 2012 Warrants

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3224	3/2/12	VENDOR	\$ 220,443.51
3225	3/2/12	BENEFIT	\$ 609,060.48
3226	3/2/12	PAYROLL	\$1,136,903.34

Minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Advisory Report

No Report

Finance SubCommittee

Ms. Busch reported the warrants were approved and the committee will be voting on the budget tonight and receive a Field and Track Renovation Project update.

Personnel SubCommittee

No Report

Policy SubCommittee

No Report

ESBC

Ms. Colletti reported the students have moved into the new school, the next meeting is Monday.

SPED PAC

No Report

CORRESPONDENCE

Stow resident correspondences regarding class sizes in Stow
Sounds of Stow Correspondence

The committee discussed some of the residents' concerns stated in their emails and a discussion will be held later during the budget discussion.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Topics included:

- ❖ Center School Phase I
- ❖ Massachusetts School Building Authority Science Grant
- ❖ Continuing work on the goals of the strategic plan
- ❖ Enrollment, class size and numbers of sections

NEW BUSINESS

Remote Meeting Availability

Mr. Wood advised the school committee must vote whether or not they want to allow the school committee members to participate in remote meetings in accordance with the open meeting laws. Mr. Wood advised remote participants will not be able to vote, this would be for the purpose of contributing to a conversation only and there must be a physical quorum present in the room. The committee discussed the parameters of what absences qualify under the new law.

MOTION

Jeff Odell made a motion to allow the school committee members to participate in meetings remotely in accordance with the Open Meeting Laws; seconded by Julie Fay **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Jeffrey Odell, Lynn Colletti, Julie Fay and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

OLD BUSINESS

FY13 Budget

Ms. Federspiel stated the committee will discuss the FY13 budget and a vote will be made tonight. Ms. Federspiel advised the administration looked at some revenue saving/generating ideas such as the activity fees and the bussing structure, these will be discussed. Mr. Wood advised he has met with the Town of Stow and Bolton Finance committees and both have said the proposed NRSD budget is included in their budget with no oppositions, Mr. Wood has not yet met with Lancaster. Ms. Owen stated she was contacted by the Finance committee in Lancaster which requested we look at our E&D. Mr. Wood stated that reducing our E&D would make it very hard to replenish, which would mean the school committee would be facing some hard decisions next year.

Mr. Wood stated that all the concerns brought by the residents in Stow regarding the 7th grade teacher are legitimate and things the administration has discussed and with the current student enrollment, this change will mean one additional student per classroom and we feel they are still able to provide an outstanding education in this situation. Mr. Odell stated the question most residents are asking is if our current class guideline is 24, how did we get to 26 and next year 27? Where is the real line, it should have been at 24. Mr. Wood stated the obvious answer is yes it should be 24, but sometimes we have to make some tough budget decisions. Mr. King stated that historically all the middle schools in the district have had bubble class sizes in the 7th grade which gets corrected in the 8th grade with the addition of foreign language and the staff has gotten very good in dividing these students up. Mr. King stated there has been a lot of decision among the staff and administration at Hale and the staff feels the team in place works very well. Mr. Odell questioned what would happen to the teacher if she is not moved up to 7th, Mr. Wood replied it would be a layoff, but we will have other positions in the district they could apply for, the cost would be approximately \$55,000 to keep the 6th grade model into 7th. Mr. Odell stated he feels this is worth adding to the budget and there is a strong community feel for this as well, going to 27 in the class is too far and feels smaller class sizes are a better learning environment. Ms. Colletti stated she thinks going over the class guidelines is getting dangerous and she has heard in the community the feeling is they would rather have a teacher than the field or the laptop carts previously discussed. Mr. Wood stated if the position of the school committee is they would like the position to be in the budget, that they approve the budget total as proposed and the administration will work within that budget to keep the position and will look at other areas for savings to offset the position. Ms. Busch stated that although she does think this position is needed she is also concerned about sustainability, as there have always been bubble grades and there always will be. Ms. Federspiel stated Ms. Busch raised some valid points, the same situation occurred in Bolton a couple years ago and it was decided to get through the bubble year and not disrupt the middle school model, so we need a plan on how to handle these bubble classes.

MOTION

Jeff Odell made a motion to implement the current 6th grade model in Stow, into the 7th grade by adding a teacher with funding within the current FY13 proposed budget; seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Jeffrey Odell, and Lynn Colletti **OPPOSED:** Nancy Federspiel, Reta Rupich and Julie Fay **VOTED AND PASSED. (4-3-0)**

MOTION

Maureen Busch made a motion to approve the FY13 budget as proposed by the Superintendent for a total budget of \$46,671,144.00; seconded by Jeff Odell **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Jeffrey Odell, Lynn Colletti, Julie Fay and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

2012-2013 SY School Choice

Ms. Federspiel reviewed the two proposed changes to the school choice protocol for the 2012-2013 SY, which would be to limit class sizes to 96 per grade, per town and school choice totals to 45 per town. Ms. Owen stated by doing this you will be almost eliminating school choice and losing all that revenue. Ms. Federspiel stating we will not be losing revenue because we still have 200 students we will not be getting any additional revenue. Ms. Colletti stated the reason for the 96 cap is because we do not want to outgrow our schools, she feels Hale is reaching its capacity and does not want another capital project in Stow. The committee reviewed current enrollment, and discussed class size parity in the district and the impact on future school choice revenue by putting the new parameters on the policy.

MOTION

Jeff Odell made a motion to approve the school choice protocol revision with the only revision being adding a maximum of 96 students per grade, per town; seconded by Maureen Busch **IN FAVOR:** Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Jeffrey Odell, Lynn Colletti, Julie Fay **OPPOSED:** Nancy Federspiel, Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. (5-2-0)**

Field and Track Project Update

Mr. Wood advised Gale and Associates is working on the plans, we have a very aggressive schedule and hope to have the plans by March 15th, in the later part of March we will schedule community presentations in all three towns as we did before and a presentation to the school committee in an April meeting and a site visit will be scheduled.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

MOTION

Reta Rupich made a motion to adjourn at 8:09 pm seconded by Jeff Odell **IN FAVOR:** Nancy Federspiel, Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Jeffrey Odell, Lynn Colletti, Julie Fay and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant