

**NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend, Massachusetts
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 5, 2018**

PRESENT

Chairperson	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
Vice Chairperson	William Hackler	Member, At Large
	Anne Adams	Member, Pepperell
	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Lisa Martin	Member, Pepperell
	Crystal Messamore	Member, Ashby
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large ~ Absent
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
	Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend

ALSO PRESENT

Joan Landers	Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Milligan	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
Parents and Community Members	

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. The chairperson hereby informs the committee and audience members that the meeting is being recorded.
3. The next regularly scheduled school committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 26, 2018, at North Middlesex Regional High School, Room 120, at 7:00 p.m.

The chair asked to move the executive session and budget portion of the agenda to the beginning of the meeting, as there are members in the audience to participate in those specific agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes
The chair asked whether any items needed to be removed from the consent agenda. The chair passed on the minutes, will review for the March 26, 2018 meeting.
2. Acceptance of Donations
 - Donation of organizational products valued at \$300.00 to the North Middlesex Regional High School from Sterilite Corporation
 - Donation of \$300.00 to Nissitissit Middle School from the Girls Who Code Program
3. Approval of Out-of-State/Country Field Trips
 - The NMRHS Service Learning High School Students to participate in community service in New York City, N.Y., April 13, 2018 – April 18, 2018
 - The VBES first grade students to attend the Peacock Players Performing Arts, Nashua, N.H., March 15, 2018

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by William Hackler to approve the consent agenda.
Vote: The motion unanimously passed.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Superintendent's Report

a. Accelerated Repair Projects Update

Superintendent Landers informed the committee:

Squannacook Early Childhood Center: All of the bids have been rejected, and the OPM has rebid the project. Sub-bids were received on March 2, 2018, and the General Contractor bids are due on March 9, 2018. The sub-bids include some restricted bids, which have been reviewed by the Attorney General's office. A decision to reject and/rebid the HVAC and sprinkler system will be made tomorrow morning. The current bids are approximately \$300,000.00 more than the original bids due to the scope changes.

Hawthorne Brook and Varnum Brook Doors/Windows: The contract award letter has been sent to Lockheed Window. Lockheed did the preliminary field measurement work last week during winter school break.

Hawthorne Brook and Varnum Brook HVAC and ADA/Structural Upgrades and Varnum Brook Roof: A detailed design review was completed with Oscar Hills on March 1, 2018. The designer anticipates advertising for bids by March 14, 2018, with Sub-bids due on March 28, 2018, and the general contractor bids on April 5, 2018.

b. School Year Calendar 2018-2019

Mrs. Milligan provided the committee with two options for the 2018-2019 school calendar for the committee to review. Option one school start is before Labor Day, and option two school start is after Labor Day.

Mrs. Clermont recommended sending a survey to staff and parents to ask what their preference would be. Mrs. Milligan volunteered to create a survey and provide the information to the Superintendent.

2. Superintendent Search – Update

Mrs. Rusch stated the screening committee had their first meeting and will be meeting again on March 6, 2018.

Mrs. Robbins explained the process of the screening committee; the committee will review all of the submitted resumes forwarded by NESDEC. The committee will work with NESDEC and create interview questions, the committee will interview the candidates in executive session, and then forward three to five selected candidates to the school committee to hold interviews in open session.

3. Building Committee Report – Update

Mr. Templeton shared that the next building committee meeting is being held on March 12, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. The committee is working with the OPM, General Contractor and Bus Company on creating a landscaping design that will start in the next couple of weeks and redirect the bus patterns till the end of the school season.

Public Communications - 10 minutes will be allotted

Mrs. Yost, President of the NMRSD Teachers Association and a Kindergarten teacher, would like to speak to the committee on the change of the health care benefits. Mrs. Yost stated, "that on behalf of my colleagues and myself, this decision to change the health care benefits might impact the members significantly and financially, and the association would like to maintain the current coverage."

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Warrant Subcommittee

Available for Committee review are accounts payable warrants 18-0215, 18-0222, and 18-0301, and payroll warrants for February 15, 2018, and March 1, 2018. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the warrant subcommittee.

2. Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee recommends the school committee adopt the following policy for (1st reading):

- FF Naming School Facilities

A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve policy FF Naming School Facilities for a 1st reading.

Vote: The motion unanimously passed

3. Finance Subcommittee

Superintendent Landers explained to the committee that Mrs. Haines and the finance committee recommend moving forward with the budget. There are two budget options for committee review.

Superintendent Landers provided an attachment by category showing the reductions that have been reviewed and recommended by Superintendent Landers, Mrs. Haines, and the Leadership team.

Some committee members spoke to their concerns pertaining to the Ashby Elementary School Administrator stipend, the Preschool Coordinator, and the Athletic Coaches.

Mr. Templeton recommends meeting with the town boards to discuss these budget concerns.

Mrs. Robbins suggested voting on the budget that was presented at the Public Hearing. Knowing that the school committee can lower the budget to option 1 or 2 as needed.

Mrs. Adams agrees with Mr. Templeton; the districts need to have more detailed conversations with the town boards. Mrs. Adams discussed that the town boards have commented on the declining enrollment and why the district is in need of additional staff. The social-emotional piece is something that the district will need to have more detailed discussions.

FY19 Budget ~ Discussion & Budget Adoption

The Superintendent is recommending the NMRSD school committee adopt an operational budget for FY2019 of \$49,035,760, an FY2019 transportation budget of \$2,543,165, FY2019 debt service of \$3,833,933 and to use these funds to calculate FY2019 school assessments for member towns as required by statute. In addition, the committee authorized the use of \$1,130,000 from Excess and Deficiency Account to offset the FY2019 operational budget.

Mr. Hackler moved to adopt FY19 option one as submitted.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Robbins

Roll Call Vote: Anne Adams yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Jonna Clermont yes; Robert Templeton yes; Susan Robbins yes; William Hackler yes; Lisa Martin yes; Randee Rusch yes.

4. Photovoltaic Subcommittee Update

Mrs. Rusch informed the committee that the installation in Ashby Elementary School should be completed by April and the High School should be completed by June.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The superintendent is seeking committee approval to accept the Project Learning the Way Computer Science grant for \$15,000.00 awarded to the NMRHS. The grant award distribution schedule is as follows: 2018-2019: \$9,000, 2019-2020: \$6,000, 2020-2021:\$0. The grant was made possible by the support of Mass STEM Hub, a program of the One8 Foundation.

Mr. O'Connor explained that this grant would be used to create four new computer science classes; two will be AP classes. The grant will be paying for three courses in full, and all materials for the fourth course. The courses cover Java, python, writing code, database design, and creating apps. This grant is comprehensive only in three other schools in Massachusetts, and we will be the only school offering all four classes.

Superintendent Landers commended Mr. O'Connor for all of his hard work. Mr. O'Connor also shared with the committee a match program from Analog Devices that the high school received.

Mr. O'Connor explained Analog Devices in Cambridge would deliver products for our students to test out the feasibility of what we currently use vs. what their products can do. Mr. Mitchell, one of our parents in the community, who works at Analog Devices will be the liaison between Analog Devices and the high school.

A motion was made by William Hackler and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the Project Learning the Way Computer Science grant.

Vote: Motion unanimously passed

2. The North Middlesex Regional School District elects to engage in the process to change health insurance benefits under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B Sections 21 through 23.

Mrs. Haines informed the committee that Minuteman Health Care voted to make changes to the health insurance plan; they are minor changes. The changes being suggested are still a significant difference to where the GIC program is. Open enrollment starts May 1st of this year.

Mrs. Rusch explained that the district does not have the option to change the offering, once the vote has been taken by the Minuteman Health Care board, these are the plans that are available for the district to offer. If the changes are not ratified by the union, the plan changes still are in effect. If agreement isn't reached, the district would have to pay the difference in the healthcare costs.

A motion was made by William Hackler and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve making changes to the health insurance benefits under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B Sections 21 through 23.

Vote: seven yes, one no (RT). The motion passed

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Susan Robbins motion to convene in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21(a)

(3) to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the North Middlesex Regional School District Educational Support Personnel Unit, Teachers Unit, Secretarial Unit, Nurses Association and Custodial Unit.

The committee will reconvene in open session.

The Motion was seconded by Jonna Clermont.

Roll Call Vote: Anne Adams yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Jonna Clermont yes; Robert Templeton yes; Susan Robbins yes; William Hackler yes; Lisa Martin yes; Randee Rusch yes.

(chair) The committee will now be meeting in executive session pursuant to MGL chapter 30A, section 21(a)

(3) to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the North Middlesex Regional School District Educational Support Personnel Unit, Teachers Unit, Secretarial Unit, Nurses Association and Custodial Unit because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee.

The committee will reconvene in open session.

The committee went into executive session at 9:17 p.m.

The committee returned to open session at 9:46 p.m.

The chair informed the public that in executive session the committee voted to approve the 2018-2021 Secretarial Unit Contract pending ratification from the secretarial unit.

Mr. Hackler moved to approve the tentative agreement between the NMRSD and the Secretarial Unit dated December 13, 2017, that was presented to the school committee on January 24, 2018, pending the ratification of the secretarial unit.

The motion was seconded by Jonna Clermont.

Roll Call Vote: Anne Adams yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Jonna Clermont yes; Robert Templeton yes; Susan Robbins yes; William Hackler yes; Lisa Martin yes; Randee Rusch yes.

Vote: The motion unanimously passed

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by William Hackler and seconded by Crystal Messamore to adjourn.

Vote: Motion unanimously passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Bilotta-Simeone, Recording Secretary