

**NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Ashby - Pepperell - Townsend, Massachusetts
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 7, 2016**

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Joan Landers	Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Milligan	Assistant Superintendent
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
NMRSD Staff	
Parent/Community Members	

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. The Chairperson hereby informs the Committee and audience members of the recording of this meeting.
3. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be held on Monday, March 14, 2016, at North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Anne Adams and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the consent agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - Monday, February 22, 2016, FY17 Budget Public Hearing Minutes
 - Monday, February 22, 2016, School Committee Minutes
2. Acceptance of Donations:

A Buddy Bench in honor of Scott Middlemiss was donated by the Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation to the Spaulding Memorial School
3. Approval of Out-of-State/Country Field Trips
 - HBMS & NMS Jazz Band to UNH ~ Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH, March 12, 2016
 - NMRHS Robotic Team to Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH, April 2, 2016

Mr. Edmonds advised that the day of the minutes should be Monday, not Wednesday.

Vote: Unanimously passed

The Superintendent shared with the committee that she had received a late request for the North Middlesex Regional High School Student Council to attend the leadership conference sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils in Hyannis, MA.

- NMRHS Student Council at MASC leadership conference, Hyannis, MA, March 9 – 11, 2016

A motion was made by Brian Edmonds and seconded by Susan Robbins to approve that the North Middlesex Regional High School Student Council to attending the MASC conference in Hyannis, MA.

Vote: Unanimously passed.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Student Representative Report

2. Superintendent's Report

- Update from the MSBA

The Superintendent shared that the MSBA accelerated repair grant program will be put on the MSBA board meeting between May and July. The Superintendent is still waiting to hear whether the district would owe money on Peter Fitzpatrick School if the district were to return the building back to the town of Pepperell.

- Budget increase in the Special Education Department

The Superintendent shared that Out of District Tuitions have increased this year, as well as last year. These increases have been included in the budget requests, and we had three emergency requests. We are seeing increases in all mental health areas. These increases are included in the budget we are reviewing currently.

- November 8, 2016, ~ Presidential Election, 2016

The Superintendent shared that November 8th on the 2016-2017 school calendar would be a scheduled full day Professional Development Day. To accommodate the voting polls at the schools for the Presidential Election.

3. Building Committee Report – Update

The Superintendent shared that the building project remains on scheduled. The next building committee meeting will be on Monday, March 14, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. at the North Middlesex Regional High School. The Superintendent shared that there is a two-story “mock-up” of the new building on the construction site. The mock-up will include all the exterior materials, windows, and doors to ensure the correct colors and installation process occurs as the construction moves toward installing the exterior finishes. This mock-up will be inspected by the project designers and used to monitor the on-going construction process.

4. Public Communications – 10 minutes will be allotted

Anne Adams shared how beautiful Les Miserables was with the committee members and public! Congratulations to the cast and crew who participated in the NMRHS Winter Musical Les Miserables!

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Warrant Subcommittee

Available for Committee review are accounts payable warrant 16-0225 and payroll warrant for February 25, 2016. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the warrant subcommittee.

2. Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee recommends the school committee adopt the following policies (2nd reading):

- IJNDB, Empowered Digital Use Policy

Anne Adams made two grammatical suggestions to the policy.

A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Crystal Messamore to approve policy IJNDB with grammatical corrections for a 2nd reading.

Vote: Unanimously passed.

3. Finance Subcommittee

- Joint Board Meeting Update

The chair shared with the committee that they held a joint meeting with the board of selectmen and the finance committee members. The towns shared their budget challenges; Nancy Haines, and the Superintendent reviewed the school budget with joint committees. The school committee and the towns will continue to work on the budget.

4. Facilities Advisory Subcommittee

- School Building Status Reports

The Superintendent shared that the subcommittee is waiting to hear from the MSBA to be able to move forward with recommendations to the school committee.

OLD BUSINESS

1. FY17 Budget ~ Discussion & Budget Adoption

The Superintendent is recommending the NMRSD school committee adopt an operational budget for FY2017 of \$ _____, a FY2017 transportation budget of \$ _____, FY2017 debt service of \$ _____, and to use these funds to calculate FY2017 school assessments for member towns as required by statute. In addition, the committee authorizes the use of \$1,100,000.00 from Excess & Deficiency Account to offset the FY2017 operational Budget.

Nancy Haines provided an attachment to the committee showing the adjustments that have been made to the FY17 budget lines. The increases were in the salary lines, plant facilities (in plan B), technology, and out of district tuition in the Special Education line. The Superintendent met with Mr. Andrews and Mr. Themelis from the town of Pepperell and asked if we could wait a week before voting on the budget to see if there is any other area that could be reduced or if there is anything else the town can do with their finances.

The Chair asked if there were any particular areas of the budget that the committee members would like Mrs. Haines and the Superintendent to remove from the budget. Some committee members shared a desire to retain the bandwidth increase, the mental health funding, and the school resource officer. The Superintendent shared some positive news; the FLLAC Collaborative has reached out to the Superintendent to see if there is any available space in the district. The Superintendent will be meeting with their representatives. The Superintendent asked the committee if they are in agreement with the \$350,000.00 coming out of the E&D budget line.

NEW BUSINESS

1. School Lunch Price Increase

Susan Robins moved that the NMRSD vote to increase school lunch prices for the 2016-2017 school year as follows:

Elementary School Lunch ~ \$2.75 (from \$2.55)

Middle/High School ~ \$3.00 (from \$2.80)

Seconded by Brian Edmonds

Vote: Anne Adams no; Michael Morgan no; Crystal Messamore no; Jonna Clermont no; William Hackler yes; Brian Edmonds yes; Susan Robbins yes; Randee Rusch yes. Tie vote motion failed.

Members suggested an increase of .10 cents vs .20 cents. The committee asked Mrs. Haines to provide a list of proposals to choose from that that will keep us in the range of the formula and also allow us to meet the needs of our families.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair advised that there would not be a need for Executive Session this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

The Chair announced that on Friday, March 4, 2016, the committee had voted on the ratification of the negotiated 2015-2018 Teachers Contract. The committee approved the Teachers contract contingent on a memorandum of agreement that has been signed. There were nine members present at the meeting, eight school committee members and Mr. Themelis, Chair of the Pepperell Board of Selectmen, who is the municipal representative on the committee. Anne Adams, a school committee member, was unable to attend the meeting. The vote was a seven yes; two no, Mr. Themelis and Jonna Clermont.

The vote passed.

Jane Yost, President of the North Middlesex Teachers Association, questioned when the membership would receive their retroactive pay. Nancy Haines advised that she would work with payroll and email Ms. Yost Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

Mrs. Adams was not able to attend the meeting and did not participate in the vote, however, she stated she could not have supported the proposal. Mrs. Adams expressed concern about sustainability and desire for parity across the district (relative to increases to collective bargaining groups).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Brian Edmonds and seconded by Crystal Messamore.
The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Joanna Bilotta-Simeone, Recording Secretary