

**NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Ashby - Pepperell - Townsend, Massachusetts
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 6, 2015**

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Joan Landers - Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Haines – NMRSD Business Manager
Jeremy Hamond – NMRSD Technology Director
Oscar Hills – NMRSD Facilities Director
Linda Rakiey – NMRSD Special Education Director
Amber Edmonds - Student Representative
NMRSD Staff & Students
Parent/Community Members
Press

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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, April 27, 2015 at North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:00 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Randee Rusch to approve the minutes of March 9, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Randee Rusch and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the minutes of March 19, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Randee Rusch to approve the minutes of March 23, 2015. The motion passed by eight to one, abstention Anne Adams.

A motion was made by Crystal Messamore and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the following consent agenda items:

1. Acceptance of Donations
 - \$5,000.00 to Nissitissit Middle School on behalf of the Biogen Idec and the Cambridge Community Foundations. This award is for the “NMS Raspberry Pi” proposal that was submitted by Nissitissit Middle School.

- \$6,500 to NMRHS Choral Department on behalf of:

Donor	Donation	Purpose
Grandparents of Adrianna Perez	\$1,000.00	Transportation
Bill Carney	\$700.00	Transportation
Bob Hargraves	\$100.00	Transportation
Robert Halliday, family, friends, and Applied Materials Charitable Match Trust	\$2,500.00	Transportation
Sheila Harrington	\$200.00	Participation Scholarships
Sheila Harrington (via local individual and business donations)	\$2,000.00	Participation Scholarships
Total Donations	\$6,500.00	

- \$417.00 to Hawthorne Brook Middle School on behalf of Hannaford Bros. Supermarket ~ Hannaford Helps Schools Program.

2. Out-of-State Field Trip

- Ashby Elementary second grade students going to the See Science Center, 220 Bedford Street, Manchester, New Hampshire, Friday, June 12, 2015

The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Presentation on Parliamentary Procedures
 - Glenn Kocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), did a presentation on Parliamentary Procedures for the Committee.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Student Representative Report – Amber Edmonds requested that when the administration hires new incoming administrators that the student body representatives be included in the hiring process. Superintendent Landers shared that two student representatives from the NMRHS Student Council, Marie Shepherd & Kelsey Hale, had participated on the interviewing committee for summer hiring.

2. Superintendent's Report

- Commencement 2015 North Middlesex Regional High School Graduation Ceremony – Superintendent Landers extended an invitation to all school committee members to participate in the 2015 graduation ceremonies.
- Service Learning Volunteer Opportunities: The students will be going to Our Father's Table on Friday, April 10th and to WHEAT on Friday, April 17th. NMRHS is looking for additional adult chaperones to attend.
- The Gateway Program is holding a fundraiser on Saturday, April 11th at the Pepperell VFW from 7:00-11:00 pm. At the event, there will be a theme basket raffle, gift card raffle, and 50/50 raffle. The band, Borrowed Time, will provide the music. Proceeds will benefit the NMRSD Special Olympics and the Gateway Program. Admission for this event is \$5.00 at the door.

- Superintendent Landers congratulated:
 - The NMS concert band for being awarded a silver medal at the MICCA Concert Festival on Saturday, March 28, 2015.
 - The HBMS concert band for being awarded a silver medal and the wind ensemble for being awarded a gold medal at the MICCA Concert Festival on Saturday, March 28, 2015.
 - The NMRHS Winter Percussion Ensemble for finishing third at its season-ending championships. This accomplishment marks the 4th year in a row that this ensemble has experienced success at its championships. Congratulations to the NMRHS Winter Guard for winning its first ever season – ending championship this year.
 - Thank you, Mr. Tellier, Ms. Lapointe, and Mr. Bielik for all your efforts on behalf of our talented NM students.
 - The NMRHS Wind Symphony & Chorus and the HBMS Wind Ensemble students are to perform at Symphony Hall on April 11, 2015

3. Building Committee Report – Rob Templeton stated the next NMRHS Building Committee meeting was being held on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the high school. The final bid documents are dated and uploaded; we will be going out to bid pending approval at the next building committee meeting. June 3rd is the date that we will be awarding the general contractor.

4. Public Communications – None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Warrant Subcommittee

- Available for Committee review are accounts payable warrants 15-0212, 15-0219, and 15-1305 and payroll warrant 02/12/15. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the warrant subcommittee.

2. Policy Subcommittee

- a. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Randee Rusch to approve Policy JFBB School Choice for a 1st reading. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Randee Rusch to approve Policy IJNDD Policy on Facebook and Social Networking Web Sites for a 1st reading. Brian Edmonds asked if we could provide this policy side by side with policy GBEE Social Networking Policy for Staff. The Chair stated when IJNDD comes back to the committee for the 2nd reading; we will make sure GBEE is here for its 1st reading. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. A motion was made by Randee Rusch and seconded by Rob Templeton to approve Policy GCE Professional Staff Recruiting/Posting of Vacancies for a 1st reading. Mr. Edmonds would like to see specific language in the last sentence of the policy. He is questioning what a reasonable period of time would be within the policy. The motion passed eight to one.
- d. A motion was made by Rush Rusch and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve Policy GCF Professional Staff Hiring for a 1st reading. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Randee Rusch to adopt Policy ACF, Discrimination and Grievance Reporting for a 2nd reading. The motion passed unanimously
- f. A motion was made by Randee Rusch and seconded by Jonna Clermont to adopt Policy ACF-R, North Middlesex Regional School District Discrimination and Harassment Grievance Procedures for a 2nd reading. The motion passed unanimously

3. Finance Subcommittee

- FY2016 Budget Update

A motion was made by Brian Edmonds and seconded by Crystal Messamore to take a five-minute recess. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Randee Rusch to rescind the March 9th FY2016 Budget adoption vote. A roll call vote was taken: Jonna Clearmont yes; Robert Templeton yes; Anne Adams yes; Michael Morgan yes; William Hackler no; Randee Rusch Yes; Brian Edmonds yes; Susan Robbins yes. (Crystal Messamore was not in the room for the vote) The motion passed seven to one.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Anne Adams that the North Middlesex Regional School Committee vote to adopt the operational budget for FY2016 of \$43,225,490, a FY2016 transportation budget of \$3,119,700, a FY2016 debt service of \$764,550, and to use these amounts to calculate the FY2016 school assessment for member towns as required by stature. In addition, the Committee authorizes the use of \$300,000 from Excess & Deficiency Account to offset the FY2016 Operational Budget.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Committee members expressed concern with increased class sizes, kindergarten classes losing their paraprofessionals in the classrooms and the opt-out health program.

A roll call vote was taken: Jonna Clermont yes; Anne Adams yes; Brian Edmonds yes; Crystal Messamore yes; William Hackler no; Michael Morgan yes; Randee Rusch yes; Robert Templeton no; Susan Robbins yes. The vote passes seven to two.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee appoint Brad Brooks as Director of Special Education effective July 1, 2015.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Brian Edmonds to appoint Mr. Brad Brooks as Director of Special Education effective July 1, 2015.

A roll call vote was taken: Jonna Clermont yes; Anne Adams yes; Brian Edmonds yes; Crystal Messamore yes; William Hackler yes; Michael Morgan yes; Randee Rusch yes; Robert Templeton yes; Susan Robbins yes. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the 2015 - 2016 proposed school calendar
The Chair advised the School Committee to propose the vote on the proposed calendar until the April 27th school committee meeting so that the Teachers' Association would have a chance to look at the calendar options. A brief discussion ensued. The school committee would like to have a 5th calendar option that would show a one-week school vacation in March. The Superintendent discussed the results of the school vacation survey that was sent out to parents.

The Superintendent stated that currently the last day of school will be a half day on June 23, 2015.

3. School Choice Openings 2015 – 2016
The Superintendent recommends that in accordance with state law requiring all schools to be open for school choice, the North Middlesex Regional School District accepts choice students for the 2015 - 2016 academic year in the following school/grade levels where space is available. The administration will be cautious not to accept a number of choice students that would adversely affect District finances.

A motion was made by Brian Edmonds and seconded by Randee Rusch to accept choice students for the 2015 - 2016 school year in the following school/grade levels:

An amendment by Brian Edmonds and seconded by Jonna Clermont was made to change Varnum Brook Kindergarten slot number from 3 to 0. After discussion, the amendment was rescinded.

A roll call vote was taken on the main motion. Jonna Clermont yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Robert Templeton yes; Anne Adams yes; Michael Morgan yes; William Hackler yes; Randee Rusch yes; Brian Edmonds yes; Susan Robbins yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Ashby Elementary School	Spaulding Memorial School	Varnum Brook Ele. School
K - 0 slot	K - 0 slots	K - 3 slots
Gr. 1 - 2 slots	Gr. 1 - 0 slots	Gr. 1 - 3 slot
Gr. 2 - 2 slots	Gr. 2 - 0 slots	Gr. 2 - 3 slots
Gr. 3 - 0 slots	Gr. 3 - 0 slots	Gr. 3 - 0 slots
Gr. 4 - 5 slots	Gr. 4 - 0 slots	Gr. 4 - 0 slots
Hawthorne Brook Middle School	Nissitissit Middle School	North Middlesex Reg. HS
Gr. 5 - 8 slots	Gr. 5 - 0 slots	Gr. 9 - 10 slots
Gr. 6 - 8 slots	Gr. 6 - 0 slots	Gr. 10 - 5 slots
Gr. 7 - 15 slots	Gr. 7 - 0 slots	Gr. 11 - 5 slots
Gr. 8 - 8 slot	Gr. 8 - 0 slots	Gr. 12 - 0 slots

The motion passed unanimously.

4. The Superintendent recommends that the North Middlesex Regional School District adopt Designer Selection Procedures in order to proceed with the RFP Designer Selection Process for the Squannacook Early Child Center water damage repairs.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by William Hackler to adopt the Designer Selection Procedures in order to proceed with the RFP Designer Selection Process for the Squannacook Early Child Center water damage repairs. The motion passed unanimously.

5. At the May 12, 2014 meeting, the North Middlesex Regional School Committee approved the NMRHS Grade 10-12 Students trip to New Orleans, Louisiana – April 18-26, 2015.

The Superintendent recommends that the School Committee determines that acceptance of payment of travel expenses by someone other than the district serves a legitimate purpose.

A motion was made by Brian Edmonds and seconded by Jonna Clermont that the School Committee determines that acceptance of payment of travel expenses by someone other than the district serves a legitimate purpose. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Brian Edmonds and seconded by Jonna Clermont for the Superintendent and the North Middlesex Regional School Committee to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the NMRSD Teachers' Association. Holding this discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining position.

The Superintendent requests that the North Middlesex Regional School Committee enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy relative to contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (high school principal). Holding this discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining position. The School Committee will not return to open session.

A roll call vote was taken: Jonna Clermont yes; Anne Adams yes; Brian Edmonds yes; Randee Rusch yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Michael Morgan yes; William Hackler yes; Randee Rusch yes; Susan Robbins yes. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 9:42 at p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Bilotta-Simeone, Recording Secretary