

**NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Ashby - Pepperell - Townsend, Massachusetts
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 27, 2015**

PRESENT

Chairperson	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
Vice Chairperson	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Anne Adams	Member, Pepperell
Absent	Brian Edmonds	Member, Pepperell
	William Hackler	Member, At Large
Remote Participation	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 Milligan – Assistant Superintendent
Nancy Haines – NMRSD Business Manager
Parent/Community Members
Press

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. The Chairperson hereby informs the Committee and audience members of the recording of this meeting.
3. The next organizational meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be held on Monday, May 4, 2015 at the Nissitissit Middle School at 6:00 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Randee Rusch to approve the following consent agenda items:

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - Monday, April 6, 2015
2. Acceptance of Donations:
 - \$267.00 from Hannaford Supermarket (Hannaford Helps Schools Program) to North Middlesex Regional High School
 - \$725.00 from the Wednesday Night Men’s League Basketball team to Nissitissit Middle School
3. Out-of-State Field Trip: NMRHS 9-12 grade students going to Philadelphia, PA, May 20th– 25th, 2015
Vote: Unanimously Approved

PRESENTATIONS

Acceptance of Buddy Bench ~ Members of the Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation were present to donate a Buddy Bench to the Varnum Brook Elementary School. In attendance were Christine Manganis, Patty Tervo, Riley Goldthwaite and William Manganis. This bench is donated in honor of Joseph Middlemiss.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Randee Rusch to accept the Buddy Bench for placement at the Varnum Brook Elementary School. Vote: Unanimously Approved

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Student Representative Report ~ No Updates

2. Superintendent's Report

- The Superintendent presented the School Committee with the proposed 2015 - 2016 School Committee Schedule of Meetings ~ The School Committee will vote on the schedule of meeting dates at the organizational meeting on Monday, May 4th.
- School Lunch Program Contract Renewal ~ At the May 18th school committee meeting, the Superintendent will look for the committee to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement for a contract renewal with Whitsons Food Services for the next school year.

The Superintendent commented on the NOLA trip ~ Kudos to the NM students and chaperones who worked endlessly in New Orleans during their vacation break, helping people in need of assistance. To see these students getting up at 7:00 am and rebuilding homes, working at food banks and pet shelters was remarkable. The dedication of these students is outstanding and should make us very proud.

3. Building Committee Report ~ Rob Templeton shared that the building committee is in the middle of the contractor general bids. All bids need to be submitted by May 26th. The designer and OPM will review all submitted bids on June 1st. The building committee is looking to have a ceremonial groundbreaking on June 3rd or 4th. More information will be forthcoming.

4. Public Communications – 10 minutes will be allotted. No one addressed the Committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Warrant Subcommittee

- Available for Committee review are accounts payable warrants 15-0409, 15-0416, and 15-0423 and payroll warrant 04/09/15. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the warrant subcommittee.

2. Policy Subcommittee

- a. A motion was made by Randee Rusch, seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve Policy AC Nondiscrimination for a 1st reading. Vote: Unanimously Approved
- b. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Randy Rusch to approve Policy EEAG Student Transportation in Private Vehicles for a 1st reading. Vote: Unanimously Approved
- c. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Randee Rusch to approve Policy GCG Substitute Professional Staff Employment for a 1st reading. Vote: Unanimously Approved
- d. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Randee Rusch to approve Policy GCJ Professional Teacher Status for a 1st reading. Vote: Unanimously Approved
- e. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Randee Rusch to adopt Policy ADDA Background Checks for a 2nd reading. Vote: six yes, two abstentions. The motion passes.
- f. A motion was made by Randee Rusch, seconded by Jonna Clermont to adopt Policy ADDA-R DCJIS Model Cori Policy for a 2nd reading. Vote: seven yes, one abstention. The motion passes.
- g. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Randee Rusch to adopt Policy GBEB Staff Conduct for a 2nd reading. Vote: Unanimously Approved

- h. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Randee Rusch to adopt Policy GBJ Personnel Records for a 2nd reading. Vote: Unanimously Approved
- i. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Randee Rusch to adopt Policy GCA Professional Staff Positions for a 2nd reading. Vote: Unanimously Approved
- j. A motion was made by Randee Rusch, seconded by Jonna Clermont to adopt Policy GCCC Family Medical Leave Act for a 2nd reading. Vote: Unanimously Approved
- k. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Randee Rusch to adopt Policy GCCD Domestic Violence Leave for a 2nd reading. Vote: Unanimously Approved

2. Finance Subcommittee ~ No Report

The Superintendent requested that we move up item number 5 Refunding Bond Vote on the agenda under new business. We had guests from Unibank in attendance to speak to the committee regarding this vote.

5. Margaret Mclean from Unibank explained to the committee the status of our Pepperell Bonds. The bonds from 2005 can be called, we can refinance these bonds and get a 10% savings on the interest rates. The requested vote for this evening is for the School Committee to authorize the district to go out to bid on the refunding and will award the financing to the lowest bidder.

Vote: That in order to reduce interest costs, the Treasurer is authorized to issue refunding bonds, at one time or from time to time, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 21A of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, to refund all of the District’s \$5,179,000 General Obligation Bonds dated June 15, 2005 maturing on and after June 15, 2016 (collectively, the “Refunded Bonds”) and that the proceeds of any refunding bonds issued pursuant to this vote shall be used to pay the principal, redemption premium and interest on the Refunded Bonds and costs of issuance of the refunding bonds.

Further Voted: That the sale of the \$2,565,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the District dated May 1, 2015 (the “Bonds”), to Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. at the price of \$2,615,706.15 is hereby approved and confirmed. The Bonds shall be payable on June 15 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates, as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2016	\$275,000	2.00%	2021	\$255,000	2.00%
2017	275,000	2.00	2022	245,000	2.00
2018	275,000	2.00	2023	240,000	2.00
2019	270,000	2.00	2024	235,000	2.00
2020	265,000	2.00	2025	230,000	2.50

Further Voted: That in connection with the marketing and sale of the Bonds, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated April 14, 2015, and a final Official Statement dated April 21, 2015 (the “Official Statement”), each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further Voted: That the District Treasurer and the Chair of the Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a continuing disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which

undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Bonds for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds from time to time.

Further Voted: That we authorize and direct the District Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures in such form as the District Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Bonds.

Further Voted: That each member of the Committee, the District Secretary, and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

A motion was made by Randee Rusch, seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the refunding bond
Vote: six yes, two abstentions, the motion passes.

The superintendent is recommending that the School Committee authorize the signing of the contract with Moody's for bond issuance cost, not to exceed \$11,000.00.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, second by Randee Rusch to authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract with Moody's for bond issuance cost, not to exceed \$11,000.00

Vote: seven yes, one abstention. The motion passes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. The North Middlesex Regional School Committee will vote to approve the compensation/benefits package for the high school principal as presented.

The Superintendent shared that the compensation/benefits for the High School Principal salary would be a three-year contract, salary \$117,000.00, 260 works days, 25 vacation days, 15 sick days, 5 bereavement days, 4 personal days a year.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Randee Rusch to approve the High School Principal compensation/benefits package as presented.

A roll call vote was taken. Susan Robbins yes; Jonna Clermont yes; Anne Adams yes; William Hackler yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Michael Morgan yes; Randee Rusch yes; Robert Templeton yes.
Vote: Unanimously Approved

NEW BUSINESS

1. School Choice 2015 – 2016

The Superintendent asked, if there is no objection, that we amend Ashby Elementary School Choice kindergarten number from 0 to 3 choice students.

A motion was made by Randee Rusch and seconded by Jonna Clermont to change Ashby Elementary School Choice kindergarten number to 3. Vote: Unanimously Approved

2. FY15 Budget Transfer

The Superintendent is recommending an FY15 Budget transfer for FY15-2 for a total of \$155,526.00.

Date: 04/27/15	Description	Transfer Number	FY15-2
Appropriation Category		Transfer To	Transfer From
Administration			\$24,885.00
Instructional Support			\$99,709.00
Pupil Services			\$20,932.00
Operations & Maintenance	Increase in heat/utility costs	\$155,405.00	
Insurance, Retirement Programs			\$10,000.00
Debt		\$121.00	
		\$155,526.00	\$155,526.00

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Rande R Rusch to approve the FY15 Budget transfer of \$155,526.00.

A roll call vote was taken. Susan Robbins yes; Jonna Clermont yes; Anne Adams yes; William Hackler yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Michael Morgan yes; Rande R Rusch yes; Robert Templeton yes.

Vote: Unanimously Approved

3. Opt Out Health Program 2015 - 2016

A motion was made by Rob Templeton, seconded by Rande R Rusch to see if the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will take action on the renewal of the employee opt-out health insurance program for all employee groups excluding the Teachers' Association.

The Superintendent recommends the Committee vote no on renewing the opt-out program to keep in line with budget reductions. The Superintendent shared that an employee does not presently have to participate in the NMRSD health Insurance; 49% were enrolled in the program, and 59% were never enrolled in the program. For 2015-2016, we are asking the committee to hold off on the opt-out program.

A roll call vote was taken. Susan Robbins no; Jonna Clermont no; Anne Adams no; William Hackler no; Crystal Messamore no; Michael Morgan no; Rande R Rusch no; Robert Templeton no.

Vote: Unanimously Approved

4. Approval of the 2015 - 2016 proposed school calendar

A motion to was made by Rob Templeton, seconded by Jonna Clermont to adopt option 1A of the 2015-2016 school calendar.

Discussion ensued with the committee on the five different options. Committee members felt that the start date is earlier than usual. This start date is only one day earlier than last year. Labor Day is late this year, September 7, 2015.

A roll call vote was taken. Susan Robbins yes; Jonna Clermont no; Anne Adams no; William Hackler yes; Crystal Messamore no; Michael Morgan yes; Rande R Rusch no; Robert Templeton yes;

Vote: four yes, four no, tie vote ~ Motion does not pass

More discussion ensued on the calendar options.

The Chair moved on to the next agenda item and will come back to agenda item number 4.

6. Valley Collaborative Vote: Capital Reserve Fund ~ See Attachment

The Superintendent recommends supporting the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund by the Valley Collaborative. The fund will support costs associated with the acquisitions, maintenance, and improvement of its capital assets.

The Superintendent advised that the Articles of Agreement between the school district and the collaborative states that each school district has to vote on the establishment of a capital reserve fund. The collaborative needs a 2/3 vote of all schools districts.

The committee asked if we would be paying for this fund. The chair explained the funds would come from the Valley Collaborative, which would come out of tuition monies that all participating school districts pay.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Rande Rusch that the School Committee for the North Middlesex Regional School District, in accordance with Article VII, Section 7 of the Valley Collaborative Articles of Agreement and 603 CMR 50.07(10), hereby approves the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund by the Valley Collaborative to support costs associated with the acquisition, maintenance and improvement of its capital assets.

A roll call vote was taken. Susan Robbins yes; Jonna Clermont yes; Anne Adams yes; William Hackler yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Michael Morgan yes; Rande Rusch yes; Robert Templeton yes.
Vote: Unanimously Approved

The Superintendent recommends that the school committee approve the deferred payroll payment policy for the Valley Collaborative teachers.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont, seconded by Rande Rusch that the School Committee for the North Middlesex Regional School District, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 40, hereby approves the adoption of the deferred payroll payment policy for the Valley Collaborative teachers.

A roll call vote was taken. Susan Robbins yes; Jonna Clermont yes; Anne Adams yes; William Hackler yes; Crystal Messamore abstention; Michael Morgan yes; Rande Rusch yes; Robert Templeton yes.
Vote: Seven yes, one abstention, the motion passes.

The School Committee returned to item 4 on the agenda.

4. Approval of the 2015 - 2016 proposed school calendar

Further discussion ensued regarding the start of school.

A motion was made by William Hacker, seconded by Mike Morgan to include a new option calendar 1b with August 28th as a school day moving end date to June 9th.

A roll call vote was taken. Susan Robbins yes; Jonna Clermont no; Anne Adams no; William Hackler yes; Crystal Messamore no; Michael Morgan yes; Randee Rusch no; Robert Templeton yes.
Vote: four yes, four no, tie vote ~ Motion does not pass.

A motion was made by Crystal Messamore, seconded by William Hackler to adopt option two of the proposed 2015 - 2016 school calendar.

A roll call vote was taken. Susan Robbins yes; Jonna Clermont yes; Anne Adams yes; William Hackler yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Michael Morgan no; Randee Rusch yes; Robert Templeton no.
Vote: six yes, two no, the motion passes.

The Chair recapped that the first day of school for students will be August 31, 2015; the last day of school will be June 14, 2015. If we use five snow days, the last day of school will be June 21, 2015

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Superintendent recommends that the North Middlesex Regional School Committee enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to:

- ❖ Collective bargaining with the NMRSD Teachers' Association. M.G.L. Chapter 39, section 23B (3)
- ❖ Contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Director of Special Education). M.G.L. Chapter 39, section 23B (2)

The Chairperson recommends the School Committee enter into Executive Session to conduct a strategy session in preparation for contract negotiations with Superintendent of Schools. M.G.L. Chapter 39, section 23B (2)

Holding these discussions in open session may have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining position.

The School Committee will return to open session to discuss/vote the contract for the Director of Special Education.

A roll call vote was taken: Jonna Clermont yes; Anne Adams yes; Randee Rusch yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Michael Morgan yes; William Hackler yes; Randee Rusch yes; Susan Robbins yes. Vote: Unanimously Approved

The meeting recessed to executive session at 9:02 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The School Committee returned to Open Session at 9:46 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Director of Special Education Contract

A motion was made by Randee Rusch, seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve Brad Brooks contract as the new Director of Special Education effective July 1, 2015. The contract is a two-year contract with one rollover year.

A roll call vote was taken: Jonna Clermont yes; Anne Adams yes; Randee Rusch yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Michael Morgan yes; William Hackler yes; Randee Rusch yes; Susan Robbins yes. Vote: Unanimously Approved

2. Superintendent of Schools Contract

A motion was made by Rob Templeton, seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the Superintendent of Schools contract. Effective July 1, 2015, a three-year contract, salary maintained for the three years, added an educational reimbursement of \$10,000.00 every year for three years.

A roll call vote was taken: Jonna Clermont yes; Anne Adams yes; Randee Rusch yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Michael Morgan yes; William Hackler yes; Randee Rusch yes; Susan Robbins yes. Vote: Unanimously Approved

A motion was made by William Hackler, seconded by Jonna Clermont to adjourn.
Vote: Unanimously Approved

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Bilotta-Simeone, Recording Secretary