

**NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend, Massachusetts
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 14, 2018**

PRESENT

Chairperson	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
Vice Chairperson	William Hackler	Member, At Large
	David Carney	Member, Pepperell
	Craig Hansen	Member, Pepperell
	Lisa Martin	Member, Pepperell
	Crystal Messamore	Member, Ashby ~ Absent
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large
	John Page	Member, Townsend
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend

ALSO PRESENT

Joan Landers	Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Milligan	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Haines	Business Manager

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.
2. The chairperson hereby informs the committee and audience members that the meeting is being recorded.
3. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be held on Monday, June 11, 2018, at North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

The chair asked whether any items needed to be removed from the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes
 - April 30, 2018, School Committee Minutes
 - May 7, 2018, School Committee Organizational Minutes
2. Acceptance of Donations
 - Donation of \$21,350.00 to Varnum Brook Elementary School from a fundraising campaign hosted by the PTO for new playground equipment.
 - Donation of \$500.00 to Nissitissit Middle School from the 3M Foundation as part of a match program from two school families.
 - Donation of \$284.30 to Nissitissit Middle School from the Box Tops for Education program.

A motion was made by Mr. Page and seconded by Mr. Morgan to approve the consent agenda.
Vote: Seven yes, one abstention (WH), the motion passed.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Superintendent's Report
 - a) Superintendent Landers reviewed the upcoming graduations dates with the committee: North Middlesex Regional High School graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, June 1, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at Fitchburg University, Hawthorne Brook Middle School 8th grade graduation celebration, Friday, June 15, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. and Nissitissit Middle School 8th grade graduation

celebration, Friday, June 15, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. The last day of school is an early release day on Monday, June 18, 2018.

- b) Nashoba Valley Technical High School District School Committee
Superintendent Landers informed the committee that Karen Chapmen had been re-appointment to the Nashoba Valley Technical High School District School Committee.
 - c) Accelerated Repair Projects Update
SECC: Superintendent Landers met with Mr. Brad Morgan and toured the Squannacook Early Childhood Center. Superintendent Landers showed him the plan design for the preschool, special education programs, and the central office space that the district will be utilizing. At the last subcommittee meeting, the committee selected rugs, tiles, wall colors, etc. The construction project is moving along.
 - d) District Nursing Caseloads
Mr. Brooks reviewed the nursing coverage for the district. The Gateway Program will be moving to Varnum Brook Elementary School, and the Preschool and Leap Program will be relocating to SECC. The 2017-2018 nurse staffing is 8.7; the 2018-2019 school budget includes 8.2 nurses. All middle, elementary, and preschool programs will have one full-time nurse; the high school will have two nurses.
2. Building Committee Report – Update
Mr. Hansen informed the committee that at tonight’s building committee meeting the committee approved an additional \$2 million asbestos abatement for the old high school.
Superintendent Landers shared that Mr. Templeton spent three days walking through the building to verify all items on the construction punch list are completed. The superintendent thanked Mr. Templeton for his efforts on the high school building project.
 3. Public Communications - No one approached the committee for comment.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Warrant Subcommittee
Available for Committee review are accounts payable warrants 18-0503 and 8-0510, and payroll warrant for May 10, 2018. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the warrant subcommittee.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Building Committee Athletic Alternative Proposal Update
Mr. Hansen provided a presentation to the committee on the proposed athletic alternative. Based on previous projects submitted by designers and prevailing wages, the cost estimate was approximately \$1.75 - \$3.5 million. Given the current contingency budget balance and the timeframe to obtain approval for the additional project at town meetings, the building committee voted that it was not feasible to move forward with the Athletic Alternative Proposal.

Mr. Hansen explained that the current remaining contingency is \$2.7 million. The designer, OPM, and CTA are working through change orders, work under protest, additional services provided by the OPM and the designer that has a risk of the remaining contingency being \$384,000.00 in the contingency line.

The punch list items are down to 500 items, which is good progress. For some of the punch list items, the district might receive credits.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The superintendent recommends that the school committee vote to approve the General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes (the “Notes”) of the District dated May 22, 2018.

Susan Robbins moved that the North Middlesex Regional School District, Massachusetts: Massachusetts: Voted: to approve the sale of the \$200,000 2.00 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes (the “Notes”) of the District dated May 22, 2018, and payable February 5, 2019, to Eastern Bank at par and accrued interest, if any.

The motion was seconded by William Hackler.

A roll call vote was taken: Michael Morgan yes; John Page yes; David Carney yes; Craig Hansen yes; William Hackler yes; Lisa Martin yes; Susan Robbins yes; Randee Rusch yes.
Roll call vote: Motion unanimously passed.

2. The superintendent is recommending the school committee vote to extend the food service contract for FY2019. This is the third year of this contract award, and the contract has four (4) optional 1-year extensions.

A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by William Hackler to extend the food service contract for FY2019. This is the third year of this contract award, and the contract has four (4) optional 1-year extensions.

3. That the North Middlesex Regional School District will vote to lease up to five (5) additional classrooms to the FLLAC Educational Collaborative at the Squannacook Early Childhood Center. A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by William Hackler to authorize the North Middlesex Regional School District to vote to enter into a 5-year lease agreement with the FLLAC Educational Collaborative at the Squannacook Early Childhood Center.

Mr. Brooks explained to the committee that the FLLAC is requesting to lease an additional five classrooms on the second floor at Squannacook Early Childhood Center. The FLLAC is seeking to expand from 43 to 50 students, which would include seventh and eighth-grade students, the staff would increase from 24 staff members to 28 staff members. The five rooms upstairs would be utilized as a small library, two breakout rooms, and two classrooms. Mr. Brooks supports leasing the additional space to FLLAC.

Superintendent Landers toured the design plan with Mr. Morgan and introduced him to the OPM and the Director of FLLAC.

Vote: Seven yes, one no (LM), the motions passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Hansen moved to convene in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21(a) (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (2)

(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 motion was seconded by Susan Robbins.

A roll call vote was taken: Michael Morgan yes; John Page yes; David Carney yes; Craig Hansen yes; William Hackler yes; Lisa Martin yes; Susan Robbins yes; Randee Rusch yes.

Roll call vote: Motion unanimously passed.

The Committee will reconvene in open session.

The committee reconvened in open session at 7:52 p.m.

A motion was made by William Hackler and seconded by Mr. Hansen to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Bilotta-Simeone, Recording Secretary