

**NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend, Massachusetts  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, September 11, 2017**

**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 (Absent)
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend (Absent)
	Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend

**ALSO PRESENT**

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:11 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, October 2, 2017, 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.

1. Approval of Minutes
  - August 21, 2017, School Committee Meeting
2. Acceptance of Donations
  - Donation in the amount of \$1,350.00 to the Nissitissit Middle School from the Wednesday Night Men's Basketball League
  - Donation in the amount of \$13.27 to the Nissitissit Middle School from the Kula Foundation Q2 Red Robin Loyalty Program
  - Donation in the amount of \$1,400.00 to the North Middlesex Regional School District from Neil Stone's Karate Academy
3. Approval of Out-of-State/Country Field Trips
  - Hawthorne Brook Middle School: grade 6-8 students involved in band will travel to Hershey Park in Lancaster, PA, from May 31 to June 2, 2018
  - Hawthorne Brook Middle School: eighth grade students will travel to Washington, DC, from April 10 - 13, 2018
  - Nissitissit Middle School: eighth grade students will travel to Washington, DC, from May 15 - 18, 2018

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Robert Templeton to approve the consent agenda.

Vote: Four yes; one abstention. The motion passed.

## **PRESENTATION**

### 1. Data and Collaborative Inquiry ~ Kevin Cormier

Kevin Cormier presented the Data and Collaborative Inquiry workgroup to the school committee. Mr. Cormier informed the committee that the goal of this workgroup is to help bring colleagues together, enabling them to share information and learn from each other in a collaborative way. The plan will be to establish a data leadership team in each school building; this team will share work with colleagues in order to encourage collaborative practices within each school. This program has three main objectives, the first of which is to set up the necessary expectations and structures, making sure that they are consistent across the district. The second objective is to identify a student learning goal, collect data related to that goal, and analyze said data. This analysis will be based on the aforementioned district improvement plan. The third objective is for the educators involved in the program to share and collectively study this data, in order to bring about a deeper educational understanding to student learning. Mr. Cormier's presentation will be available on the district's website, [www.nmrds.org](http://www.nmrds.org).

### 2. Photovoltaic Subcommittee and Solect Energy Solar Presentation

Randee Rusch and Heide Messing from the photovoltaic subcommittee provided a brief overview of the options open to the district for solar energy. Options included buying panels, Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and Net Metering. Buying solar panels would require a large upfront cost to the district while PPA's and Net Metering have zero upfront costs. PPA's have solar panels installed on our property while Net Metering solar production is done entirely offsite. Also presented were state incentives for solar projects and how they are changing.

Matt Shortsleeve, the vice president of Solect Energy, then provided a presentation on Solect's Power Purchase Agreements to the school committee. The two proposals are for Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) which will authorize Solect to create, finance, own, and maintain solar energy systems in the district. Mr. Shortsleeve explained that PowerOptions, a joint energy-buying consortium, issued a Request for Proposal (RPF) for a solar vendor and the district is able to participate and fully comply with state procurement requirements. As a not-for-profit organization, NMRSD would need to join PowerOptions to participate in the joint procurement.

Mrs. Rusch then informed the committee that the photovoltaic subcommittee is recommending that the high school and Ashby Elementary School contract with Solect Energy for a 20 year Power Purchase Agreement. She requested that the school committee review all of the information materials provided and would be seeking a vote of the committee at the October 2, 2017, meeting. Mr. Shortsleeve's presentation will be available on the district's website, [www.nmrds.org](http://www.nmrds.org).

## **REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

### 1. Student Representative Report ~ Hadley Beauregard and Paige Zacharakis

Paige Zacharakis informed the committee that everyone is excited to start the year at the new high school. Student council representatives provided tours to new incoming freshmen at orientation, which helped the students feel comfortable in the new building. Paige also let the committee know that the high school's Patriots Pride Day celebration was fantastic; the school held a barbeque, and then put on an outdoor block party that was a lot of fun. This year's Patriots Pride Day was the best so far, and the resulting celebration brought all the students together. In addition to the above festivities, the school hosted a motivational speaker who gave an outstanding presentation.

### 2. Superintendent's Report

#### a) School Opening Report

Superintendent Landers informed the committee about the opening day of the school year, stating that it was very successful in all of our schools. There is so much excitement throughout the

district, especially at the new high school. On the opening day for all staff, the district gathered for a full breakfast in the new commons area, which gave staff time to get to know our new staff and to catch up with each other. Superintendent Landers thanked everyone who contributed to the success of opening day.

Superintendent Landers also expressed her gratitude for the assistance provided by the Pepperell, Townsend, and Ashby police departments on the first day of school. She stated that the district is fortunate to have such a close, collaborative relationship with our police departments.

b) NMRSD Open Houses

Superintendent Landers informed the committee that the open house schedule is as follows:

- Ashby Elementary School: Tuesday, September 12, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Varnum Brook Elementary School: Wednesday, September 13, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- North Middlesex Regional High School: Thursday, September 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Hawthorne Brook Middle School: Tuesday, September 19, from 5:45 to 8:00 p.m.
- Spaulding Memorial School: Thursday, September 21, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Nissitissit Middle School: Thursday, October 5, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

c) Enrollment Update

Superintendent Landers informed the committee that the district is seeing an increase in students coming to the new high school, which is an exciting trend.

d) Personnel Update

Superintendent Landers and Mrs. Milligan attended the new employee orientation and stated that it was great to meet and spend time with the new staff members. The leadership team put diligent work into the hiring process this year, as they always do.

e) District Homeschool Report

Superintendent Landers let the committee members know that the homeschool report is provided in their packet of materials. Mrs. Milligan is available to answer any questions prompted by the report.

f) 2016-2017 District Accomplishments

Superintendent Landers provided the committee with a synopsis of some of her accomplishments and goals that have been achieved over the course of the past school year. The presentation of the district accomplishments will be available on the district's website, [www.nmrso.org](http://www.nmrso.org).

g) 2017-2018 District Goals

Superintendent Landers shared details from the draft of her proposed goals with the committee. The superintendent reviewed her S.M.A.R.T goals, explaining that they are aligned with the District Improvement Plan. Once these goals are approved by the school committee, they will be provided on the district's website, [www.nmrso.org](http://www.nmrso.org).

Mr. Templeton expressed his appreciation for the drive Superintendent Landers instills in herself and her leadership team to continuously improve themselves.

Superintendent Landers thanked the central office staff and the community at large for all of the support they give the district daily.

3. Building Committee Report – Update

Mr. Templeton informed the committee that the terrazzo tile for the main stairwell in the new high

school's common area is coming in by the end of the week. Soon after, construction will commence to remove the temporary carpet and install the tile, which should be completed by Columbus Day. Some challenges have arisen regarding the abatement efforts in the old high school; as some areas have asbestos, the areas are being tested to determine the extent of the problem. The brick façade of the building does not have asbestos, but mastic is attached to some of the mortar. The building committee has scheduled an additional meeting on Monday, September 25, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., in order to discuss the scope of the asbestos issue and the potential cost for removal. Mr. Templeton is working with Superintendent Landers on planning an open house on two separate dates. This will allow the public and the members of the school community to attend either event. The first open house, on October 13<sup>th</sup>, is planned for the MSBA, students, staff, town officials and the community to come and celebrate completion of Phase I construction. A second open house will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017, for all community members to come and tour the new high school.

Superintendent Landers thanked Mr. Templeton for the long hours and dedication he has put into this building project. Mr. Templeton is at the construction site early in the morning and late at night, even attending to the project on Saturdays and Sundays. His efforts are amazing; he schedules countless meetings, meets deadlines, works a full-time job, and all while putting his free hours towards this project over the last five years. The superintendent commends the remarkable dedication Mr. Templeton has shown to our students, staff, and community.

4. Public Communications – 10 minutes will be allotted.

Mr. Marciniak, a parent in the district, spoke to the committee about his concerns regarding Wi-Fi access in district schools.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Warrant Subcommittee

Available for committee review are accounts payable warrants 18-0818A, 18-0818B, and 18-0831, and the payroll warrant for August 31, 2017. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the warrant subcommittee.

2. Finance Subcommittee

Mrs. Rusch, Chair, informed the committee that Mrs. Haines provided informational materials on the FY 2018 budget in their packet of materials. Mrs. Haines is available to answer any questions prompted by the reports.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. The superintendent recommends that the school committee vote to declare all items on the HBMS disposal list as surplus.

A motion was made by William Hackler and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve all items on the HBMS disposal list as surplus.

Vote: Unanimously passed

### **FUTURE AGENDA**

Rob Templeton requested that the superintendent hold a discussion on the North Middlesex Education Foundation at the next school committee meeting.

Anne Adams requested a cost analysis or some similar estimation of what the cost would be to the district and students in resolving the Wi-Fi concerns addressed. If the state is researching this issue, the district should be engaged in that discussion in order to do our due diligence.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by William Hackler and seconded by Jonna Clermont.

Vote: Unanimously passed

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanna Bilotta-Simeone, Recording Secretary