

**NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Ashby - Pepperell - Townsend, Massachusetts
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 28, 2015**

PRESENT

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--|
| Chairperson | Randee Rusch | Member, At Large ~ Absent |
| Vice Chairperson | William Hackler | Member, At Large |
| | Anne Adams | Member, Pepperell ~ Arrived at 7:55 p.m. |
| | Jonna Clermont | Member, Pepperell |
| | Brian Edmonds | Member, Pepperell |
| | Crystal Messamore | Member, Ashby |
| | Michael Morgan | Member, At Large ~ Absent |
| | 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 7:01 p.m.
2. The Chairperson hereby informs the Committee and audience members of the recording of this meeting.
3. The next meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be held on Monday, October 26, 2015, at the North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes:

Monday, September 14, 2015

A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Brian Edmonds to approve the revised minutes of September 14, 2015.

Vote: Unanimously passed

PRESENTATIONS

1. Special Education Overview 2015-2016

Mr. Brad Brooks, Director of Special Education, introduced the new Assistant Director of Special Education, John Judge and the Co-Chair of SEPAC, Connie Menice. Mr. Brooks provided an overview of special education services, key beliefs, district statistics, and the education of NMRSD students. Highlights included shifting roles and responsibilities, important happenings, the District's Special Education Advisory Council, and the 2015-2016 goals of the Special Education Department.

SEPAC ~ Connie Menice provided an overview of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). The SEPAC offers a variety of speakers and training sessions on various topics relevant to Special Education issues. Discussion topics and meeting times can be found at <http://www.nmrds.org/sepac>. Ms. Menice shared that they had changed the meeting schedule time for the 2015-2016 year. The meetings will be held from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the Peter Fitzpatrick School.

2. Build Our Kids Success (BOKS)

Crystal Messamore shared that BOKS is an initiative of Reebok and the Reebok Foundation that is currently running in 43 States and 6 countries. The mission is to promote the profound impact of physical activity on a child's mind, body, and community. Data shows the connection between physical, cognitive, and social development. The presentation focused on some national statistics around physical education and exercise in our schools. The BOKS program occurs two days per week at Ashby Elementary School. For more information, please check out www.bokskids.org.

3. Technology Update

Jeremy Hamond, the Director of Technology, provided an update on Bring Your Own Device for the committee. Mr. Hamond explained the current bandwidth and his plans going forward, network and switch upgrades, classroom technology (interactive boards, projectors, and document cameras), district technology inventory, and the server project.

4. NMRHS School Improvement Plan

Principal Isaac Taylor shared the three priorities that the administration will be focusing on during the 2015-2016 school year. The three priorities are student learning and achievement, aligned curriculum, and common interim assessments. (Presentation can be found at <http://nmrhs.nmrds.org/>)

5. NMRHS Student Internship Program

Vice Principal Dr. Katrina Esparza presented the process and steps that were utilized in creating the NMRHS Internship 2015-2016 Program.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Superintendent's Report

a. VBMS/HBMS Breakfast Program

The Superintendent thanked Whitson Food services, Ms. Haines and the principals for creating a breakfast program at Varnum Brook Elementary and Hawthorne Brook Middle School.

b. Yearly Open House for 8th Graders

Dr. Katrina Esparza and Principal Isaac Taylor shared that the high school will host an open house for all current eighth-grade students. The open house will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2015, at the high school from 6:00 ~ 8:00 p.m. Principal Taylor shared that they will host a Program of Studies meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2016, from 6:00 ~ 8:00 p.m. for the incoming freshmen.

c. Russo Barr Structural Engineering Report for Squannacook

The Superintendent advised the Committee that Russo Barr will attend the November 9, 2015 school committee meeting to share their findings and extent of the damage that needs to be repaired at Squannacook Early Childhood Center.

2. Building Committee Report – Update

The Superintendent thanked the School Committee members for coming early to tonight's meeting and doing a site inspection of the building project. The Superintendent shared that the installation of the building foundations continues, and the steel for D and E sections is planned to be delivered in the next couple of weeks. The Superintendent wanted to advise everyone that the main water line for the new high school would be shut down on October 5, 2015.

4. Public Communications – 10 minutes will be allotted

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Warrant Subcommittee

- Available for Committee review are accounts payable warrants 16-0917 and 16-0924 and payroll warrant September 24, 2015. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the warrant subcommittee.

2. Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee recommends the Committee adopt the following policies (1st reading):

- Policy GCQD, Resignation of Professional Staff Members
A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Brian Edmonds to approve policy GCQD for a 1st reading.
Vote: Unanimously passed
- Policy GCQE, Retirement of Professional Staff Members
A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Brian Edmonds to approve policy GCQE for a 1st reading.
Vote: Unanimously passed
- Policy GCQF, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members
A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Brian Edmonds to approve policy GCQF for a 1st reading.
Vote: Unanimously passed
- Policy GDA, Support Staff Positions
A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Brian Edmonds to approve policy GDA for a 1st reading.
Vote: Unanimously passed
- Policy GDQC, Retirement of Support Staff Members
A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Brian Edmonds to approve policy GDQC for a 1st reading.
Vote: Unanimously passed

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

- Policy GCE, Professional Staff Recruiting/Posting of Vacancies
A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Brian Edmonds to approve policy GCE for a 2nd reading.
Vote: Unanimously passed

- Policy GCO, Evaluation of Professional Staff
A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Brian Edmonds to approve policy GCO for a 2nd reading.
Vote: Unanimously passed
- Policy JFBB, School Choice
A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Brian Edmonds to approve policy JFBB for a 2nd reading.
Vote: Unanimously passed

3. Finance Subcommittee

The Superintendent requested a Finance Subcommittee meeting be scheduled before the next School Committee meeting; she will send out some dates to check the subcommittee's availability.

NEW BUSINESS

1. MASC Resolution/Delegation
 - a. Appointment of Voting Delegate(s)
 - b. Vote on MASC Resolution

The Superintendent verified that MASC is looking for one delegate and one alternate to vote for North Middlesex Regional School Committee at the delegation meeting. The voting will take place at the MASC/MASS Annual Joint Conference on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, at 3:15 p.m. The Committee felt that it would be best to schedule a special meeting before the October 26, meeting to discuss these seven pending MASC resolutions.

The Superintendent advised the Committee if they had any more questions, please send an email and she will get the answers for the next meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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 and the NMRSD Clerical Association. M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B(3)

The School Committee will not return to open session.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Crystal Messamore to move into Executive Session and not to return to open session.

Roll call vote: Anne Adams yes; Crystal Messamore yes; Jonna Clermont yes; William Hackler yes; Brian Edmonds yes; Susan Robbins yes.

Vote: Unanimously passed

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.