

**NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Ashby - Pepperell - Townsend, Massachusetts
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 7, 2015**

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Joan Landers	Superintendent of Schools
NMRSD Staff	
Parent/Community Members	

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. The Chairperson hereby informed 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, January 11, 2016, at the North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Anne Adams and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the consent agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - Monday, November 23, 2015
2. Approval of Out-of-State/Country Field Trips:
 - Gateway, STEPS, and Achieve students to the Pheasant Lane Mall, Nashua, NH ~ December 17, 2015
3. Acceptance of Donations:
 - Donation of \$112.92 to North Middlesex Regional High School by Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.
Vote: Unanimously passed

The Chair requested with agreement from the Committee to move public comment to this section of the agenda.

4. Public Communications – Ralph Leblanc with the North Middlesex Pop Warner, TAP, and Lacrosse Youth Organizations expressed his concerns regarding the conditions at the Hawthorne Brook athletic fields. There are wooden stakes and ropes at children’s face level, which is a potential safety concern. Mr. Bunnell will work with Mr. Hills, Facilities/Grounds Director, and investigate other means to discourage foot traffic on the softball field as it is being refurbished. Mr. Leblanc shared that the fields no longer have waste barrels at the facilities. Mr. Leblanc would like to see more communication regarding the

athletic fields and where the different sports groups will be playing while the high school is under construction. The Superintendent will work with the facilities advisory committee, Mr. Hills, Mr. Bunnell, and the youth associations, to put a communication plan in place.

PRESENTATIONS

1. NMRSD Athletic Alignment Process ~

James Bunnell advised the Committee that the alignment process was based on student enrollment within each school district. Mr. Bunnell shared that every four years the MIAA re-aligns the schools based on current enrollment numbers; the current cycle runs through 2015-2016. The last alignment for North Middlesex Regional High School was completed in 2011-2012 with an enrollment of 1106 students. The new alignment completed for the 2016-2017 is based on North Middlesex Regional High School's current enrollment of 835 students; the district has moved divisions based on our new enrollment.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Student Representative Report ~

Paige Zacharakis shared with the Committee that the Veterans Day Breakfast was excellent. Paige informed the School Committee that some members of the Student Council would be attending conferences in Hyannis and Washington State this spring. Paige shared that it is Winter Spirit Week at the high school, Monday is Sports Day, Tuesday is Tye Dye Day, Wednesday is Class Color Day, Thursday is Holiday Wear Day, and Friday is North Middlesex Wear Day.

2. Superintendent's Report ~

a) Recognition of Town Manager Andy Sheehan

The Superintendent gave thanks to Mr. Sheehan for always being a partner to our schools. Andy always made sure the district was moving in the right direction. On behalf of the students, staff and school committee, it has been a joy working with someone with such dignity and class.

b) Food Vendor Bids

The Superintendent shared that the food vendor bids need to be completed for the 2016-2017 year and would like to extend an invitation to any School Committee member who would like to be part of the bid process panel. Jonna Clermont volunteered to participate in the process.

c) Superintendent Award of Excellence

The Superintendent congratulated and acknowledged Lauren Reed for achieving the Award of Excellence. Lauren scored a "5" on the AP Biology exam, and she has been the JV Soccer Captain for the last two years.

d) Building Committee Report

Robert Templeton shared that the concrete was poured on the 2nd floor of "D" building on Monday, November 30th. The NMRHS Building Committee would like to thank our neighbors for their patience during this process. The crane will be returning to the job site this week and will continue to erect the steel frame. The next building committee meeting is being held on Monday, December 14, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at the high school. The Superintendent shared the tentative date for the topping off ceremony would be February 9, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Warrant Subcommittee ~

Available for Committee review are accounts payable warrants 16-1124, and 16-1203, and payroll warrant for December 3, 2015. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the warrant subcommittee.

2. Policy Subcommittee ~

The policy subcommittee recommends the school committee adopt the following policies (2nd reading):

The Chair asked if the committee would oppose having all the policies joined as one vote.

A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the following policies for a 2nd reading.

- JFBC, Out of State Students
- GDQD, Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff Members
- GDB, Support Staff Contracts and Compensations Plans
- GDD, Support Staff Vacations and Holidays
- GDO, Evaluation of Support Staff
- ECAF, Security Cameras in Schools

Vote: Unanimously passed

3. Finance Subcommittee

The Superintendent invited the School Committee members to attend the finance subcommittee on Monday, December 14, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Peter Fitzpatrick School. The district leaders will be discussing social/emotional support needs in the district.

4. Facilities Advisory Subcommittee

Mr. Hackler shared that the subcommittee met at SECC on November 20, 2015, and toured the building and reviewed the water damage at the facility. The next meeting is Friday, December 11, 2015, at 7:30 a.m. at the Peter Fitzpatrick School. The Superintendent shared that the Town of Pepperell received a planning grant of \$9,000.00, and Mr. Mark Andrews had a consultant come and tour the Peter Fitzpatrick School.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Preschool Tuition Rate 2016-2017 ~ Brad Brooks

A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation that the School Committee vote to approve the recommended preschool rates for the 2016-2017 year as proposed by Brad Brooks, Director of Special Education. Vote: Unanimously passed

North Middlesex Rates

FY16

*Full Day: 5 = \$600/month
Half Day: 5 = \$350/month
4 = \$300/month*

3 = \$240/month

2 = \$

FY17 proposed- remain the same

*Full Day: 5 = \$600/month
Half Day: 5 = \$350/month
4 = \$300/month*

3 = \$240/month

2 = \$180/month

180/month

2. Cooperative Team Agreements ~ James Bunnell

A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Committee vote to approve the proposed cooperative teams as follows: North Middlesex Regional High School as a guest school for Groton Dunstable for gymnastics and the North Middlesex Regional High School as a host school for Tyngsborough High School for track.

A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Jonna Clermont to amend the motion to read, "North Middlesex Regional High School as a host school for Tyngsborough High School for indoor track."

Vote on the amendment: unanimously passed.

Vote on the amended motion: unanimously passed.

3. District Technology Disaster Recovery Plan

A motion was made by Robert Templeton and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Committee vote to approve the Contingency and Disaster Recovery Guide for the NMRSD Information Technology System as presented by Jeremy Hamond, Director of Technology.

Vote: Unanimously passed

The Superintendent invited the School Committee to a breakfast being held at Nissitistit Middle School on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, to thank all of our first responders.

The Superintendent wanted to recognize Hartley Pleshaw, the School Committee videographer, and thank him for all his hard work on behalf of the district.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair advised that the School Committee does not have a need to enter into Executive Session this evening.

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

Vote: Unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Joanna Bilotta-Simeone, Recording Secretary