

NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Ashby – Pepperell – Townsend  
Massachusetts

Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 14, 2015

**PRESENT**

Chairperson	William Hackler	Member, At-Large
	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
	Randee Rusch	Member, At-Large

**ALSO PRESENT**

Joan Landers	Superintendent
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
Brad Brooks	
John Judge	
Becky Janda	
Isaac Taylor	
Anne Cromwell-Gapp	
Dr. Tara Hanley	
Dr. Sarah Jordan	
Diane Gleason	

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was by Susan Robbins and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve the minutes of

- October 5, 2015
- November 16, 2015

Vote: Unanimously passed

**DISTRICT BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

Budget Leaders Discussion on Guidance/Counseling Supports in the District:

The principals' shared their suggestions and thoughts on school guidance counselors, school adjustment counselors, and other professional support personnel. The administrators see academic learning and social-emotional learning as equally important to help all of our students. However, some felt that the schools are understaffed with individuals whose task is to provide student support. It overwhelms everybody in the school and falls upon everybody when you do not have enough student support staff. All schools are facing the difficult questions around where to allocate resources, all agreeing more support is needed.

Mr. Brooks and Mr. Judge provided a presentation to the group sharing all of the programs North Middlesex offers and what program and staffing positions are at each school. Mr. Brooks shared some

benefits and financial numbers with the group regarding creating an in-district substantially separate therapeutic program for our students.

A question was asked to explain the difference between a school social worker and a school adjustment counselor:

#### School Social Workers

School Social Worker are trained mental health professionals with a degree in social work who provide services related to a person's social, emotional and life adjustment to school and/or society. School Social Workers are the link between home, school, and community in providing direct, as well as indirect services, to students, families, and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and social success.

#### School Adjustment Counselors

The role of the school adjustment counselor is to provide social, emotional, and personal support to students. Students meet individually or in small groups with the school adjustment counselor though services may include meetings or consultations with parents, teachers, administrators, or community health providers to address concerns that may potentially affect a student's success in school. The counselor is certified by the Massachusetts Department of Education, as well as the Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure.

### **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Randy Rusch to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.  
Vote: Unanimously passed

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanna Bilotta-Simeone, Recording Secretary