

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

MINUTES

Monday, August 25, 2008
North Middlesex Regional High School

PRESENT

Chairperson	Arnold Silva	Member-Pepperell
Vice Chairperson	Frederick J. Wheeler III	Member-Townsend
Secretary	Dennis M. Moore	Member-Ashby
	Anne Buchholz	Member-At-Large
	Sue Fitzgerald	Member-Pepperell
	Tamara Leclerc	Member-At-Large
	Michael Morgan	Member-At-Large
	Susan Robbins	Member-Townsend

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Deborah Brady	Assistant Superintendent
Barbara Conti	Director of Human Resources
Gerald Martin	Business Manager
District Staff	
Press	

ABSENT

Kathy Low	Member-Pepperell
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1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.
2. The next meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be held on Monday, September 08, 2008 at the North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:30 p.m.
3. A motion was made by Dennis Moore and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2008 meeting as amended.

The motion passed 6-2. Mr. Wheeler and Mrs. Buchholz abstained.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Cafeteria Financial Report – June 2008
2. Public Communications – No one addressed the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Superintendent Evaluation

This item was passed over. Mr. Silva asked the members to electronically submit their evaluation forms.

2. Update on Energy Bids and Plans for Upcoming Heating Season

Mr. Martin informed the Committee that only one company submitted a bid in June for heating fuel. A second bid opening in July resulted in Global submitting the winning bid. The amount of the bid was \$3.98/gallon for heating oil this season. The District is still looking at using natural gas in many of the school buildings. Mr. Martin feels that switching over to natural gas will help counter the increase in fuel oil. He noted that all tanks were tapped off in the spring. Dr. Marshall noted that various methods for saving heat are being explored including sending students to recess through one door, keeping doors closed, etc. The cost of fuel has had an impact on hiring and filling positions. She informed the Committee that a recommendation to recertify the budget will be presented at the September meeting.

3. Professional Development: Update on Summer Programs

Dr. Brady gave a brief overview of professional development activities that have taken place over the summer. She stated that hundreds of District teachers participated in summer professional development.

She introduced teachers Gil Fuhr, Dawn Chapell, Barbara Shaw and Linda Simeone who gave a presentation on the Bridges Summer Program. This grant-funded MCAS prep program was designed to assist students transitioning to the high school. An overview of the program was presented using power point and personal observations.

Dr. Marshall also noted that the new summer school program at the high school was quite successful although not self-supporting as yet. She noted that discussions have begun regarding the possible implementation of a Credit Recovery Option which would be offered during the school day (possibly on-line) and would offer students the opportunity to get credits that they had failed to get due to attendance, lack of participation, etc.

Dr. Marshall briefly reviewed some preparations done through the summer in anticipation of beginning the new school year. She commended the maintenance/custodial staff, clerical and administrators for their hard work over the summer.

4. Progress: Mason, NH Tuition Agreement for 2009-10

Dr. Marshall informed the Committee that District Administrators will visit Mason, NH on August 28th at 7:00 PM for a presentation to Mason residents. On September 10th Mason residents will vote on whether they will join NMRSD or Milford. If Mason chooses NMRSD, then students will begin attending in September 2009. Dr. Marshall estimated there may be up to 70 Mason students in attendance.

5. Extended Learning Time – Update

Dr. Marshall informed the Committee of a meeting that was held this afternoon with parents to dispell rumors and misinformation regarding the extended learning time grant. She said the District participated in a planning grant looking at various schedules. She noted that an extended learning time program is not about to be implemented in the immediate future and will not be implemented without the School Committee's participation in the process.

Dr. Marshall also noted that the Singapore Math Program is not being phased out which was another rumor circulated.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Acceptance of Donations

- a. A motion was made by Dennis Moore and seconded by Anne Buchholz to accept a \$300.00 donation from Kathryn Low with matching funds from Deluxe Corporation to the North Middlesex Regional High School Community Learning Group.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. A motion was made by Dennis Moore and seconded by Anne Buchholz to accept the donation of a Leblanc clarinet from Mr. & Mrs. Baxter of Ashby, MA to Ashby Elementary School.

The motion passed unanimously.

- c. A motion was made by Dennis Moore and seconded by Anne Buchholz to accept the donation of a Yamaha trumpet from Mr. & Mrs. Thomas of Ashby, MA to Ashby Elementary School.

The motion passed unanimously.

- d. A motion was made by Dennis Moore and seconded by Anne Buchholz to accept a \$150 donation from Mrs. Helen Nett of Pepperell, MA with a matching donation from the Bank of New York, Mellon to Peter Fitzpatrick School.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. A motion was made by Dennis Moore and seconded by Anne Buchholz to accept the following donations from TAP Youth Basketball League:

- a. \$500 to North Middlesex Regional High School
- b. \$500 to Hawthorne Brook Middle School
- c. \$500 to Nissitissit Middle School
- d. \$200 to Peter Fitzpatrick School
- e. \$200 to Spaulding Memorial School

The motion passed unanimously.

3. The Superintendent requested direction from the Committee relative to membership to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. The Committee expressed interest in having a representative from MASC come to the next meeting if possible.

4. The Chairman appointed the following members to the Policy Subcommittee for the 2008-09 school year: Dennis Moore, Sue Fitzgerald Susan Robbins, and Tamara Leclerc.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Dennis Moore and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to enter into executive session in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23-B, Paragraph (3) for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining.

A roll call vote was taken:

Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Fred Wheeler-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Tamara Leclerc-yes; Michael Morgan-yes; Arnie-Silva-yes; Dennis Moore-no.

The motion passed 7-1.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis M. Moore, Secretary