

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

**MINUTES**

Monday, June 29, 2009  
North Middlesex Regional High School

**PRESENT**

Chairperson	Arnold Silva	Member-Pepperell
	Ken Brown	Member-Ashby
	Tamara Leclerc	Member-At-Large
	Kathy Low	Member-Pepperell
	Michael Morgan	Member-At-Large
	Susan Robbins	Member-Townsend
	Robert Templeton	Member-Townsend

**ALSO PRESENT**

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Deborah Brady	Assistant Superintendent
Gerald Martin	Business Manager
Barbara Conti	Director of Human Resources
Sheila Muir	Director of Curriculum & Instruction
District Personnel	
Parents/Community Members	
Press	

**ABSENT**

Vice Chairperson	Sue Fitzgerald	Member-Pepperell
	Anne Buchholz	Member-At-Large

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Student Representative Report – The Chair introduced the newly elected student representatives to the School Committee: Shanti Scott, Catherine Murray, Grace Rowse, and Will Foster. Shanti Scott and Will Foster presented the student report.
2. School Newsletters
  - a. Spaulding Memorial School – 6/19/09
  - b. Squannacook Elementary School 6/19/09
  - c. The Varnum Brooklet– 6/18/09
  - d. Peter Fitzpatrick School – 6/19/09
  - e. Nissitssit Middle School – 6/19/09
3. Cafeteria Financial Report – May 2009
4. Blue Ribbon Recognitions – June 2009 – Dr. Marshall shared a powerpoint presentation highlighting recent achievement/honors of NMRSD students and staff.

5. Public Communications – Community Members asked questions of the Committee and Superintendent regarding the number of students leaving the district, breakdown of graduates going to 4 yr/2 yr. colleges, and the use of Squannacook School as a possible readiness school.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

### 1. Warrant Subcommittee

The Chairman informed the Committee that the following warrants were available for Committee review: Warrant #'s: 09-0604, 09-0611, 09-0616, 09-0618, Payroll of 6/11/09, 6/25/09, lump sum payroll of 6/26/09, and Student Activity Transfers for 6/2/09 through 6/22/09. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the Warrant Subcommittee.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. The Superintendent recommended the Committee ratify in open session negotiations/bargaining matters approved in executive session at the last School Committee meeting on June 8, 2009:
  - a. A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Kathy Low to waive notification requirement to allow Kathryn Russell to access sick leave retirement benefits.

The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Kathy Low to modify the administrative contracts of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent by removing the language relative to annuities and by including such funds in the base salary of individuals whose contracts currently include annuities. This request was made in order to address changes in the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System Pension Program.

The motion passed unanimously.
  - c. A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Kathy Low to accept the concession agreement with the North Middlesex Regional School District Teachers Association.
    - Teachers will take a 90-day wage, step, and lane change freeze in the 2009-10 school year. On Day 91, all percentage raises, step and lane changes will be granted for the remainder of the school year. The salary schedule will then continue to be followed as written in the contract.
    - Teachers will not have to work the 4<sup>th</sup> night for the duration of the contract.
    - Professional Status Teachers will work only 183 days for the duration of the contract. All Non-Professional Status Teachers will follow the current contract language for the number of work days for the duration of the contract.
    - Stipends and longevity payments will not be affected by the wage freeze.
    - A committee, consisting of School Committee Members, Association members and the Superintendent, shall reconvene upon receipt of final budget numbers from the state. All parties will decide whether or not the savings realized by this wage freeze are actually necessary for the

NMRSD budget for the next fiscal year (FY10). If monies are not needed, the offer of the 90-Day wage concession will be rescinded by the NMRSD Teachers Association.

The motion passed 6-0-1. Mike Morgan abstained.

2. FY10 Budget Update – The Superintendent shared a powerpoint presentation on the status of the FY10 budget. The powerpoint included:
  - review of changes in state revenues for FY2010
  - explanation of state modifications of Minimum Local Contribution
  - calculation of new assessments (?)
  - review of impact of stimulus money on NMRSD
  - discussion of changes in staffing patterns (administrative, teaching, support) to address revenue shortfall
  - explanation of changes to decrease transportation costs
  - program modifications to address revenue shortfall (reduction-in-force, reassignment, sharing administrative personnel, etc.)
  - analysis of revenue enhancement

A discussion ensued. Members of the audience asked questions of the Superintendent and School Committee relative to the reduction of bus routes, special education costs, losing students due to population decline, user fees for extra curricular activities, and the wage concession.

A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Susan Robbins to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to achieve the \$250,000 transportation savings by making bus route reductions.

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Tamara Leclerc to authorize the school district to call back 13 teachers who have received pink slips based on the bus route savings and salary concessions.

A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Susan Robbins to amend the motion as follows:  
To authorize the school district to call back 13 teachers contingent upon final approval of the salary concessions by the committee appointed to review.

The motion to amend passed unanimously.

The motion as amended passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Susan Robbins to authorize the school district to call back 6 teachers contingent on the District receiving the federal stimulus package.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Sharing of District Resources with other districts (i.e. Quabbin)

The Superintendent and Chairman reviewed the proposal to share administrative services. The Superintendent informed the Committee that she has had conversations with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Secretary of Education's office on sharing administrative services. She has also consulted the school district's counsel.

Members of the audience asked questions and made comments relative to sharing administrative services with another school district.

The Committee discussed forming a subcommittee to study sharing services and report back to the full committee.

A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Susan Robbins to form a subcommittee to continue to explore sharing of district resources with another district.

The motion passed unanimously.

Arnie Silva, Sue Fitzgerald, Ken Brown and Rob Templeton were named to the new subcommittee.

## 2. Application for Readiness Grant

Dr. Brady informed the Committee that the District was awarded a \$10,000 Readiness Schools planning grant from the Executive Office of Education.

## 3. Out-of-State Field Trip

A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Susan Robbins to approve the out-of-state field trip by the NMRHS Band & Chorus to the National Music Festival in Williamsburg, VA on April 29, 2010 – May 2, 2010.

The motion passed unanimously.

## 4. Donation Acceptance

A motion was made by Kathy Low and seconded by Tamara Leclerc to accept a \$400.00 donation from Pepperell VFW to Nissitissit Middle School.

The motion passed unanimously.

## 5. Discussion: Communications – Posting of E-Mail Addresses/Phone Numbers

The Committee discussed the posting of committee members e-mail addresses and phone numbers on the district's web page.

Peter Balducci, Director of Technology, suggested that committee members set up district e-mail accounts for communicating with the public relative to school business rather than using their personal e-mail addresses.

Individual Committee Members will contact the Central Office to set up their e-mail accounts.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was mad by Susan Robbins and seconded by Tamara Leclerc to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted

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Nancy Landry, Secretary