

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

MINUTES

Monday, December 14, 2009
North Middlesex Regional High School

PRESENT

Chairperson	Arnold Silva	Member-Pepperell
Vice Chairperson	Sue Fitzgerald	Member-Pepperell
	Ken Brown	Member- Ashby
	Anne Buchholz	Member-At Large
	Kathy Low	Member-Pepperell
	Susan Robbins	Member-Townsend
	Randee Rusch	Member-At Large
	Robert Templeton	Member-Townsend
	Gwen Morgan	Student Representative

ALSO PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Michael Morgan	Member-At Large
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1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM
2. The next meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be held on Monday, January 25, 2010 at the North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Finance Subcommittee will be held on Monday, January 11, 2010 at the North Middlesex Regional High School at 6:00 PM.

3. A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Kathy Low to approve the minutes of November 30, 2009.

The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Student Representative Report – Gwen Morgan presented the student representative report.
2. Cafeteria Finance Report – October 2009
3. Newsletters
 - a. Title I Newsletter
 - b. Ashby Elementary Newsletter – 12/14/00
 - c. The NM Insight

4. Public Communications – No one addressed the Committee.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Audit Report

Karen Snow, Lead Auditor, Melanson Heath & Company PC, reviewed the FY10 District Audit including the financial statements and management letter.

Ms. Snow, Business Manager Jerry Martin and District Treasurer Michael Hartnett answered questions from the Committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Warrant Subcommittee

The Chair announced that available for Committee review are Warrant #'s: 10-1124, 10-1202 and payroll warrant of December 10, 2009. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the Warrant Subcommittee.

2. Subcommittee to Explore District Consolidation and/or Partnerships – No report was given.

3. Finance Subcommittee

Finance Subcommittee Chair Anne Buchholz updated the Committee on the 2nd meeting of the Finance Subcommittee held earlier this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

1. A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding between the North Middlesex Regional School District and North Middlesex Educational Support Professionals (General Assistants)

A brief discussion ensued.

A roll call vote was taken:

Anne Buchholz-yes; Kathy Low-yes; Rob Templeton-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Arnie Silva-abstained.

The motion passed 7-0-1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. In compliance with Massachusetts General Law Ch71 Section 67; This written notice formally notifies the North Middlesex Regional School District School Committee that it is the intent of the school district to employ Randee Rusch as an After School Activity Instructor for the 2009-10 school year.

2. Transportation Contract

a. A motion was made by Sue Fitzgerald and seconded by Anne Buchholz to award the following regular day transportation routes:

- Pepperell Regular Day Transportation routes to McCarty Bus in the amount of \$676,260
- Townsend Regular Day Transportation routes to Brookside of Townsend, Inc. in the amount of \$623,700
- Ashby regular day transportation routes to Brookside of Townsend, Inc. in the amount of \$306,810

The total cost per year is \$1,606,770 (6.2% increase).

A roll call vote was taken:

Anne Buchholz-yes; Kathy Low-yes; Rob Templeton-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Rande Rusc-yes; Arnie Silva-yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. A motion was made by Sue Fitzgerald and seconded by Kathy Low to award the extra-curricular transportation bid to McCarty Bus at the following amounts:

Extra Curricular (71-83 passenger bus)

- <40 miles - \$21,200.00
- 40-80 miles - \$28,500.00
- 80-120 miles - \$26,000.00

Extra Curricular (16-20 passenger bus)

- < 40 miles - \$ 3,600.00
- 40-80 miles - \$ 3,900.00
- 80-120 miles - \$ 2,800.00

Extra Wait Time

- (50 Hours) - \$ 2,600.00

A roll call vote was taken:

Anne Buchholz-yes; Kathy Low-yes; Rob Templeton-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Rande Rusc-yes; Arnie Silva-yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

c. A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to award the high school late bus transportation bid to McCarty Bus in the amount of \$75.00 per day.

A roll call vote was taken:

Anne Buchholz-yes; Kathy Low-yes; Rob Templeton-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Rande Rusc-yes; Arnie Silva-yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. A motion was made by Sue Fitzgerald and seconded by Susan Robbins accept with thanks the donation of 45 dell laptops from Mr. John Walker Canfield, Information Systems Security Officer, General Services Administration, Boston, MA.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion: Communications - Email/Connect-Ed/Newspaper/School Mail

The Committee discussed ways to communicate information with the public.

The Committee agreed to ask the Superintendent to submit a recommendation for a policy on how to address the general public/school public on school issues.

5. A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and the North Middlesex Regional School District. This agreement establishes a framework of collaboration, roles, and responsibilities in support of Massachusetts in its implementation of an approved Race to the Top grant project.

A brief discussion ensued.

The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Sue Fitzgerald and seconded by Anne Buchholz to enter into executive session in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23-B (3) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

A roll call vote was taken:

Anne Buchholz-yes; Kathy Low-no; Rob Templeton-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Arnie Silva-yes.

The motion passed 7-1.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Landry, Secretary