

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

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, February 22, 2010
North Middlesex Regional High School

PRESENT

Anne Buchholz	Member-At Large
Ken Brown	Member, Ashby
Michael Morgan	Member-At Large
Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend

**ALSO
PRESENT**

Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Deborah Brady	Assistant Superintendent
Gerald Martin	Business Manager
Barbara Conti	Director of Human Resources
District Administrators	
Parents/Community Members	
Students	
Press	

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes – February 8, 2010

A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Mike Morgan to approve the February 8, 2010 meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Communications – No one addressed the Committee.

3. Presentation by NM Band Boosters

NMRHS Alumnus Christopher St. Croix addressed the subcommittee relative to the importance of the music program and asked the subcommittee not to cut the grade 4 instrumental music program.

A DVD highlighting the district music program was shown.

Several parents and community members reiterated the merits of the music program and urged committee members not to cut the music program and to look at alternative methods for reducing the budget.

4. The Chairperson opened up the floor for comments from audience members on the proposed FY11 budget.

Several parents and community members asked questions and offered alternative suggestions for reducing the budget. Suggestions included: sharing administrators between schools, offering a before/after school program for fee, reduce bus routes, charge bus fees for families living within 1.5 miles of school, reduce administrators district-wide.

Audience members urged subcommittee members to not cut the music program or the Middle School World Language Program.

Four Hawthorne Brook Middle School students presented the subcommittee with a petition signed by 155 students requesting that the gr. 4 instrumental music program not be cut.

A NMRHS student presented a second petition signed by 75 students requesting no cuts to the instrumental music program.

Chairperson Anne Buchholz reviewed the concerns and suggestions made at the previous meeting of the Finance Subcommittee February 8, 2010).

Anne Buchholz requested that the Superintendent investigate a broader range of alternative budget cuts including: decrease administration at all levels, decrease administrator/student ratio, user fee for music program to offset gr. 4 elimination, negotiate wage freeze/wage concession for all employees, and combine administrative services throughout the district, reach out to senior citizens for volunteer help, evaluate elimination of busing for students within 1.5 mile radius of school, student activity fee, increase use of E & D funds.

A discussion ensued.

The subcommittee agreed to request that the Superintendent look at a broader range of alternatives for budget reductions.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Mike Morgan to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Landry, Secretary