

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

**MINUTES**

**Monday, February 22, 2010**  
**North Middlesex Regional High School**

**PRESENT**

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

**ALSO**  
**PRESENT**

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 PM.
2. The next meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be held on Monday, March 8, 2010 at the North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:00 PM.

The next meeting of the Finance Subcommittee will be held on Monday, March 1, 2010 at North Middlesex Regional High School at 6:00 PM.

3. A motion was made by Sue Fitzgerald and seconded by Kathy Low to approve the minutes of January 25, 2010.

The motion passed by a vote of 7-0-2. Ken Brown and Rob Templeton abstained.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Student Representative Report – No report was given.
2. Public Communications – No one addressed the Committee.
3. The Supt. clarified a comment made at the prior Public Hearing regarding salary concessions. The District received approximately \$680,000 in salary concessions from district employees in FY10.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Warrant Subcommittee

The following warrants have been reviewed and signed by the Warrant Subcommittee and are available for Committee review:

Account Payable Warrants: 10-1210, 10-1217, 10-1218, 10-1223, 10-1229, 10-0104, 10-0107, 10-0114, 10-0121, 10-0122, 10-0128, 10-0201, 10-0204, 10-0209, 10-0218; Payroll warrants of 12/23/09, 1/7/10, 1/21/10, 2/4/10, 2/18/10, and Student Activity Transfers from 12/8/09-12/30/09.

2. Subcommittee to Explore District Consolidation and/or Partnerships

Rob Templeton provided a brief subcommittee update. Lunenburg School Committee is scheduled to meet on February 24<sup>th</sup> to vote on decision to continue regional expansion discussions with North Middlesex. Both districts continue to share information.

3. Finance Subcommittee

Anne Buchholz summarized comments and suggestions made at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and the open forum with parents/community members held earlier this evening.

The consensus of the subcommittee is to request the Superintendent explore and evaluate additional areas for budget reductions, such as: 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, 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, and increase use of E & D funds.

A discussion ensued.

Committee members requested that the Superintendent explore the idea of eliminating regular transportation entirely, the possibility of assessing a student activity fee for all students, and requiring families to purchase school supplies currently supplied by district.

The discussion continued.

## **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Sue Fitzgerald and seconded by Susan Robbins to enter into executive session in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23-B, Exemption (3) for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining. (The Committee will not return to open session.)

A roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Landry, Secretary