

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

MINUTES

Monday, August 23, 2010
North Middlesex Regional High School

PRESENT

Chairperson	Arnold Silva	Member, Pepperell
Vice Chairperson	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
	Ken Brown	Member, Ashby
	Anne Buchholz	Member, At Large (arrived at 7:03 pm)
	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Sue Fitzgerald	Member, Pepperell
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend

ALSO
PRESENT

Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Deborah Brady	Assistant Superintendent
Barbara Conti	Director of Human Resources
Sheila Muir	Director of Curriculum
Parents/Community Members	
Press	

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

1. In accordance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the Chair informed the Committee and audience members of the recording of this meeting.
2. The next regularly schedule meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be held on Monday, September 27, 2010 at the North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:00 p.m.
3. A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2010 meeting.

The motion passed 7-0-1. Ken Brown abstained.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Cafeteria Financial Reports – June 11, 2010, July 12, 2010

2. Letter from Pepperell Board of Selectmen – The Committee briefly discussed the letter from the Pepperell Board of Selectmen. The Finance Subcommittee will explore the suggestions addressed in the letter.
3. New Staff 2010-2011 – The Superintendent introduced newly appointed administrators: Christine Batty, Principal, North Middlesex Regional High School; Ian Gosselin, Headmaster, North Middlesex Regional High School; Michael Caira, Asst. Principal, Varnum Brook Elementary School.
4. Ann Buchholz requested clarification regarding the removal of a book from the High School Summer Reading List. Principal Batty reviewed the case and informed the Committee that the administration will be revising the protocol for book recommendations.
5. FY2011 Budget/FY10 Audit – The Supt. informed the Committee that the auditors are in district reviewing all district accounts.
6. Opening of Schools - The Supt. briefly reviewed school safety measures being put in place for the start of school.
7. Jobs Bill for Education – The Supt. stated that very little information has been received to-date. Districts must apply for grants and the money can be used in 2012. More information will be forthcoming.
8. Anti-Bullying Legislation – Barbara Conti reported that principals and guidance counselors have been trained over the summer. The Curriculum is in place and all personnel will be trained. A meeting with the police chiefs will be held to develop a Memorandum of Understanding.
9. Green Repair Program – The Supt. informed the Committee that the district plans to apply for grants under the federal Green Repair Program for the Spaulding Memorial School and Ashby Elementary School. Only roof/window repair projects are eligible under this program.
10. Review of Current Policy Manual – The Supt. informed the Committee that district administrators are reviewing all policies. The MASC Policy Manual is being used as a resource as it is a vetted policy book. The administration will provide recommendations to the Policy Subcommittee.
11. MCAS Information – Dr. Brady reported that the MCAS results are currently embargoed; however, once the embargo is lifted, a comprehensive report will be provided to the Committee.
12. Public Communications
 - a) Ann Adams, Pepperell, requested the district post the updated budget on the website.
 - b) Kelly Kelly, Townsend, expressed her concern regarding the needs improvement status of Spaulding Memorial School.
 - c) Grover Pillsbury, Townsend, addressed the Committee relative to his previous request to be placed on the agenda.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

1. Warrant Subcommittee

The following warrants are available for Committee: AP Warrants: 10-0610, 10-0624, 10-0628, 10-0629, 10-0630 (3) 11-0701, 11-0702, 11-0708, 11-0722, 11-0726, 11-0727, 11-0728, 11-0730

Payroll warrants: 6/8/10, 6/10/10, 6/18/10, 6/24/10, 7/8/10, 7/22/10

Student Activity Transfers: 5/24/10-7/16/10

The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the Warrant Subcommittee.

2. Regional Expansion Subcommittee

Rob Templeton provided an update on the Joint Committee to Explore Regional Expansion. Budget assumptions have been created and will be reviewed by the Joint Committee on August 30th. The timeframe has been extended until November 1st. The administration of NM and Lunenburg are created a mock high school, looking at staffing patterns, assessments, etc. Lunenburg representatives have indicated that a deal breaker for them is if the NMRSD School Committee is unwilling to open up our regional agreement for negotiations.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Rob Templeton and seconded by Susan Robbins to indicate the Committee's willingness to negotiate the regional agreement should the expansion of North Middlesex and Lunenburg be feasible.

The motion passed 8-1. Mrs. Clermont voted no.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Susan Robbins to approve the transfer of \$30,000 from the School Choice account to the general fund to be used for curriculum-related expenses (Virtual High School, Datametrics, etc.)

A roll call vote was taken:

Jonna Clermont-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Rob Templeton-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Michael Morgan-yes; Arnie Silva-yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to renew the membership to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (\$5,071.00).

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Acceptance of Donations

- a. A motion was made by Sue Fitzgerald and seconded by Susan Robbins to accept the donation of \$610.00 to North Middlesex Regional School District from Raytheon Matching Gifts for Education Program.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to accept the donation of a HP 4550N Color Laser Printer and three toner cartridges to Varnum Brook Elementary School from Mr. Matt Nesbit.

The motion passed unanimously.

- c. A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to accept the donation of \$20,000.00 to Hawthorne Brook Middle School from the Stratford Foundation (to be used for purchase of technology equipment).

The motion passed unanimously.

- d. A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to accept the following donation from TAP Youth Basketball League:
 - \$500.00 to Hawthorne Brook Middle School
 - \$500.00 to Nissitissit Middle School
 - \$500.00 to North Middlesex Regional High School
 - \$250.00 to Varnum Brook Elementary School
 - \$250.00 to Spaulding Memorial School

The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to enter into executive session to discuss collective bargaining with the NM Teachers' Association. The Committee will return to open session.

A roll call vote was taken:

Jonna Clermont-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Rob Templeton-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Michael Morgan-yes; Arnie Silva-yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

The Committee returned to open session at 9:34 PM

A motion was made by Susan Robbins and seconded by Ken Brown to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the North Middlesex Regional School Committee and the NMRSD Teachers Association regarding Department Heads/Department Facilitators.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Sue Fitzgerald and seconded by Susan Robbins to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Landry, Executive Secretary