

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

MINUTES

Monday, November 8, 2010
North Middlesex Regional High School

PRESENT

Chairperson	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
	Ken Brown	Member, Ashby
	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell (Alternate)
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large

ALSO

PRESENT

Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Deborah Brady	Assistant Superintendent
Cheryl Duval	Director of Adm. Services (Quabbin)
Parents/Community Members	
Press	

ABSENT

Anne Buchholz	Member, At Large
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1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.
2. The Chair announced the recording of the meeting.
3. A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Mike Morgan to approve the minutes of September 27, 2010

The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Susan Robbins summarized the October 25th work session and the discussion to revise and update the Chart of Accounts for FY11 and FY12. The new Chart of Accounts will be reviewed at the December 13th School Committee meeting.
2. The Superintendent reviewed the difficulty in providing town assessment estimates before revenue information (Chapter 70, 71) is available. A discussion ensued relative to providing budget assumptions to the towns.
3. Review of Schedule – The Subcommittee reviewed the schedule of meetings and tentative timetable. As stated previously, the new Chart of Account format will be presented on December 13th school

committee meeting and the first draft of the FY12 budget will be presented at the January 10th finance subcommittee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Subcommittee discussed priorities for the FY12 budget. They include:
 - Continued focus on student achievement
 - Be aware of order of priorities
 - Protect programs
 - Develop wish list (things we would do if we had the money)
 - Continue to drive efficiency
 - Be open to ideas
 - Prepare students for next level of education
 - Look at capital projects
 - Challenge everything – “think big”

The Subcommittee was asked to provide direction to the administration. The Subcommittee agreed to begin with a level services budget (access to same educational programs). Preliminary goals for FY12 budget should include:

- Maintain student/teacher ratios
- Avoid structural deficits whenever possible
- Maintain assets – do not allow buildings to deteriorate
- Continue to look at opportunities for revenue generation

2. Budget Approval/Transfer Policy

The Subcommittee briefly discussed the current Budget Transfer Policy. The Supt. provided a copy of the Budget Approval/Transfer Policy developed by MASC.

The Subcommittee recommended that the administration fine tune the parameters of the budget transfer policy and present to the full school committee for review/input.

3. Future Agenda Items

The Subcommittee agreed to meet on December 13th at 6:00 PM to continue discussion on what to include in the FY12 budget.

At the January 10th meeting, the subcommittee will review a FY12 level services budget.

Susan Robbins will contact the three towns' finance committees and will inform subcommittee members of their meeting dates.

Mike Morgan informed the Subcommittee and Administration that he spoke with newly elected State Representative, Sheila Harrington, who offered to meet with the Committee to discuss issues of concern.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Jonna Clermont to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Landry, Secretary