

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

**MINUTES**

Monday, March 5, 2012  
North Middlesex Regional High School

**PRESENT**

Chairperson	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
Vice Chairperson	Ken Brown	Member, Ashby (arrived at 6:25 PM)
	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Sue Fitzgerald	Member, Pepperell
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Arnie Silva	Member, Pepperell

**ALSO**

**PRESENT**

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Deborah Brady	Assistant Superintendent
Barbara Conti	Director of Human Resources
Julie Surprenant	Manager of Financial Operations
Dr. Ken DeBenedictis	Consultant, NESDEC (arrived at 7:15 pm)
Community Members/Parents	
Town Officials	
Press	

**ABSENT**

Anne Buchholz	Member, At Large
Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM
2. The Chair informed the Committee and Audience of the recording of the meeting.
3. The next meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be 6:00 pm

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. FY13 Preliminary Budget

The Superintendent distributed a working copy of the FY13 budget. She indicated that a few adjustments in line items were made due to special education placement changes; however, there was no change to bottom line. The Committee must adopt the FY13 budget by March 14<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the budget may be adjusted down before town meeting, but cannot be increased after budget adoption.

Preliminary results of the budget survey are available and will be forwarded to the Committee.

The administration requested direction regarding the focus of priorities for FY13 budget.

Committee members indicated that class size should be a major priority. The needs budget currently allows for a maximum of 25 students per class with an average of 22 per class. To get to maximum class size of 22, six (6) additional teachers would need to be added to the Needs Budget. A discussion ensued regarding reducing class size.

Committee members requested that we take a hard look at what our “needs” are. Committee members asked questions on the preliminary line item budget.

The Committee discussed the idea of having a televised line by line review of the budget.

The consensus of the committee is to request the following information for the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting: answer the question “what problem are we trying to resolve in needs budget; what do we want the staffing pattern to look like (with priority to decreasing class size); organize line item budget by school.

The meeting recessed at 7:05 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 7:15 PM

## 2. Focus Group Discussion with Search Consultant

Search Consultant Ken DeBenedictis facilitated a focus group discussion with the Committee. The discussion focused on two questions: what is the Committee looking for in a new superintendent, and what does the new superintendent need to focus on in his/her first 6-12 months.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Arnie Silva and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Landry, Secretary