

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

MINUTES

Monday, April 9, 2012
North Middlesex Regional High School

PRESENT

Chairperson	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
Vice Chairperson	Ken Brown	Member, Ashby (arrived at 5:55 PM)
	Anne Buchholz	Member, At Large (arrived at 6:15 pm)
	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Sue Fitzgerald	Member, Pepperell
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Arnie Silva	Member, Pepperell
	Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend

**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
Townsend Board of Selectmen	
Ashby Board of Selectmen	
Pepperell Board of Selectmen	
Town Administrators (Ashby, Pepperell, Townsend)	
Finance Committee Representatives (Ashby, Pepperell, Townsend)	
Community Members/Parents	
Press	

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM
2. The Chairperson informed the Committee and audience members of the recording of the meeting.
3. The next meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at North Middlesex Regional High School at 6:00 PM

OLD BUSINESS

1. FY13 Budget – Discussion with Town Select Boards & Finance Committees (Ashby, Pepperell, Townsend)

Supt. Marshall began the discussion with a request to discuss process related to the FY13 budget. She stated that the due to a loss of revenue, the School Committee is seeking an

override for the “Needs” budget. The Superintendent briefly reviewed the projected tax impact of an override (Needs vs. Level Services budget).

Select Board representatives from Pepperell and Townsend asked questions of the Committee relative to the “Needs” budget. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Select Board representatives from Ashby thanked the Committee for its efforts during these difficult fiscal times.

The Committee and Town Officials discussed timelines for override votes. The three town administrators indicated that an override vote has been put on the warrant. Mr. Sheehan, Townsend Town Administrator, indicated that the town needs 35 days following town meeting to schedule ballot vote. He anticipated a mid June time frame for override ballot vote. The Town Administrators would be in contact with the School Committee to discuss the timeline for override ballot vote.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Arnie Silvia and seconded by Ken Brown enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy relative to collective bargaining with the NMRSD paraprofessionals, secretaries and nurses associations.

Arnie Silva announced that he would not participate in the discussion of the paraprofessional negotiations.

A roll call vote was taken: Mike Morgan-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Robert Templeton-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Jonna Clermont-yes; Arnie Silva-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Susan Robbins-yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

The Committee returned to open session at 8:06 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ratification of Negotiated Agreements

- a. A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Randee Rusch to ratify the one year agreement with the Massachusetts Teacher’s Association National Education Association NMEA Unit (secretaries) NMRSD Teachers Association for the 2011-2012 school year.

Susan Robbins read the details of the agreement.

A roll call vote was taken:

Jonna Clermont-yes; Arnie Silva-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Robert Templeton-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Mike Morgan-yes; Joseph Sergi (Municipal Rep)-yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to ratify the one year agreement with the NMRSD Educational Support Professionals for the 2011-2012 school year.

Susan Robbins read the details of the agreement.

A roll call vote was taken:

Jonna Clermont-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Robert Templeton-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Mike Morgan-yes; Joseph Sergi (Municipal Rep)-yes
Arnie Silva-abstained.

The motion passed 8-0-1.

- c. A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to ratify the one year agreement with the NMRSD Nurses Association for the 2011-2012 school year.

Susan Robbins read the details of the agreement.

A roll call vote was taken:

Jonna Clermont-yes; Arnie Silva-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Ken Brown-yes;
Robert Templeton-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Mike Morgan-yes; Joseph Sergi
(Municipal Rep)-yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of 2012-2013 Proposed School Calendar

This item was passed over as the Committee requested the administration make changes to the proposed calendar (schedule of early release professional development days) and resubmit to the Committee for approval.

3. Remote Participation

A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Randee Rusch to allow remote participation in accordance with the requirements of the Attorney General's Regulations Regarding Open Meetings Updated November 11, 2011 to include 940 CMR 29.10 - Remote Participation.

A brief discussion ensued regarding logistics of setting up remote participation.

A roll call vote was taken: Mike Morgan-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Robert Templeton-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Jonna Clermont-yes; Arnie Silva-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Susan Robbins-yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to approve the consent agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - March 12, 2012
 - April 02, 2012
2. Acceptance of Donations:
 - \$250.00 to Ashby Elementary School (for flooring project) from Select Engineering, Inc.
 - \$687.00 to Ashby Elementary School (for flooring project) from Hannaford Helps Schools Program
 - \$435.00 to Varnum Brook Elementary School from Hannaford Helps Schools Program
 - \$186.00 to Nissitissit Middle School from Hannaford Helps Schools Program
3. Out-of-State/Out-of-Country Field Trips:
 - NMRHS Robotics Team to Pembroke, NH on Sunday, April 15, 2012
 - NMRHS Students (enrolled in Spanish 3 or AP Spanish) to Madrid & Barcelona, Spain on April 11-18, 2013 (or April 12-19, 2013).

The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Student Representative Report - Douglas Babineau presented the student report.
2. Superintendent's Report
 - District Improvement Plan – The updated plan was distributed.
 - Blue Ribbon Recognitions – Spring 2012
 - School Choice Openings – 2012/13
Supt. Marshall recommended that there be no new choice openings across the District for the 2012-13 school year due to budget constraints.
3. Superintendent Search

Susan Robbins reviewed the schedule for interviews with the four candidates on April 10 & 11.

The Committee reviewed and amended the list of interview questions.

Ken Brown stated that he would email the list of additional references (town officials, PTO reps, Supt./Asst. Supt, etc.) provided by the four candidates. Four members (K. Brown, J. Clermont, R. Rusch, R. Templeton) would make reference calls and report back to the Committee.

4. Building Committee
Rob Templeton read the names of the Building Committee Members submitted to the MSBA. The first meeting of the Building Committee will be held on April 11th.
5. School Newsletters
 - Spaulding Memorial School – March 30, 2012
 - Varnum Brook Middle School – March 30, 2012
 - Ashby Elementary School – March 30, 2012
 - Title I Newsletter – March/April 2012
6. Public Communications – No one addressed the Committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Warrant Subcommittee

Available for Committee review are Accounts Payable Warrants: 12-0315, 12-0322, 12-0329, & 12-0405 and payroll warrants: 3/15/12 & 3/29/12

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

2. Policy Subcommittee

A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Robert Templeton to approve the following policies (1st reading):

- a. Policy KF-R1 Community Use of School Facilities (revised)
- b. Policy KF-E1 School Facilities Use (revised)
- c. Policy EB Safety Program
- d. Policy EBAB Pest Management Policy
- e. Policy EBC Emergency Plans
- f. Policy EBCD Emergency Closings

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Finance Subcommittee –No report was given.

OLD BUSINESS

1. A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Arnie Silva to confirm the November 28, 2011 vote to extend the contract with Superintendent of Schools Maureen Marshall through August 31, 2012.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mike Morgan-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Robert Templeton-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Rande Rusch-yes; Arnie Silva-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Jonna Clermont-no.

The motion passed by a vote of 8-1.

2. A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Rande Rusch to extend the Shared Services Agreement between the North Middlesex Regional School District and the Quabbin Regional School District through August 31, 2012.

A brief discussion ensued.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mike Morgan-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Sue Fitzgerald-yes; Robert Templeton-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Rande Rusch-yes; Arnie Silva-yes; Susan Robbins-yes; Jonna Clermont-no.

The motion passed by a vote of 8-1.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Request to enter executive session to conduct strategy session in preparation with negotiations with the new superintendent of schools.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Committee returned to open session at 10:14 PM.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Cafeteria Update

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Sue Fitzgerald to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Landry, Secretary