

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

**MINUTES**

Monday, August 06, 2012  
North Middlesex Regional High School

**PRESENT**

Chairperson	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
Vice Chairperson	Ken Brown	Member, Ashby
	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Arnie Silva	Member, Pepperell
	Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend

**ALSO**

**PRESENT**

Joan Landers	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Deborah Brady	Assistant Superintendent
Barbara Conti	Director of Human Resources
Julie Surprenant	Manager of Financial Operations
District Administrators	
Community Members/Parents	
Town Officials	
Press	

**ABSENT**

Anne Buchholz	Member, At Large
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The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM

The Chairperson hereby informs the Committee and audience members of the recording of this meeting.

**REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Arnie Silva and seconded by Jonna Clermont to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with the NMRSD teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, nurses associations & Unit B.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM

The Committee returned to open session at 8:05 PM

The Chair welcomed Joan Landers, new Superintendent of Schools, to the District.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Ratification of Negotiated Agreements – This item was passed over to a future meeting.
2. Peter Fitzpatrick School Lease Extension – Discussion

Arnie Silva recommended the District explore the use of Peter Fitzpatrick School as a possible revenue source by adding educational programs such as expansion of Merrimack Special Education Program or other educational agencies that may be interested in renting space at the school.

A discussion ensued. The Committee agreed to discuss the use of Peter Fitzpatrick at a future meeting and to allow Supt. Landers to review possible and creative ways to use the building for educational purposes.

Rob Templeton suggested we look at all capital planning needs in the district including the use of Peter Fitzpatrick School as there may be need for additional space in the future.

3. Appointment of Superintendent Joan Landers as District Representative on the Merrimack Special Education Collaborative Board

A motion was made by Arnie Silva and seconded by Randee Rusch to appoint Superintendent Joan Landers as the District Representative on the Merrimack Special Education Collaborative Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. FY13 Budget – Discussion

Supt. Landers reviewed the \$300,000 in cuts to the level service budget as requested by the Committee at their last meeting.

A discussion ensued.

Supt. Landers summarized the process and timeline for town meeting and override vote on FY13 budget. She reviewed the proposed staffing pattern for the FY13 school year if the override vote is successful as well as the proposed staffing pattern for the FY13 school year should the override fail.

A question was raised whether the superintendent had the authority to grant pay raises or change the compensation without the approval of the school committee. Dr. Marshall explained that the superintendent is delegated by the school committee to negotiate salary increases with non-union personnel.

A discussion of administrative salaries ensued.

The Committee discussed the recommendation to increase athletic/activity user fees from \$150 to \$210 (high school) and from \$80 to \$100 (middle school).

Jonna Clermont, Robert Templeton and Ken Brown stated their opposition to increasing user fees and suggested the administration come up with an alternative reduction (\$50K).

Members of the audience spoke in opposition of increasing user fees.

A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Jonna Clermont to remove the \$50K from increase to user fees as a contributor to the proposed budget cuts and to replace it with an alternative reduction.

The motion passed unanimously.

## 2. School Calendar

A motion was made by Ken Brown and seconded by Arnie Silva to revise the 2012-2013 school calendar and delay the opening day for students to September 4 (Grades 1-12) and September 10<sup>th</sup> for PreK and kindergarten students.

A discussion ensued.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Capital Planning – Expanded Use of Peter Fitzpatrick School

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Landry, Secretary