

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

**MINUTES**

Monday, January 14, 2013  
North Middlesex Regional High School

**PRESENT**

Chairperson	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
Vice Chairperson	Ken Brown	Member, Ashby
	Anne Adams	Member, Pepperell
	Anne Buchholz	Member, Pepperell
	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Arnie Silva	Member, Pepperell
	Kyle Edmonds	Student Representative

**ALSO  
PRESENT**

Joan Landers	Superintendent of Schools
District Staff	
Parents/Community Members	
Press	

**ABSENT**

Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend
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1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM
2. The Chair informed the Committee and Audience of the recording of the meeting.
3. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be held on Monday, January 28, 2013 at 7:00 PM at North Middlesex Regional High School

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Randee Rusch to approve the following consent agenda as presented:

1. Approval of Minutes:
  - December 10, 2012
2. Out of State Field Trip Requests:
  - NMRHS students to National Service Learning Conference, Denver, CO – March 13-15, 2013
  - NMRHS Robotics Team to Vex Robotics World Championship, Anaheim, CA – April 17-20, 2013
3. Donation Approvals:
  - Channel One New Equipment (digital head end units, tv monitors, carts, satellite dish) donated by Channel One Network to North Middlesex Regional High School)
  - Phonic MK 50 keyboard amplifier (valued at 249.99) donated by Mr. Bruce Wahler to North Middlesex Regional High School

- Fender Rumble 350 bass amplifier (valued at \$44.99) donated by Ms. Karstein Gjelsvik to North Middlesex Regional High School

The motion passed unanimously.

### **OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP REQUEST**

Hawthorne Brook Middle School Assistant Principal Sandi Shepherd-Gay reviewed the details of the proposed Grade 6 Appalachian Mountain Club trip on May 29-31, 2013.

A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Randee Rusch to approve the following field trip request as presented:

- Hawthorne Brook Middle School Grade 6 students to Mt. Washington, White Mountains, New Hampshire – May 29-31, 2013

A brief discussion ensued.

The motion passed by a vote of 7-0-1. Mrs. Adams abstained.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Student Representative Report - No report was given.
2. Superintendent's Report
  - Supt. reminded the Committee and Audience Members of the January 17<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Expo at the High School for Grade 6-8 students and their families.
  - Supt. thanked everyone for attending the January 3<sup>rd</sup> Safety in Schools Informational meeting. She stated the district continue to look at all security measures.
  - Supt. reported that the district is looking at net metering credits. The district has been approached by a consultant who has experience working with municipalities. The administration will set up a public forum to give the community an opportunity to learn and have input. More information will be forthcoming.
3. Title I Newsletter – January/February 2013
4. Public Communications – Brian Edmonds, recent NMRHS graduate, addressed the Committee regarding the need to keep block scheduling at the high school in place.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Warrant Subcommittee
 

Available for Committee review are Accounts Payable Warrants: 13-1206, 13-1207, 13-1213, 13-1219, 13-1220, 13-1228, & 13-0103 and payroll warrant: 1/3/13. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the Warrant Subcommittee.
2. Building Committee – Susan Robbins, on behalf of Building Committee Chair Robert Templeton, provided an update of progress of building committee.
  - A site survey of current conditions is being conducted by Cornerstone Landscaping Co., Pepperell.
  - The Designer Selection Panel, consisting of MSBA representatives and local representatives (S. Robbins, S. Themelis and J. Landers) will meet on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to review the packages submitted by 8 design firms.
  - Designer will be selected on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Building Committee will meet with selected designer on February 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. Policy Subcommittee
  - a) A motion was made by Randee Rusch and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve Policy JH Student Absences and Excuses (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

The motion passed unanimously.

- b) A motion was made by Randee Rusch and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve Policy FB-1 Facilities Planning (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

The motion passed unanimously.

The Policy Subcommittee recommended the following policies be passed over for further review:

- Policy FCB Retirement of Facilities (1<sup>st</sup> reading)
- Policy FF Naming New Facilities (1<sup>st</sup> reading)
- Policy BID School Committee Member Compensation & Expenses (1<sup>st</sup> reading)
- Policy DJ Purchasing (1<sup>st</sup> reading)
- Policy DKC Expense Reimbursements (1<sup>st</sup> reading)
- Policy EBB First Aid (1<sup>st</sup> reading)
- Policy EFC Free & Reduced Price Food Services (1<sup>st</sup> reading)
- Policy FA/FA Facilities Development Goals (1<sup>st</sup> reading)

- c) Graduation Requirements

NMRHS Principal Christine Battye reviewed a proposal to revise the graduation requirements to align the requirements with Massachusetts MassCore and Massachusetts Board of Higher Education requirements. The proposed requirements are as follows:

- English/Language Arts – 4 full-credit courses (1 course per year)
- Social Studies – 4 full-credit courses (2 must be US History)
- Mathematics – 3 specialty credit courses, 1 full-credit course senior year (1 course per year)
- Science -4 full-credit, lab based courses (1 course per year)
- Physical Education – 4 half-credit course (1 course per year)
- World Language – 3 full-credit courses of the same language
- The Arts – At least 1 half-credit course
- Electives – At least the equivalent of 3.5 full-credit courses

The above requirements, if approved, would be implemented with the Class of 2017.

A discussion ensued.

Committee Members requested the Administration reconsider the World Language Requirement of 3 years of same language and social studies requirement of 4 full-credit courses as both are above MassCore and Board of Higher Education requirements.

No action was taken by the Committee. The discussion will resume at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

4. Finance Subcommittee – The next meeting of the Finance Subcommittee will be a work session with Budget Leaders on January 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 PM.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Criteria for Supt. Evaluation/Supt./School Committee Goals – Discussion/Vote
  - a) Superintendent Landers reviewed her goals for 2012-2013.

A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Randee Rusch to approve the Superintendent's Goals as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b) The Chair reviewed the proposed goals of the School Committee. The goals were developed following the discussion of the self assessment response data and committee members understanding of the needs of the district and performance of the School Committee.

The proposed goals are as follows:

- Establish three-year financial plan with forecasts and assumptions
- Establish communication strategy with the public and town administrators to promote student achievement
- Maximize school committee meeting time devoted to topics related to student achievement

A brief discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Arnie Silva and seconded by Randee Rusch to approve the School Committee Goals as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Date for Public Forum re: Net Metering Credit Concept

#### **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Arnie Silva and seconded by Ken Brown to enter into executive session for the following purposes: (1) to discuss collective bargaining relative to Unit B, (2) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation. The Committee will not return to open session.

A roll call vote was taken:

Michael Morgan-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Anne Adams-yes; Ken Brown-yes; Jonna Clermont-yes; Arnie Silva-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Susan Robbins-yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Landry, Secretary