

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

**MINUTES**

**Monday, March 03, 2014**  
**North Middlesex Regional High School**

**PRESENT**

Chairperson	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
Vice Chairperson	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Anne Adams	Member, Pepperell
	Anne Buchholz	Member, At-Large (arrived at 7:20 PM)
	Brian Edmonds	Member, Pepperell
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large
	Dennis Moore	Member, Ashby
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Brian Vachon	Student Representative

**ALSO**

**PRESENT**

Joan Landers	Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
District Staff	
Parents/Community Members	
Press	

**ABSENT**

Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend
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1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.
1. The Chairperson hereby informs the Committee and audience members of the recording of this meeting.
2. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the North Middlesex Regional School Committee will be held on Monday, April 14, 2014 at North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:00 PM.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Randee Rusch to approve the minutes of February 24, 2014. The motion passed 6-0-1. Mrs. Adams abstained.
2. A motion was made by Brian Edmonds and seconded by Randee Rusch to accept the donation by Peter Lovis and Tracy Taylor to NMRSD for the exclusive purpose of purchasing cheerleading mats to be used by the school district and by appropriate outside programs, including but not limited to, Pop Warner and American Youth Football cheerleading teams. The motion passed unanimously. Committee members thanked Mr. Lovis & Ms. Taylor for their donation.

**REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Student Representative Report – Brian Vachon presented the student representative report
2. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent congratulation the winter athletic teams. Three teams (varsity girls basketball, varsity boys basketball and varsity ice hockey) have all qualified for semi-final tournament play. The

Superintendent congratulated the NMRHS Robotics Team for qualifying for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row to the VEX Robotics World Championship in California.

3. Building Committee Update – Supt. Landers provided the Committee and community with the upcoming forum dates for the building project and thanked the NMRHS Building Committee for their hours of work on behalf of the students and staff.
4. Public Communications – No one addressed the Committee.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Warrant Subcommittee - Available for Committee review are Accounts Payable Warrants: 14-0220 & 14-0227 and payroll warrant: 2/27/14
2. Policy Subcommittee
  - a. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Anne Adams to approve Policy GBA Equal Employment Opportunity for a 1<sup>st</sup> reading. The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. A motion was made by Brian Edmonds and seconded by Jonna Clermont to approve Policy KDD News Media Relations/News Releases for a 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Mr. Moore made a friendly amendment to change “school system” to “North Middlesex Regional School District.” The motion as amended passed unanimously. Committee members requested that the Policy Subcommittee review the social media policy for possible revisions.
  - c. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Anne Adams to approve the revision to Policy EFCD Meal Charge. A discussion ensued. The motion passed 7-1. Mr. Moore voted no.
3. Finance Subcommittee
  - a. FY15 Budget Update – Jonna Clermont provided an update on the February 24<sup>th</sup> public hearing on the FY15 budget and the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Subcommittee. The Finance Subcommittee met with the Leadership Team on February to look at possible cuts to the proposed budget. Supt. Landers read a letter from Town Administrator Andrew Sheehan. Supt. Landers and Business Manager Nancy Haines reviewed options for additional cuts totaling \$300,000. A discussion ensued. Committee members expressed concern with reducing the budget below the 2.07% budget presented at the public hearing. The Committee discussed the timeline for adopting the budget and the desire to continue to work with the towns on investigating revenue sources.

A motion was made by Anne Buchholz and seconded by Randee Rusch that the full committee vote to adopt an operational budget for FY2015 of \$41,884,150, a FY2015 transportation budget of \$3,167,944, a FY2015 debt service of \$ 916,232, and to use these funds to calculate FY2015 school assessments for member towns as required by statute.

A discussion ensued.

Randee Rusch spoke in support of the 2.07% budget.

Anne Adams thanked the budget leaders for their collaborative efforts.

A roll call vote was taken:

Jonna Clermont-yes; Anne Adams-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Michael Morgan-yes; Dennis Moore-no; Brian Edmonds-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Susan Robbins-yes.

The motion passed 7-1.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Integrated Math Modeling Program
- World Language options within the District

### **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Brian Edmonds and seconded by Randee Rusch to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy relative to contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Assistant Superintendent and Business Manager). The Committee will not return to open session.

A roll call vote was taken:

Jonna Clermont-yes; Anne Adams-yes; Anne Buchholz-yes; Michael Morgan-yes; Dennis Moore-no; Brian Edmonds-yes; Randee Rusch-yes; Susan Robbins-yes.

The motion passed 7-1.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Landry, Secretary