

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

**MINUTES**

**Monday, June 23, 2014**  
**North Middlesex Regional High School**

**PRESENT**

Chairperson	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
Vice Chairperson	Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
	Anne Adams	Member, Pepperell
	Brian Edmonds	Member, Pepperell
	Crystal Epstein	Member, Ashby (arrived at 7:06 PM)
	William Hackler	Member, At Large
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend

**ALSO**

**PRESENT**

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 Monday, August 11, 2014 at North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:00 PM
4. The Chair informed the Committee that in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 67, she formally notifies the North Middlesex Regional School Committee that it is the intent of the school district to employ Jake Robbins, son of School Committee Member Susan Robbins, for summer maintenance help in the North Middlesex Regional School District.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Anne Adams and seconded by Randee Rusch to approve the following consent agenda item:

Approval of Minutes:

- June 9, 2014
- June 16, 2014

The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Superintendent's Report
  - a. TELL Survey Results - Supt. Landers provided a brief overview of the MASS TELL survey. District teachers participated in the survey in 2012 & 2014. North Middlesex Regional School District had a 77% participation rate. The survey is available @ [tellmasssurvey.org](http://tellmasssurvey.org). The Superintendent informed the Committee that she plans to set up a committee of teachers to look at the data from the survey.
  - b. NEASC Update – Superintendent Landers informed the Committee that a committee of educators from New England continue to look at ways to streamline the NEASC accreditation process. The committee

has formed workgroups that are discussing solutions such as revising the rating; the use of web-based technology to streamline the process, visiting teams that consist of fewer team members & shorter length of visit, etc. She will continue to keep the school committee updated on the progress of the committee.

2. Building Committee Report – Robert Templeton reported that building committee workgroups are working on different aspects of building project design development phase. The exterior finishes workgroup met last week to look at exterior entrance design options. The workgroup will meet again on 6/24 to finalize exterior design and look at the site plan. At the June 30<sup>th</sup> building committee meeting, the workgroup will present exterior design & finish to full building committee. The building committee will make decisions on exterior finishes. Superintendent Landers reported that the architects have been meeting with staff to go over the needs of building. She thanked teachers & administrators for making time during very busy weeks to meet with the architectural team. Mr. Templeton concluded the report by informing the Committee that the Project Funding Agreement has been endorsed and signed by MSBA.
3. Update on Change of Schedule – The Superintendent informed the Committee that the guidance dept., administration & dept. chairs are meeting to finalize the new high school schedule with the goal to maximize student requests while being cognizant of class size. She anticipates that the new schedule and student report cards will be disseminated by the end of week.
4. The Chair provided a follow up from an item that was brought up at the last meeting during public communications. She informed the public that the Integrated Mathematics Modeling (IMM) courses have been approved by NCAA. The Superintendent stated that the high school continues to participate in the ongoing process of submitting courses to NCAA.
5. Public Communications – Mr. Don Bradanese of Pepperell addressed the Committee relative to the Common Core. He is introduced himself as a former Westford School Committee member. He shared his concern with the Common Core. He stated that he had recently attended a core committee meeting in Shrewsbury and shared information he had obtained from his research. He stated his opposition of the Common Core. Committee Member Anne Adams commended Mr. Bradanese for his research on the subject.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### 1. Warrant Subcommittee

Available for Committee review are Accounts Payable Warrants: 14-0605, 14-0612, 14-0619 and payroll warrants: 06/05/14 & 06/19/14. The warrants have been reviewed and signed by the Warrant Subcommittee.

### 2. Policy Subcommittee – Budget Adoptions (2<sup>nd</sup> Readings)

- a. A motion was made by Crystal Epstein and seconded by Jonna Clermont to adopt Policy GBGB Staff Personal Security & Safety (2<sup>nd</sup> reading). The motion passed unanimously.
- b. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Crystal Epstein to adopt Policy GBED Tobacco Use on School Property By Staff Members (2<sup>nd</sup> reading). The motion passed unanimously.
- c. A motion was made by Anne Adams and seconded by Robert Templeton to adopt Policy GBEB Gifts & Solicitations (Personnel) & Policy JP Gifts & Solicitations (Students) (2<sup>nd</sup> reading). Anne Adams offered a friendly amendment to add the following wording to the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph under solicitation section of the policy "Staff members, of course, remain free to support charitable causes of their choosing." The motion as amended passed unanimously.
- d. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Robert Templeton to adopt Policy JJE Student Fund Raising Activities (2<sup>nd</sup> reading). Brian Edmonds requested clarification on the "canning" portion of the policy and its impact on the scholarship committee's fundraising drive. The Superintendent stated that the Scholarship Committee is very cautious with their door to door fund raising. The

Scholarship Committee is having an ongoing discussion on other ways to fund raise. The motion passed by a vote of 7-1. Mr. Edmonds voted no; Mrs. Adams was not present for the vote.

- e. A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Crystal Epstein to adopt Policy KHA Public Solicitations in the Schools (2<sup>nd</sup> reading). The motion passed unanimously.
3. Finance Subcommittee Report
- a) Update - Jonna Clermont summarized the discussion from the meeting held earlier this evening. A tentative FY16 budget schedule was distributed to the Committee. Ms. Clermont reported that the Finance Subcommittee discussed the cafeteria accts. receivable account. \$14,000 is still owed to the district from the food service account. Certified letters were sent out to families with outstanding bills. The Business Manager has recommended a lawyer draft letter to send out to families that owe money. Mrs. Rusch reminded the public that money owed to food service comes out of the district's general fund. If there is a dispute/discrepancy, she encouraged parents/guardians to contact the Business Office. The Superintendent reminded the public that the free & reduced application process is a confidential process. Families who qualify can apply at any time of the year. At its earlier meeting, the Finance Committee also discussed the online payment of fees -- families can use PayPal and UniPay to pay fees. Cash is also accepted but families are encouraged to use PayPal & UniPay.
  - b) Budget Transfer – The Business Manager reviewed FY14 Budget Transfer #3. The Finance Subcommittee recommended the Committee approve the transfer from instructional support (for textbooks, retirements, pupil services (retirements & advisor stipends), operations & maintenance for heating costs & payments to out-of-district (for adjustment to utilize less funding from circuit breaker) in the amount of \$295,455.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Randee Rusch to approve Budget Transfer FY14-3 in the amount of \$295,455. The motion passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. PARCC Exam Decision Process – Discussion/Vote

Supt. Landers provided a summary of the timeline to take a vote on whether to administer PARCC or MCAS. She briefly reviewed the pros & cons of PARCC and MCAS. After doing extensive research, the Supt. recommended the district continue using the MCAS in 2015 based on the following:

- It is not definitive that PARCC will be implemented beyond 2015
- Potential large scale technology implementation issues
- Unfunded mandate
- District needs continue to focus on the implementation of Common Core State Standards which have direct effect on teaching and learning in our classrooms.

A discussion ensued. Mr. Edmonds stated his support of the Superintendent's recommendation.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Brian Edmonds to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to continue administering MCAS in 2015.

The discussion continued. Mr. Templeton suggested that the Finance Subcommittee look at the costs associated with administering the PARCC exam in FY16. The Superintendent stated that the district has already begun to plan for this.

Kirsty Benson, Pepperell, addressed the Committee. In her research, she stated that it has still not been determined who will have access to the data from PARCC. She expressed concern with whom will have identifying information on our children.

The motion passed 8-0-1. Mr. Hackler abstained; all others yes.

2. District Goals for 2014-15 – Supt. Landers reviewed the Superintendent’s SMART goals for 2014-2015. She informed the Committee that an additional goal has been added based on feedback from Committee members.

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Randee Rusch to accept the goals as reviewed by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Response to Open Meeting Law Complaint – Update

The Chair briefly reviewed a draft letter by school district counsel. The attorney felt the open meeting law was not violated as described in the complaint. The Chair requested feedback from the Committee on the draft response. Mr. Templeton encouraged people who may have an issue or concern to first talk with the Committee in an effort to resolve the matter. No additional comments were made by the Committee. The Chair informed the Committee that she will ask the attorney to send the response to the Attorney General’s office, the complainant, and to the Pepperell Town Clerk

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Superintendent Evaluation and Compilation Report

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Robert Templeton to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Landry, Secretary