



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

MEETING MINUTES – October 4, 2021

Virtual via Zoom

PRESENT

Chairperson	Craig Hansen	Member, Pepperell
Vice-Chairperson	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Thomas Casey	Member, Pepperell
	Lisa Martin	Member, At Large
	David Carney	Member, Pepperell
	June McNeil	Member, Ashby
	Jessica Funaiole	Member, Townsend
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend ~ Absent

ALSO PRESENT

Brad Morgan	Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Milligan	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
Timothy McMahon	Principal
Laurie Smith	Assistant Principal
Shigehito Tanaka	Assistant Principal
Cameron Fisk	Athletics Director
Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary

1. Craig Hansen opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m. and informed the Committee and audience members that the meeting would be recorded.

Roll Call:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

2. Mr. Hansen informed the Committee and attendees that the North Middlesex Regional School Committee's next scheduled meeting would be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 18, 2021.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

OUR MISSION: North Middlesex Regional School District is dedicated to providing a comprehensive educational experience focused on students becoming contributing members of society.

Following review, Thomas Casey moved, and June McNeil seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jennifer Kingsbury, Pepperell Resident, and North Middlesex Regional High School Parent
 - See attached statement.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Chairperson's Report – C. Hansen
 - None
2. Superintendent's Report – B. Morgan
 - North Middlesex Regional School District Organizational & Facilities Review
 - Collins Center Engagement Sessions and Survey.
 Superintendent Morgan said the North Middlesex Regional School District had seen a steady decline in enrollment over the past decade. The District was not alone in facing this demographic trend, which had created challenges in the District's attempts to balance class sizes, staffing, and facilities needs across campuses and resulted in a steady increase in expenditures per pupil. He said the cost trend was not sustainable long term. Using grant funds from the Commonwealth, the District engaged the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management to study alternatives for cost savings that may be available to help the District continue to provide the educational environment our communities deserve and demand.

As part of this study, the Collins Center would be soliciting public feedback and engagement during October to help determine the values and priorities of our residents when it comes to educating our children. This effort would include both resident surveys and public engagement forums, and he encouraged the community's participation in both.

Mr. Morgan said during the week of October 11th, the Collins Center would host a series of public engagement sessions to more directly facilitate discussion and hear community members' ideas. The 60-90 minute sessions would be online, and participants would be expected to engage in the discussion

actively; as such, the number of participants would be limited to ensure a quality experience and constructive feedback.

Mr. Morgan said, "Your opinion matters! Please be sure to complete the survey to make your voice heard!".

Mr. Morgan said the sessions and the survey results would be presented to the School Committee at the November 15th regular meeting.

- Health Services Reminder to complete the student consent form.
- Fall Parent/Caregiver Information Series
 - October 12th Navigating the Common Application & Naviance
 - October 26th How to Manage Teen Mental Health
- 3. North Middlesex Regional High School Spotlight – T. McMahon
 - North Middlesex Regional High School Spotlight
 - North Middlesex Pride Day
 - Spirit Week – Red, White, and Blue
 - Homecoming Week
 - Equity Training Continues
 - PD Training
 - Driver's Education
 - MCAS Highlights

NEW BUSINESS/GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Cheer Team Out of State Travel Approval – C. Fisk
David Carney moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded the School Committee vote to approve the North Middlesex Cheer team to travel to Nashua, New Hampshire, to compete on October 24, 2021.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

2. NMS 20 Year Lease Agreement
Nancy Haines provided an overview of the proposed lease. A discussion ensued, and Ms. Haines noted the address would need to be amended to read as Pepperell instead of Townsend.

Following discussion, Lisa Martin moved, and Michael Morgan seconded the School Committee vote to approve the Town of Pepperell Lease Agreement for the Nissitissit Middle School as amended.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

3. School Committee Goals – Formation of Working Group

Following discussion, Randee Rusch and Lisa Martin agreed to identify Committee goals and present them to the Committee for review and approval.

4. MASC Delegate Selection – C. Hansen

Following discussion, Craig Hansen said he would attend the 2021 MASC Joint Conference virtually.

5. MASC Resolutions – C. Hansen

1. DEDICATED FUNDING FOR SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS AND SERVICES

Following discussion, David Carney moved, and Thomas Casey seconded the School Committee vote to take no action on RESOLUTION 1: DEDICATED FUNDING FOR SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS AND SERVICES

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

2. HOMEWORK GAP and WIFI/INTERNET ACCESS

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded the School Committee vote to support RESOLUTION 2: HOMEWORK GAP and WIFI/INTERNET ACCESS as amended in paragraph five to read as BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committee file for and support legislation which seeks to provide broadband internet to all K-12 students in Massachusetts.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	No		

Vote: The motion passed 7/1/0.

Lisa Martin moved, and David Carney seconded the School Committee vote to take no action on RESOLUTION 2: HOMEWORK GAP and WIFI/INTERNET ACCESS as amended.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	No
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion passed 7/1/0.

3. IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT

David Carney moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded the School Committee vote to support RESOLUTION 3: IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

4. RECESS

David Carney moved, and Thomas Casey seconded the School Committee vote to support RESOLUTION 4: RECESS as amended.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

Randee Rusch moved, and David Carney seconded the School Committee vote to amend paragraph four of RESOLUTION 4: RECESS to read as THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committee support legislation (current bills: S.383, H.695) calling for at least 20 minutes of optional uninterrupted, supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess per day which cannot be excluded from structured learning time requirements and may not increase the total number of hours required in the school year for Massachusetts elementary school students.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

5. ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES

David Carney moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded the School Committee vote to support RESOLUTION 5: ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES as amended.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

David Carney moved, and Randee Rusch seconded the School Committee vote to amend RESOLUTION 5: ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES by striking the words "whenever possible" from the resolution.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

6. ALTERNATIVE TO MCAS

Randee Rusch moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded the School Committee vote to support RESOLUTION 6: ALTERNATIVE TO MCAS.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Abstain		

Vote: The motion passed 7/0/1.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND RECEIVERSHIP

Randee Rusch moved, and Michael Morgan seconded the School Committee vote to take no action on RESOLUTION 7: SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND RECEIVERSHIP

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

8. ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

Randee Rusch moved, and Lisa Martin seconded the School Committee vote no on RESOLUTION 8: ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

9. PROHIBITING THE USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

David Carney moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded the School Committee vote to take no action on RESOLUTION 9: PROHIBITING THE USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

1. Policy (R. Rusch)

Randee Rusch moved, and June McNeil seconded the School Committee vote to approve policy IIB Class Size and JH Student Travel for adoption as presented.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

At 8:50 p.m., Lisa Martin moved, and David Carney seconded the School Committee vote to adjourn.

Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

Documents Reviewed / Referred To:

- 2021 10-04 School Committee Agenda
- Accounts Payable Warrants
- Payroll Warrants:
- Disposal of Surplus Property North Middlesex Regional High School – Outdated Text Books
- Donations of \$25.00 to VBES from Blackbaud Giving Fund
- Jennifer Kingsbury's Public Comment for 10/4/2021 School Committee Meeting
- NMS Lease Agreement

- MASC Resolutions
- Policy IIB Class Size
- Policy JJH Student Travel

Zoom Attendees:

1. Charlie Desjardins
2. Jenn Kingsbury
3. C. Hillman
4. Jenn
5. Jennifer Griffith
6. Jessica Fellows
7. MK
8. T
9. Robyn
10. Andrew
11. Jessica Sheridan

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: October 18, 2021
