



NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ashby – Pepperell – Townsend, Massachusetts

MINUTES – MARCH 11, 2022

Virtual

PRESENT

Chairperson	Lisa Martin	Member, At-Large
	Craig Hansen	Member, Pepperell
	Randee Rusch	Member, At-Large
	William Hackler	Citizen Member

ALSO PRESENT

Brad Morgan	Superintendent
Nancy Milligan	Assistant Superintendent
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary
June McNeil	Member, Ashby ~ Arrived @ 7:37 a.m.

OTHER ATTENDEES

See attached

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Lisa Martin opened the meeting at 7:30 a.m. Ms. Martin announced the committee was meeting in a virtual setting, fully remote via teleconferencing, practicing social distancing, and in accordance with the Governor’s suspension of specific open meeting laws.
- Roll Call

Roll Call:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Craig Hansen	Yes
William Hackler	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Brad Morgan	Yes	Robin Eibye	Yes
Nancy Haines	Yes		

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Patrick McPhee, Ashby resident, said he fully supported the proposed 2.38% budget. Mr. McPhee requested the committee not cut services that would impact students.

- Mr. McPhee asked what the costs would be to make the needed repairs at Ashby Elementary School. Nancy Haines said a report from 2020 estimated the repairs to be in the \$4,000,000 range.

OLD BUSINESS

- FY23 Budget:
 - Lisa Martin said Ashby had an override in 2013, Pepperell had overrides in 2013 and 2020, and Townsend had a failed override in 2013.

 - Randee Rusch said she supported the proposed 2.38% budget, and she did not support cutting anything out of the proposed budget. However, Ms. Rusch said she supported using E&D funding to lower town assessments.

 - A discussion ensued about OPEB, Capital, Stabilization, E&D funding, and lending and bond ratings.

 - Mr. Morgan said the district shared the proposed 3.06% increase with the towns in early January, and the late timing of the towns’ letters made it impossible for the district to respond.

 - Mr. Hansen said it was frustrating that the towns still had not yet shared their budgets with the district, and the information was needed to have productive discussions and move forward in the same direction.

 - Mr. Morgan said the district was sending response letters to the towns requesting they share their budget information with the district. The committee agreed the towns’ budget information and meeting dates should be shared with the district no later than April 1st to move forward.

NEXT MEETING

- The committee agreed to meet again on March 16, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:16 a.m., William Hackler motioned, and Craig Hansen seconded the Committee vote to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Craig Hansen	Yes

William Hackler	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
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Vote: The motion unanimously passed 4/0/0.

Documents Reviewed / Referred To:

- 2022 03-011 Finance Agenda

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: March 18, 2022
