



NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ashby – Pepperell – Townsend, Massachusetts

MINUTES – January 31, 2023

Virtual

PRESENT

Chairperson	Lisa Martin	Member, At-Large
	Randee Rusch	Member, At-Large
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend ~ Arrived @ 8:07 a.m.
	William Hackler	Citizen Member

ALSO PRESENT

Brad Morgan	Superintendent of Schools ~ Left @ 8:30 a.m.
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary
Jeremy Hamond	Director of Information Technology

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Lisa Martin opened the meeting at 8:03 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:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
William Hackler	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Brad Morgan	Yes	Nancy Haines	Yes
Robin Eibye	Yes		

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- William Hackler motioned, and Randee Rausch seconded to approve the Finance Committee meeting minutes dated January 17, 2023, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
William Hackler	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 3/0/0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

OLD BUSINESS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

1. FY23 Budget
 - Nancy Haines said the District was paying extra attention to Special Education expenses as they continue to increase.
2. FY24 Budget
 - Superintendent Morgan said some information stated during Public Comment at last night’s School Committee meeting was inaccurate.
 - Mr. Morgan said the STEPS Program was located in Pepperell because it was cost-effective. The District saves approximately \$200K annually in transportation costs because most students reside in Pepperell. Centrally locating the program is cost-effective for the District.
 - Mr. Morgan said the STEPS Program requires specialized teachers.
 - Mr. Morgan talked about MSBA funding requirements and said the State’s minimum enrollment for MSBA funding was 300, which AES would not meet.
 - Mr. Morgan said that to qualify for MSBA funding, the State requires districts to consolidate the number of buildings within a district and move students if there’s room.
 - Mr. Morgan said the District received \$5,000 for each School Choice student, and the cost to educate each student in the District was \$17,000.
 - Randee Rusch asked if bringing out-of-district Special Education placements back would save the District money.

NEW BUSINESS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

1. Student Activity Audit
 - Ms. Haines said the cost to conduct a commercial audit of the high school student activity accounts was approximately \$6,500, and the cost to conduct a commercial audit of the middle school student activity accounts was roughly \$5,500. Ms. Haines wondered if the District could save money by conducting internal audits annually and commercial audits every other year or every couple of years. A discussion ensued, and Ms. Rausch asked about Massachusetts General Laws and whether or not past audits had noted any significant issues.
 - The Committee agreed to continue the discussion to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

- The Committee agreed to meet again on Friday, February 10, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

- At 8:42 a.m., William Hackler moved, and Randee Rusch seconded to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Susan Robbins	Yes

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

Documents Reviewed / Referred to:

- 2023 01-31 Finance Agenda
- 2023 01-17 Finance Minutes
- Audit Guidelines
- Signed Copy Student Activity Audit FY2021

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: February 10, 2023
