



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

---

**MEETING MINUTES – February 2, 2023**  
Virtual via Zoom

**PRESENT**

Chairperson	Craig Hansen	Member, Pepperell
Vice-Chairperson	June McNeil	Member, Ashby
	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large ~ Absent
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Thomas Casey	Member, Pepperell
	Lisa Martin	Member, At Large
	David Carney	Member, Pepperell ~ Arrived @ 6:15 p.m.
	Jessica Funaiole	Member, Townsend
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend

**ALSO PRESENT**

Brad Morgan	Superintendent of Schools
Gary Burboa-Reese	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary

- Craig Hansen opened the meeting at 6:00 pm and informed the Committee and audience members that the meeting would be recorded.

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

- Mr. Hansen informed the Committee and attendees that the North Middlesex Regional School Committee's next meeting would be at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 6, 2023.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Ashby Elementary School – J. McNeil

---

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

June McNeil said the Town of Ashby expressed interest in partnering with the District to address Ashby Elementary’s immediate needs. Ms. McNeil said the Ashby Elementary School Building Committee unanimously voted to recommend the full School Committee rescind their vote to appropriate \$300,000 for costs to develop a feasibility study.

Mike Bussell, Town of Ashby, spoke to the attached presentation and said Ashby’s Selectboard approved \$300,000 to update Ashby Elementary School contingent on AESBC’s recommendation that the School Committee rescind their vote to appropriate \$300,000 to fund a feasibility study at AES.

Mr. Bussell said if the School Committee rescinded their vote, the Select Board would recommend the town take no action on Article 1. In addition, Mr. Bussell noted the Town of Ashby was interested in repurposing the 50s wing, which was a sound building.

Randee Rusch asked if \$300,000 was enough to make the repairs and keep AES open. Brad Morgan said \$300,000 would certainly help, but he could not say if the money were enough to do the work needed to keep the building open.

Ms. Rusch asked how the priority list was developed, and Ms. McNeil said the AESBC would meet and review the list. Mr. Bussell confirmed the District was responsible for determining the priority and spending the money.

Thomas Casey said he also had concerns about whether or not the \$300,000 was enough and asked if the Town of Ashby was prepared to spend more money if additional issues come to light during renovations.

Lisa Martin said she was happy to work together with the town to address the problems but was hesitant without a plan moving forward.

Ms. McNeil said the AESBC would work to develop a long-term plan to include a 20-year plan, 10-year plan, 5-year plan, and 1-year plan for the building.

Craig Hansen said he appreciated everyone’s work to develop a solution and a path forward.

*June McNeil motioned, and David Carney seconded the Committee rescinds their vote to appropriate Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to pay the costs of developing a feasibility study concerning the Ashby Elementary School for costs of owner’s project manager and design services.*

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	-
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 7/0/0.*

**OTHER BUSINESS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED WITHIN 48 HOURS OF MEETING**

- None

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Randee Rusch moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded to adjourn.*

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	-
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 7/0/0.*

Documents Reviewed / Referred To:

- 2023 02-02 School Committee Agenda
- Ashby Elementary School Refresh

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Eibye, Recording Secretary

**APPROVED:** February 6, 2023