



**NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Ashby – Pepperell – Townsend, Massachusetts

**MINUTES – February 10, 2023**

Virtual

**PRESENT**

Chairperson	Lisa Martin	Member, At-Large
	Randee Rusch	Member, At-Large
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend – Arrived at 8:20 a.m.
	William Hackler	Citizen Member

**ALSO PRESENT**

Brad Morgan	Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary
Jeremy Hamond	Director of Information Technology

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- Lisa Martin opened the meeting at 8:01 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.

<b>Roll Call:</b>			
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 31, 2023, as presented.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
William Hackler	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes

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

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. None

**NEW BUSINESS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN**

1. Student Activity Audit
  - Ms. Haines talked about the high school and middle school student activity accounts and suggested the District alternate professional and internal audits.
  - The Committee discussed audit rotation schedule options and Will Hackler recommended that the Finance Committee review audit results annually.
  - Following discussion, the Committee agreed internal audits would take place annually and professional audits would take place every four to five years.

**OLD BUSINESS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN**

1. FY23 Budget
  - Nancy Haines said the FY23 budget was tight and the District was monitoring it closely.
2. FY24 Budget
  - Superintendent Morgan talked about the challenges facing the District, FY24 budget components, and the proposed 6.34% increase over FY2023.
  - Mr. Morgan said the District was reviewing potential scenarios should the District need a reduction.
  - Mr. Morgan said the goal was to make recommendations that would have the least impact on students.
  - The Committee talked about state funding, when the numbers would be released, and the fact that the Committee is required by law to vote on a budget within 45-days of the first town meeting.
  - Randee Rusch said Townsend was eager for an over-ride and asked if the District would support the town.
  - A discussion ensued about FY25 projections, capital and building needs, debt exclusion, revolving funds, contract negotiations, transportation, and the nation-wide teacher shortage.
  - The Committee agreed to prioritize the Capital Plan.
  - Mr. Morgan said he continued to work with Senator Cronin and State Representative Scarsdale in pushing the State for help with funding.
  - The Committee discussed moving the budget hearing out to a later date and adding a second budget hearing date of March 13.

**NEXT MEETING**

- The Committee agreed to meet again on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- William Hackler motioned, and Randee Rusch seconded to adjourn.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>			
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Randee Rusch	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
William Hackler	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes

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

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Documents Reviewed / Referred to:

- 2023 02-10 Finance Agenda
- 2023 01-31 Finance Minutes
- Audit Guidelines
- Signed Copy Student Activity Audit FY2021

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Eibye, Recording Secretary

**APPROVED:** March 2, 2023

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