



NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ashby – Pepperell – Townsend, Massachusetts

MINUTES – March 16, 2023

Virtual

PRESENT

Chairperson	Lisa Martin	Member, At-Large
	Randee Rusch	Member, At-Large
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend ~ Arrived @ 10:28 a.m.
	William Hackler	Citizen Member

ALSO PRESENT

Brad Morgan	Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Haines	Business Manager ~ Absent
Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary
Gary Burboa-Reese	Assistant Superintendent
Jeremy Hamond	Director of Information Technology
Brad Brooks	Director of Special Education
June McNeil	Member, Ashby

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Lisa Martin opened the meeting at 8:01 a.m.

Roll Call:			
Randee Rusch	Yes	Susan Robbins	-
William Hackler	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Brad Morgan	Yes	Nancy Haines	-
Robin Eibye	Yes	Brad Brooks	Yes
Gary Burboa-Reese	Yes		

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- *Randee Rusch motioned, and William Hackler seconded to approve the Finance Committee meeting minutes dated March 10, 2023, as presented.*

Roll Call Vote:			
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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
 - No update
2. FY24 Budget
 - Superintendent Morgan presented three FY2024 budget reductions for consideration.
 1. Option 1: 4.77% budget increase
 - Reduce 9 FTEs
 - Savings total \$912,664
 - Ashby’s increase: 10.20%
 - Pepperell’s increase: 11.42%
 - Townsend’s increase: 6.47%
 2. Option 2: 3.54% budget increase
 - Reduce 16 FTEs
 - Savings total \$1,106,458
 - Ashby’s increase: 6.60%
 - Pepperell’s increase: 8.03%
 - Townsend’s increase: 2.95%
 3. Option 3: 2.96% budget increase
 - Reduce 16 FTEs
 - Savings total \$960,573
 - Ashby’s increase: 3.31%
 - Pepperell’s increase: 4.93%
 - Townsend’s increase: -0.27%

Mr. Morgan said he spoke to Massachusetts State Representative Margaret Scarsdale about the budget and the lack of funding from the State. Mr. Morgan said he called the Governor’s office seven or eight times and left a specific message about why he was calling each time. Mr. Morgan confirmed he had not heard back from the Governor’s office.

The Committee talked about reductions, and the impact reductions would have on the District. Mr. Morgan said an override would be needed next year due to transportation and contract negotiations and recommended the district support lowering the budget so that back-to-back overrides would not be required.

Randee Rusch said she could not support staff and budget reductions and that an override was overdue.

William Hackler discussed capital improvement needs, state funding, bond renewals, and rising healthcare costs. Mr. Hackler agreed with Ms. Rusch and said he did not support reductions and lowering the budget.

Mr. Hackler said he was interested in June McNeil’s thoughts on the matter. Ms. McNeil said she needed to see exactly what positions would be reduced before weighing in on the subject.

Lisa Martin said she did not want reductions and worried about the impacts, but she was also concerned about the implications of a failed override.

A discussion ensued about state funding, DESE and inadequate Chapter 70 funding, Excess and Deficiency, and one-time use of funds.

Randee Rusch moved, and William Hackler seconded the Superintendent present all three options to the full School Committee with no formal recommendation from the Finance Committee.

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

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

NEXT MEETING

- The Committee agreed to meet next at 8:00 a.m. on April 6, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 4/0/0.

Documents Reviewed / Referred to:

- 2023 03-16 Finance Agenda
- 2023 03-10 Finance Minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: April 5, 2023
