



NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ashby – Pepperell – Townsend, Massachusetts

MINUTES – April 5, 2023

Virtual

PRESENT

Chairperson	Lisa Martin	Member, At-Large
	Randee Rusch	Member, At-Large
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
	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
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	Yes
William Hackler	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Brad Morgan	Yes	Nancy Haines	Yes
Robin Eibye	Yes	Brad Brooks	Yes
Jeremy Hamond	Yes		

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- *Randee Rusch motioned, and William Hackler seconded to approve the Finance Committee meeting minutes dated March 16, 2023, as presented.*

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

OLD BUSINESS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

1. FY23 Budget

- Nancy Haines said the FY23 budget was running very tight, with out-of-district increases and legal settlements

2. FY24 Budget

- Superintendent Morgan said he met with Lisa Martin and Thomas Casey to work on community communications regarding the budget and the need for support.
- Mr. Morgan and Ms. Haines confirmed the Town of Pepperell did not support the budget. Ms. Rusch said the Town of Pepperell could use its free cash to support the budget.
- A discussion ensued about the budget and town support.
- Lisa Martin said the towns could not afford the budget and said the committee needed to bring down the budget to a place where Townsend and Ashby would not require an override.
- Ms. Haines discussed the proposed options, and a discussion ensued about revenue, budget reductions, and staffing.
- Randee Rusch asked what number would get Townsend and Ashby to where they would not require an override.
- The Committee talked about the need for the towns to collaborate with the district and share their budgets so the Committee could make informed decisions.
- The Committee agreed to hold their next meeting on Monday, April 10, at 1:00 p.m., to prepare for the School Committee meeting later that evening.

OLD BUSINESS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

1. FY23 Capital

- Jeremy Hamond said because the district received a grant for the VBES camera project, he proposed moving the funds allocated to the VBES camera project to the high school camera project.

Following discussion, William Hackler moved, and Randee Rusch seconded, changing the FY23 Capital Plan, which included security camera upgrades for VBES in the amount of \$65,000 to the high school security camera upgrade project.

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

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

2. FY24 Capital

- The Committee agreed to continue the FY24 Capital discussion to May of 2023.

NEXT MEETING

- The Committee agreed to meet at 1:00 p.m. on April 10, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

- *William Hackler motioned, and Randee Rusch seconded to adjourn at 9:00 a.m.*

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 04-05 Finance Agenda
- 2023 03-16 Finance Minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye, Recording Secretary

APPROVED by the School Committee: June 12, 2023
