



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

MINUTES – April 10, 2023

Virtual via Zoom

PRESENT

Chairperson	Craig Hansen	Member, Pepperell
Vice-Chairperson	Michael Morgan	Member, At Large ~ Absent
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Thomas Casey	Member, Pepperell
	Lisa Martin	Member, At Large
	David Carney	Member, Pepperell
	June McNeil	Member, Ashby
	Jessica Funaiole	Member, Townsend
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend ~ Joined @ 7:25 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT

Brad Morgan	Superintendent of Schools
Gary Burboa-Reese	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary
Anne Marie Tuccirone-Mahan	Director, Human Resources
Brad Brooks	Director of Student Services

7:00 OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FY 2023-2024 SCHOOL CHOICE

1. Chairperson, Craig Hansen, opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. and announced that the meeting would be recorded.
2. 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, May 1, 2023.

Roll Call:			
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		

3. Mr. Hansen opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 p.m.

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

Superintendent Morgan recommended that the district opt out of participation in the School Choice program and not enroll students for the 2023-2024 school year due to budget restraints and space availability.

Following discussion, Lisa Martin motioned, and Thomas Casey seconded the district opt out of participation in the School Choice program and not enroll school choice students for the 2023-2024 school year due to budget restraints and space availability.

Roll Call Vote:			
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.

Lisa Martin motioned, and Randee Rusch seconded to close the public hearing.

Roll Call Vote:			
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.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Following review, Lisa Martin moved, and June McNeil seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote:			
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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Kelly Kelly, 5 Taurus Lane, Townsend, talked about the professional development on dyslexia.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Chairperson's Report – C. Hansen
 - Mr. Hansen said Governor Healey signed into law an extension allowing public bodies to continue meeting remotely until March 31, 2025.
 - Mr. Hansen said the Committee's May 1st meeting conflicts with the Town of Pepperell's Annual Town Meeting.
 - The Committee agreed to meet in person at 6:00 p.m. on May 1st in the Nissitissit Middle School library to conduct the organizational meeting.
2. Superintendent's Report – B. Morgan
 - Superintendent Morgan said the district was working on updating the Bullying Prevention Plan and would post it on the website for community review and feedback.
 - The last day of school will be different for NM schools this year.
 - Wednesday, June 21st
 - Last day of school for NMRHS, VBES, SECC, & NMS (1/2 day)
 - AES, SMS, & HBMS will have a full day of school.
 - Thursday, June 22nd
 - Last day of school for AES, SMS, & HBMS (1/2 day)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Out-of-State Field Trip Request – J. Webster

The Committee discussed the proposed HBMS out-of-state trip to Mystic, CT, to visit the Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium on June 14, 2023.

Following discussion, Jessica Funaiole motioned, and David Carney seconded the School Committee to approve the HBMS out-of-state trip to Mystic, CT, to visit the Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium on June 14, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	-
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes

Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	Abstain
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 7/0/1.

2. Statement of Interest for HBMS – N. Haines

Nancy Haines provided an overview of the Hawthorne Brook Middle School Statement of Interest.

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and June McNeil seconded the School Committee vote to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 14, 2023, for the Hawthorne Brook Middle School located at 64 Brookline Street, Townsend, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Priority 5: Replacement, renovation, or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating, and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy-related costs in a school facility.

Priority 7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant, or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the North Middlesex Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

OLD BUSINESS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

- None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

1. Accelerated Repair – L. Martin

- None

2. AES Building Committee – J. McNeil

- Ms. McNeil said the committee would meet on April 18, 2023.

3. Building Committee – C. Hansen

- None

4. Communications – T. Casey

- None

1. Finance (L. Martin)

- Superintendent Morgan said he was working with the Public Relations firm to draft an educational press release for the community.
- The Committee talked about the approved budget and contingencies.
- Ms. McNeil said the district should lower the budget and return the contingency monies to the towns.
- Mr. Morgan did not recommend lowering the budget. He said contingency funds might be needed for staffing.

*Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and June McNeil seconded the School Committee adopt an FY2024 operational budget of **\$56,360,939.00**, an FY2024 transportation budget of **\$4,086,799.00**, an FY2024 Debt service budget of **\$4,241,313.00** and to use these funds to calculate the Fy2024 school assessments for member towns as required by statute. In addition, the Committee authorizes the use of **\$2,045,000.00** from the Excess and Deficiency Account to offset the FY2024 operational budget.*

Roll Call Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	-
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	No
Thomas Casey	No	Susan Robbins	Yes
David Carney	No		

Vote: The motion failed 5/3/0. (Budget adoption requires a two-thirds vote to pass)

Ms. Martin said the Finance Subcommittee met last week and approved a change to the FY23 Capital Plan, which included security camera upgrades for Varnum Brook Elementary School. Ms. Martin said the Committee voted to move the funds allocated to the Varnum Brook Elementary School camera project to the high school camera project.

5. Negotiation & Personnel (T. Casey)

- None

6. Policy (R. Rusch)

1. Regional Agreement

- Randee Rusch talked about the Regional Agreement updates, specifically the representation calculation of the School Committee and weighted voting.
- A discussion ensued about weighted voting, the fact that some votes would not equal one vote, and the optics associated with weighted voting.

2. CB Regional School Superintendent

- Ms. Rusch said no public feedback was received.

Randee Rusch moved, and June McNeil seconded that the School Committee approve policy CB Regional School Superintendent for adoption as amended, replacing Selectman with Selectboard.

Roll Call Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	-
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	Abstain
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion passed 7/0/1.

3. CBI Evaluation of the Superintendent

- It was confirmed that no public feedback was received.

Randee Rusch moved, and June McNeil seconded that the School Committee approve policy CBI Regional School Superintendent for adoption.

Roll Call Vote:

Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	-
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	Abstain
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion passed 7/0/1.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

June McNeil moved, and Thomas Casey seconded the School Committee meet in executive session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) for the following purpose:

- *Purpose (2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Superintendent of Schools).*
- *Purpose (7): To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.*
 - *Executive Session Minutes dated March 20, 2023.*

Roll Call Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Michael Morgan	-
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	Abstain
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion passed 7/0/1.

OPEN SESSION

At 8:59 p.m., the Committee returned to Open Session.

David Carney moved, and June McNeil seconded to adjourn.

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 8/0/0.

Documents Reviewed / Referred To

- 2023 04-10 Agenda
- 2023 03-20 Minutes
- Accounts Payable Warrants
- Payroll Warrants
- Donations

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: May 1, 2023
