



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

MINUTES – August 17, 2023
Virtual via Zoom

PRESENT

Chairperson	Craig Hansen	Member, Pepperell
Vice-Chairperson	June McNeil	Member, Ashby
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Thomas Casey	Member, Pepperell ~ Absent
	Lisa Martin	Member, At Large
	David Carney	Member, Pepperell
	Jessica Funaiole	Member, Townsend
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend ~ Arrived @ 5:07 p.m.
	Lisa Bloom	Member, At Large

ALSO PRESENT

Brad Morgan	Superintendent of Schools
Lauren Young	Principal, NMS
Kate Guziejka	Principal, SMS
Nancy Haines	Business Manager

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

June McNeil moved, and Randee Rusch seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

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

1. Chairperson's Report – C. Hansen

- None

2. Superintendent's Report – B. Morgan

The Admin Institute was Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Topics included bullying, crisis reaction, strategic plan, smart goals, professional development plan, training program roll out, core values, and portrait of a graduate. There was great energy! Hiring is still fluent. Staff announcements/retirees will be in September.

The Van Pool community session was today. There have been lots of complaints that Van Pool is addressing, most stemming around their staffing shortage. There were 3 attendees in afternoon and none in the morning.

Dave and Lisa B asked about transportation issues and Brad noted the State auditor has school transportation on their list to address.

June commented that it is exciting to see the new hires announced on social media by HBMS.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [HBMS & NMS Out of State Travel Requests](#) – C. Olmstead & L. Young

Randee asked about participation levels. Lauren Young stated that each school had about 25 out of about 135 students not attend which are typical numbers.

June stated that despite the cost, the program is a great experience and she is glad this program is offered again post-COVID.

David Carney moved, and June McNeil seconded the School Committee approve eighth-grade students enrolled in the Nissitissit Middle School to travel to Washington, DC, from May 21 to May 24, 2024, and eighth-grade students enrolled in the Hawthorne Brook Middle School to travel to Washington, DC, from April 9-April 12, 2024, to study grade eight civics curriculum.

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

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

2. Vision & Mission Statement – K. Guziejka

New Vision Statement:

We are NM: A safe, inclusive, student-centered community of persevering and empowered learners.

New Mission Statement:

At NM, we are committed to creating a diverse learning environment where students are provided a meaningful education through academic, social, and emotional learning experiences. Together with parents, caregivers, and the community, students are encouraged to ignite and embrace their individual potential to find success within NM and beyond.

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and David Carney seconded the School Committee approve the New Vision and Mission Statements as presented.

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

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

3. [Handbook Addendum](#) – B. Morgan

Superintendent Morgan stated discrimination, harassment, discipline, title 9, and selected school committee policies are included in the handbook addendum as recommended by legal. Craig asked if it would be better to just have the link to the policy rather than the policy written out so that it is up to date and a shorter document. Superintendent Morgan stated that made more sense and Randee agreed.

Randee Rusch moved, and Lisa Martin seconded to approve the handbook addendum, substituting links for the written out policies.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Accelerated Repair – L. Martin
 - None
2. AES Building Committee – J. McNeil
 - June McNeil said the Committee was making progress
3. Communications – T. Casey
 - None
4. Finance – L. Martin
 - Superintendent Morgan will meet with town leadership on 8/28/2023
5. Negotiation & Personnel (L. Martin & D. Carney)
 - None
6. Policy (R. Rusch)
 - None
7. Liaisons to District Town Selectboards
 - Ashby: June McNeil
 - None
 - Mary Calandrella resigned; a new board member will be elected in October.
 - Pepperell: Dave Carney
 - None
 - Townsend: Jessica Funaiole
 - None

OTHER BUSINESS

Lisa Bloom stated the proposed date for the School Committee development session would not work for the facilitator, so the committee would need a new date.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:35 p.m., Lisa Martin moved, and June McNeil seconded to adjourn.

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

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

Documents Reviewed / Referred To

Respectfully submitted,
June McNeil, Vice-Chairperson

APPROVED: October 19, 2023
