



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

MINUTES – September 21, 2023
Virtual via Zoom

PRESENT

Chairperson	Craig Hansen	Member, Pepperell
Vice-Chairperson	June McNeil	Member, Ashby ~ Absent
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Thomas Casey	Member, Pepperell ~ Absent
	Lisa Martin	Member, At Large
	David Carney	Member, Pepperell ~ Absent
	Jessica Funaiole	Member, Townsend
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend ~ Absent
	Lisa Bloom	Member, At Large

ALSO PRESENT

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

1. Chairperson, Craig Hansen, opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. and announced that the meeting would be recorded.

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

2. Mr. Hansen said the meeting was being recorded and the North Middlesex Regional School Committee's next meeting would be at 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 19, 2023.
3. Mr. Hansen introduced and welcomed the committee's newest student representative, Rebekah Sylvester.

OUR MISSION: 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.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Lisa Martin moved, and Jessica Funairole seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 5/0/0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Chairperson's Report – C. Hansen

- None

2. Superintendent's Report – B. Morgan

- Superintendent Morgan expressed gratitude to the recent retirees from NM, recognizing their years of service and dedication to the district, while extending heartfelt wishes for a fulfilling and joyful retirement. The retirees included:
 - Beth Baldarelli, Special Education Teacher, High School
 - Sandra Bicheler, Grade 5 Teacher Nissitissit
 - Debra Bryce, Accounts Payable Specialist, Central Office
 - Deborah Cappucci, Secretary, Squannacook
 - Karen Carlson Mariano, Grade 6 Teacher, Nissitissit
 - Katherine Chase, Custodian, High School
 - John Cochran, Physical Education Teacher, Hawthorne Brook
 - Heidi Delaney, Physical Education Teacher, Hawthorne Brook
 - Susan Hamel, Principal's Secretary, High School
 - Tara Hanley, Principal, Varnum Brook
 - Oscar Hills, Director of Buildings & Grounds, Central Office
 - Sandra Jamieson, Guidance Secretary, High School
 - Laura Lafontaine, Kindergarten Paraprofessional, Spaulding
 - Paul Leonard, Custodian, High School
 - Arthur O'Connor, Computer Science/Technology Teacher, High School
 - Judith Philip, Grade 7/8 ELA Teacher, Hawthorne Brook
 - Sharon Sheehan, 1st Grade Teacher, Varnum Brook
 - Ruth Silva, 1st Grade Teacher, Varnum Brook

- Andrea White, Secretary, Varnum Brook
- Virginia Woodward, Grade 6 ELA Teacher, Nissitissit

Superintendent Morgan thanked the following staff for their 25 years of service and dedication to NM students and the learning community.

- Michelle Chaple, Grade 3 Teacher, Varnum Brook
- Laura Gaffney, Paraprofessional, Hawthorne Brook
- Sara Joy, ELA Teacher, High School
- Lori Lapierre, SPED Teacher, Hawthorne Brook
- Rosemary Leclerc, Paraprofessional, Spaulding
- Lorraine Lizotte, Retired Paraprofessional/District Courier
- Laureen Pulford, SLP, Nissitissit
- Lynne Ragsdale, Paraprofessional, Varnum Brook
- Jennifer Reidy, SPED Teacher, Varnum Brook
- Laurie Smith, Assistant Principal, High School
- Janice Tramontozzi, Paraprofessional, Hawthorne Brook
- Karen Walsh, 4th Grade Teacher, Ashby

Mr. Morgan welcomed the following new staff members to the NM team.

Ashby

Hannah Comeau, Grade 3 Teacher
 Kayleigh Francis, Kindergarten Teacher
 Annabella Lividoti Academic Interventionist
 Makenna Pacaro, SLPA
 Roxanne Webb, Secretary

Districtwide

Grace Brinn, SLP
 Felicia De Salvo, BCBA
 Erin Jussaume, SLPA
 James Pearce, Custodian

Hawthorne Brook Middle School

Junichi Ash, Physical Education Teacher
 Libby Morel, Paraprofessional
 Erik Sundermann, Special Education Teacher
 Jason White, Assistant Principal

Nissitissit Middle School

Amanda Bernier, Grade 6 Math Teacher
 Johnna Brissette, Paraprofessional
 Amy Glover, Paraprofessional
 Brittany Hart, Special Education Teacher
 Linda Kauppi, Paraprofessional
 Gillian LaFosse, Music Teacher
 Debbie Osborn, Guidance Counselor

Brittney Reid, Paraprofessional
Matthew Simonich, Paraprofessional

North Middlesex Regional High School

Marissa Asa, Biology Teacher
Tiana Babin, Guidance Secretary
Christine Battista, Paraprofessional
Chandler Behringer, Computer Science/Technology Teacher
Caleb Chew, Choral Teacher
Kevin Hall, Paraprofessional
Jennifer Kimball, Special Education Teacher
Alsu Kuznetsova, Paraprofessional
William McCarthy, Social Studies Teacher

Spaulding Memorial School

Ashley Gravelle, SLPA
Susan Hall, General Assistant/Lunch Recess Aide
Lillianna Huber, Grade 1 Teacher
Amy Lebreque, Paraprofessional
Meghan Pstragowski, Grade 4 Teacher
Allison Walsh, Paraprofessional

Squannacook Early Childhood Center

Sarah Flores, Paraprofessional

Varnum Brook

Kristal Bettencourt, Paraprofessional
Meghan Branco, Co-Principal
Jennifer Cota, Academic Interventionist
Alison Hannon, Paraprofessional
Sarah Hollander, Academic Interventionist
Elise Levine, Guidance Counselor
Rachel Loprinze, Paraprofessional
Nicole Marino, Grade 3 Teacher

NEW BUSINESS

1. [Expanding High-Quality Instructional Math Materials](#) Grant – G. Burboa-Reese
Dr. Burboa-Reese provided an overview of the grant and said the purpose of the competitive grant was to provide funding for districts to purchase high quality core mathematics instructional materials.

Randee Rusch moved, and Jessica Funairole seconded the School Committee vote to accept the FC 164 Expanding High-Quality Instructional Math Materials Grant as presented.

Roll Call Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes

June McNeil	-	Lisa Bloom	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	-	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	-		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 5/0/0.

2. MASC Delegate Selection – C. Hansen

The committee discussed the responsibilities of the MASC delegate and whether or not a member would attend to represent the district. Randee Rusch said she was thinking about attending and would get back to the committee.

3. [MASC Resolutions](#) – C. Hansen

1. RESOLUTION 1: Full, Stable Funding for METCO

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and Lisa Martin seconded to support RESOLUTION 1: Full, Stable Funding for METCO.

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 5/0/0.

2. RESOLUTION 2: Regarding Investigations and Recommendations for Transportation Bidding Procedures

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and Lisa Martin seconded to support RESOLUTION 2: Regarding Investigations and Recommendations for Transportation Bidding Procedures.

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

Thomas Casey	-	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	-		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 5/0/0.

3. RESOLUTION 3: Regional Transportation

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded to support RESOLUTION 3: Regional Transportation.

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 5/0/0.

4. RESOLUTION 4: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded to NOT support RESOLUTION 4: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 5/0/0.

5. RESOLUTION 5: MA School Building Authority

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and Lisa Martin seconded to support RESOLUTION 5: MA School Building Authority

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 5/0/0.

6. RESOLUTION 6: School Bus Stop ARM Surveillance Act and Enforcement and Penalties

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded to support RESOLUTION 6: School Bus Stop ARM Surveillance Act and Enforcement and Penalties

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 5/0/0.

7. RESOLUTION 7: Related to MCAS

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and Lisa Martin seconded to amend RESOLUTION 7 by removing "that MASC urges Massachusetts to enact a moratorium on MCAS testing effective immediately."

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

Vote: The motion to amend passed 4/0/1.

Randee Rusch moved, and Lisa Martin seconded to support RESOLUTION 7: Related to MCAS as amended.

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

Vote: The motion to amend passed 4/0/1.

8. RESOLUTION 8: Safe Storage of Firearms

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded to NOT support RESOLUTION 8: Safe Storage of Firearms

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 5/0/0.

9. Proposal to Amend the MASC By-Laws

Following discussion, Randee Rusch moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded to support the Proposal to Amend the MASC By-Laws as presented.

Roll Call Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes

June McNeil	-	Lisa Bloom	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	-	Susan Robbins	-
David Carney	-		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 5/0/0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Accelerated Repair – L. Martin
2. AES Building Committee – J. McNeil
3. Communications – T. Casey
4. Finance – L. Martin
5. Negotiation & Personnel (L. Martin & D. Carney)
6. Policy (R. Rusch)
 1. Randee Rusch said the next meeting would take place on October 3, 2023.
 2. [ADF Wellness Policy](#)

Randee Rusch presented the policy to the committee and a brief discussion ensued.

Randee Rusch moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded the School Committee approve policy ADF Wellness for a first reading as presented.

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

Vote: The motion passed 4/1/0.

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7. Liaisons to District Town Selectboards Update
 - o Ashby: June McNeil – No update
 - o Pepperell: Dave Carney – No update
 - o Townsend: Jessica Funaiole – No update

8. Student Representative Report – R. Sylvester
 - o Homecoming will take place on Saturday, October 7, 2023
 - o Patriot All Access Card pass available for purchase
 - o Autumn Fest Update

EXECUTIVE SESSION – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

At 7:11 p.m., Randee Rusch moved, and Lisa Martin seconded to meet in executive session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) for the following purpose:

- Purpose (3): to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the North Middlesex Regional School District Teachers’ Association because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee.
- Purpose (4): to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto;
- Purpose (7): To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.
 - Approval of Executive Session Minutes dated: September 7, 2023
 - Approval of Executive Session Minutes dated: July 27, 2023
 - Approval of Executive Session Minutes dated: July 19, 2023
 - Approval of Executive Session Minutes dated: June 29, 2023

The Committee will not reconvene in an open session.

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 5/0/0.

Documents Reviewed / Referred To

- 2023 09-21 Agenda
- [2023 06-29 SCMinutes](#)
- [2023 07-27 SCMinutes](#)
- Warrants
- [Donations](#)
- [Expanding High-Quality Instructional Math Materials](#) Grant
- [MASC Resolutions](#)
- [ADF Wellness Policy](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye, Secretary

APPROVED: November 2, 2023
