



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

MINUTES – October 19, 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 ~ Arrive @ 6:10 p.m.
	Jessica Funaiole	Member, Townsend
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
	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 6:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting would be recorded.

Roll Call:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Susan Robbins	Yes
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 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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.

June McNeil moved, and Jessica Funaiole 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	Yes
David Carney	-		

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Shelly Jones, 820 Rindge Road, Ashby.
 - Transportation and bussing accommodation request
- Melissa Boylan, 1392 West State Road, Ashby.
 - Transportation, bussing travel times, and arriving late to school
- Karen Stewart, 462 David Road, Ashby.
 - Transportation and bussing accommodation request
- A discussion ensued about transportation, safety, costs, student population on buses, state reimbursement, school start and dismissal times, Dee Bus, Rindge, and Davis Road.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Chairperson's Report – C. Hansen
 - Craig Hansen said the Committee was entering a busy meeting season and encouraged members to reach out if they needed assistance.
2. Superintendent's Report – B. Morgan
 - Superintendent Morgan said all safety drills had been completed, and the NM staff was fully trained.
3. Student Representative Report – R. Sylvester
 - Students had a great time at the Homecoming and Pep Rally
 - Veteran's Day breakfast was scheduled for November 8th at 8:30 a.m.
 - Powder Puff football game was scheduled for November 11th at 5:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [District Strategic Plan](#) – Dr. Burboa-Reese

Dr. Burboa-Reese presented the 2023-2024 District Strategic Plan to the committee. Dr. Burboa discussed Strategic Objective 1: Curriculum and Instruction, Strategic Objective 2: Meeting All Needs of All Students, and Strategic Objective 3: Climate, Culture, & Community. Dr. Burboa-Reese discussed the 2024-2029 Strategic

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Plan Development work plan and gave an overview of timelines and proposed work for August 2023 through January 2024. The 2023-2024 District Strategic Plan and the 2023-2024 Strategic Plan Work Plan are attached.

2. [2023 MCAS Results and Accountability](#) – Dr. Burboa-Reese

Dr. Burboa-Reese said the 2023 school year was the first year since 2019 that the accountability measures included both an Accountability Percentile (comparative measurement with other schools in the state) and Progress Towards Targets (individual school performance) measure.

▪ Statewide Data

- Results showing continued academic recovery from the pandemic
- 83% of schools in the Commonwealth - accountability designation “Not Requiring assistance or intervention”
- 62% of schools met, exceeded, or made “Substantial Progress Towards” accountability targets
- 66 schools in the Commonwealth were identified as Schools of Recognition for their strong growth or overall achievement. The 2023 NMRSD MCAS Accountability Presentation report is attached.

3. Municipal Representative to Attend Negotiation Meetings – C. Hansen

Mr. Morgan said the district town Select Boards voted to appoint Townsend’s Town Manager, Eric Slagle, as the Municipal Representative for Negotiations with the Teachers’ Association.

Following discussion, Susan Robbins motioned, and June McNeil seconded the School Committee to approve Townsend’s Town Manager, Eric Slagle, as the Municipal Towns’ Representative to Attend Teachers’ Association Negotiation Meetings on behalf of Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend.

Randee Rusch said that once approved, Mr. Slagle would count toward a quorum on the Negotiation Committee.

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.

4. [Home School Report](#) – Dr. Burboa-Reese

Dr. Burboa-Reese presented the 2023-2024 Home School report and said as of Monday, October 3, 2023, the district had 78 families, representing 158 students across the district, that have approved homeschool plans for the 2023-2024 school year. This represents a decrease of 4.27% in the number of students that

participated in homeschool programs from the 2022-2023 school year. Dr. Burboa-Reese discussed the table that provided a ten-year historical review of homeschool programs for families from Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend. 2023-2024 Annual Home School Report attached.

5. [Superintendent Goals](#) – B. Morgan

Superintendent Morgan reviewed his goals with the Committee. Lisa Bloom asked about Financial Literacy. June McNeil thanked the Superintendent for listening to students' needs and requests. Craig Hansen said the goals were reasonable. 2023-2024 Superintendent Goals attached.

Lisa Martin moved, and June McNeil seconded the School Committee approve of the Superintendent's Goals 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	Yes
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion passed 8/0/0

6. [FY2023 Final General Fund Expense Report & Excess and Deficiency](#) – N. Haines

Nancy Haines provided an overview of the FY23 Final General Fund Expense and Excess and Deficiency reports. Excess and Deficiency, FY23 Budget by Function, and FY23 Budget to Actual reports are attached.

OLD BUSINESS

1. MASC Delegate Selection – C. Hansen

Following discussion, David Carney moved, and June McNeil seconded not to appoint a 2023 MASC Delegate.

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	Abstain
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion passed 7/0/1

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Accelerated Repair – L. Martin
 - None
2. AES Building Committee – J. McNeil
 - The next meeting is October 24, 2023
3. Communications – T. Casey
 - None
4. Finance – L. Martin
 - None
5. Negotiation & Personnel (L. Martin & D. Carney)
 - Negotiations with the Teachers' Association continue
6. Policy (R. Rusch)
 1. [ECAF Security Cameras in Schools](#)
 2. [EDE Recyclable Materials](#)
 3. [EEA Student Transportation Services](#)
 4. [EEAA Walkers and Riders](#)
 5. [EEAG Student Transportation in Private Vehicles](#)

Randee Rusch moved, and Lisa Martin seconded the School Committee approve policies ECAF Security Cameras in Schools, EDE Recyclable Materials, EEA Student Transportation Services, EEAA Walkers and Riders, EEAG Student Transportation in Private Vehicles for the first readings as presented.

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

Vote: The motion passed 8/0/0

Randee Rusch moved, and Lisa Martin seconded the School Committee approve policy ADF Wellness for adoption 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	Yes
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion passed 8/0/0

7. Liaisons to District Town Selectboards Update

- Ashby: June McNeil said Ashby had a new Selectboard member, Jessica Kallin.
- Pepperell: Dave Carney – No update
- Townsend: Jessica Funaiole – No update

EXECUTIVE SESSION – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

At 8:36 p.m., David Carney moved, and Jessica Funaiole seconded to 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 (Director of Pupil Personnel Services).*
- *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 (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:*
 - June 29, 2023
 - September 7, 2023
 - September 21, 2023
 - September 28, 2023 - Negotiations
 - October 16, 2023 - Negotiations

The Committee will not reconvene in an open session.

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 passed 8/0/0

Documents Reviewed / Referred To

- Minutes dated: August 17, 2023, September 7, 2023, September 21, 2023
- 2023-2024 District Strategic Plan
- 2023-2024 Strategic Plan Work Plan
- 2023 NMRSD MCAS Accountability Presentation
- 2023-2024 Annual Home School Report
- 2023-2024 Superintendent Goals
- FY23 Budget by Function
- FY23 Budget to Actual
- Policies: ECAF Security Cameras in Schools, EDE Recyclable Materials, EEA Student Transportation Services, EEAA Walkers and Riders, and EEAG Student Transportation in Private Vehicles

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye, Secretary

APPROVED: November 2, 2023
