



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

MINUTES – November 16, 2023

Virtual

PRESENT

Chairperson	Craig Hansen	Member, Pepperell
Vice-Chairperson	June McNeil	Member, Ashby
	Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
	Thomas Casey	Member, Pepperell
	Lisa Martin	Member, At Large
	David Carney	Member, Pepperell ~ Arrived @ 6:25 p.m.
	Jessica Funairole	Member, Townsend
	Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
	Lisa Bloom	Member, At Large

ALSO PRESENT

Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary
Brad Morgan	Superintendent of Schools
Gary Burboa-Reese	Asst. Superintendent
Rebekah Sylvester	Student Representative
Jack Amari	NMRHS Student
Jackson Bailey	NMRHS Student
Joshua Gallagher	NMRHS Student

1. Chairperson Craig Hansen opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
Jessica Funairole	Yes	Susan Robbins	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	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, December 21, 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.

Lisa Martin motioned, and Jessica Funaiole seconded to vote and 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	Yes	Susan Robbins	Yes
David Carney	-		

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

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

1. Tyler Lapierre – Physical Education Teacher
 - Mr. Lapierre talked about HBMS's intramural basketball program.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

2. Chairperson's Report – C. Hansen
 - Craig Hansen discussed the importance of community involvement, information sharing, and voting.
3. Superintendent's Report – B. Morgan
 - Superintendent Morgan said the School Committee would hear from three high school seniors. Mr. Morgan talked about the Civic Action Project (CAP), which is required across Massachusetts. Mr. Morgan said all students in 11th-grade History courses engage in a Civic Action Project (CAP). The CAP is designed to engage students in civic engagement, academic research, and real-world problem-solving. The project empowers students to identify and address an issue or problem in their community by researching, collaborating with stakeholders, and implementing practical solutions. NMRHS Social Studies Department Head Rebecca Jackson and her department embraced CAP. Mr. Morgan said last year, NM sent a team of students and staff to visit the Credit for Life Fair that was held at Andover High School. One of the goals of the fair is not only to provide students with an array of activities related to finance but also to support the push for the need for financial literacy in Massachusetts. Currently, financial literacy is required in both NH and CT. Mr. Morgan said he recently wrote a letter of support to the state legislature in support of House Bill S.327 to make it a graduation requirement in Massachusetts.

Last spring, three students identified a lack of financial literacy amongst their classmates and peers as the issue they wanted to address for their CAP. After researching neighboring districts' Program of Studies, attending a financial literacy fair in Andover, and surveying students and some staff, they concluded that bringing the Credit for Life fair here to North Middlesex would be a valuable tool for 12th graders about to enter the post-high school world. Jack Amari, Jackson Bailey, and Joshua Gallagher continued with their CAP through their Senior year to bring this idea to fruition. They worked with NMRHS and central office staff to make this happen. The team of three is here to present their findings and proposal to the School Committee.

Financial Literacy – R. Jackson, J. Amari, J. Bailey, and J. Gallagher

Jack Amari, Jackson Bailey, and Joshua Gallagher presented “Bringing Financial Literacy to NM” (see attached). Mr. Bailey discussed average debt, lack of financial education, and average debt by age group. Mr. Bailey provided information on the Credit for Life Fair and discussed logistics and the impact the fair would have on the NM community and stakeholders.

NEW BUSINESS/GENERAL DISCUSSION – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

2. [Deeper Learning Implementation Grant – G. Burboa-Reese](#)

Dr. Burboa-Reese said The Deeper Learning Implementation Grant would support school and district-based initiatives that advance effective and equitable access to deeper learning experiences—grade-level, real-world, relevant, and interactive—especially for historically underserved students. The competitive grant would provide funding for schools and districts to expand their use of high-quality materials, cultivate effective instructional practices, and develop student learning experiences that advance deeper learning for all students. The focus will be on working with staff at Hawthorne Brook.

Following discussion, June McNeil moved, and Randee Rusch seconded to vote and accept the Deeper Learning Implementation Grant of \$14,000 for Hawthorne Brook Middle School 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	Yes	Susan Robbins	Yes
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 9/0/0.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

1. Accelerated Repair – L. Martin
2. AES Building Committee – J. McNeil

➤ [AESBC Member Appointment](#)

June McNeil said the Ashby Select Board voted to reassign members to various committees. They voted for Jessica Kallin to replace David Nadeau as the Ashby Select Board representative on the Ashby Elementary School Building Committee.

June McNeil motioned, and Randee Rusch seconded to vote and appoint Jessica Kallin to the AESBC to replace David Nadeau.

Roll Call Vote:			
Craig Hansen	Yes	Randee Rusch	Yes
June McNeil	Yes	Lisa Bloom	Yes

Jessica Funaiole	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Thomas Casey	Yes	Susan Robbins	Yes
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 9/0/0.

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3. Communications – C. Hansen
 4. Finance – L. Martin
Chair Lisa Martin said they would have a meeting within the next two weeks.
 5. Negotiation & Personnel – L. Martin & D. Carney
Co-Chair David Carney said negotiations with the Teachers' Association was ongoing.
 6. Policy – R. Rusch
 - [ECAF Security Cameras in Schools](#)
 - [EDE Recyclable Materials](#)
 - [EEA Student Transportation Services](#)
 - [EEAA Walkers and Riders](#)

The committee agreed to continue the policy discussion at the next meeting.

 - [EEAG Student Transportation in Private Vehicles](#)

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

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

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 9/0/0.

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7. Liaisons to District Town Selectboards Update
 - Ashby: June McNeil
Ms. McNeil said there was no update
 - Pepperell: Dave Carney
Mr. Carney said there was no update
 - Townsend: Jessica Funaiole
Ms. Funaiole said there was no update

OPEN SESSION

At 6:45 p.m., David Carney motioned, and Lisa Martin seconded to vote and 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 (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:
 - November 2, 2023

The Committee would 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	Yes	Susan Robbins	Yes
David Carney	Yes		

Vote: The motion unanimously passed 9/0/0.

Documents Reviewed / Referred To

- [2023-11-16-SCAgenda](#)
- [2023-11-02-Minutes](#)
- [2023 10-20 VBES Donation](#)
- [2023 11-16 Disposal of Surplus Property](#)
- [FC105 FY24 Grant School Committee](#)
- [2023 10-26 AESBC Appointment Request](#)
- [ECAF Security Cameras in Schools](#)
- [EDE Recyclable Materials](#)
- [EEA Student Transportation Services](#)
- [EEAA Walkers and Riders](#)
- [EEAG Student Transportation in Private Vehicles](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye, Secretary

APPROVED: December 14, 2023
