

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Remote meeting via Zoom Technology

This meeting was held remotely, the Nashoba Regional School Committee adheres to Open Meeting Law (OML) Regulations, which have been altered. Here is a link to that order: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2021/Chapter20>

October 20, 2021

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE:** Joseph Gleason, Leah Vivirito, Karen Devine, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Rich Eckel, Amy Cohen, Sharon Poch, Brett Collins, and Mike Horesh

**ABSENT:** Stephen Rubinstein and Shawn Winsor

**ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Superintendent Downing, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Maguire, Director of Business and Operations, Pat Marone, Director of Human Resources, Ann Marie Stoica and Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Joan DeAngelis

**6:00 PM CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chairperson Vivirito called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**6:03 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to Mass. General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares regarding the matter of Maria del Rosario vs. NRSD Regional School District et al. (Docket No. 1885CV01899); School Committee will adjourn in Executive Session

**MOTION**

Mike Horesh moved to go into Executive Session at 6:01 pm pursuant to Mass. General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares regarding the matter of Maria del Rosario vs. NRSD Regional School District et al. (Docket No. 1885CV01899); Executive Session will include Superintendent Downing, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Joan DeAngelis and district legal counsel Attorney Kevin Freytag. School Committee will reconvene to open session at the conclusion of Executive Session; seconded by Amy Cohen

**Roll Call:**

Joseph Gleason	Yes
Leah Vivirito	Yes
Karen Devine	Yes
Dr. Mary McCarthy	Yes
Mike Horesh	Yes
Rich Eckel	Yes
Amy Cohen	Yes
Sharon Poch	Yes
Brett Collins	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (9-0-0)**

Committee returned to open session at 6:35 PM

**6:35 PM CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Keely Nowosacki, Stow resident, attended to voice her opinion regarding students wearing masks, stating she is opposed to students being required to wear masks.

Michael King, Lancaster resident, attended to voice his opinion regarding students wearing masks and data used to make masking decisions.

**6:43 PM CONSENT AGENDA**

Topics on consent agenda include:

Warrants of October 22, 2021

<b><u>WARRANT NO.</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
4199	10/22/21	VENDOR FY22	\$ 122,602.87
4200	10/22/21	AP ACH FY 22	\$ 190,138.45
4201	10/22/21	BENEFIT FY22	\$ 10,416.25
4202	10/22/21	PAYROLL FY22	\$1,589,261.70

Draft Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2021

**MOTION**

Mike Horesh moved to approve the consent agenda of October 20, 2021 containing the meeting minutes of October 6, 2021 and the warrants of October 22, 2021; seconded by Amy Cohen

**6:45 PM SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Downing and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Maguire provided district updates; the report can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

**7:05 PM NEW BUSINESS**

**7:05 PM MCAS Presentation**

Dr. Maguire presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2021 MCAS Overview, reviewing accountability data, school classifications, explaining the data, MCAS 2022 dates, district structures in place, action items, and next steps.

**7:24 PM Masking Mandate Policy**

Superintendent Downing advised these discussions have been ongoing since August, there were 261 responses to the survey, at that time there was not clear guidelines from DESE, which there is now. Superintendent Downing stated he is asking for the motions tonight to get off the “yo-yo” and establish and policy based on criteria.

**MOTION**

Mike Horesh moved to extending the masking mandate for our schools in the event Commissioner Riley allows the state mandate to expire; seconded by Amy Cohen

**Roll Call:**

Joseph Gleason	Yes
Leah Vivirito	Yes

Karen Devine	Yes
Dr. Mary McCarthy	Yes
Mike Horesh	Yes
Rich Eckel	Yes
Amy Cohen	Yes
Sharon Poch	Yes
Brett Collins	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (9-0-0)**

**MOTION**

Mike Horesh moved to authorize the superintendent to lift the mandate if a school meets the criteria of 80% vaccination rate, 70% consent for testing, and the recommendation of the Nashoba Boards of Health; seconded by Sharon Poch

**Mr. Horesh withdrew the motion with no objection from the Committee.**

**8:02 PM Staples Donation**

Ms. Marone advised Mr. Frieswick, Director of Facilities has received a donation of three pallets of 70-count hand sanitizer wipes canisters. Staples values this donation at \$1.81 per unit for the 2,592 canisters. This represents a total value of \$4,691.52 for the donation

**MOTION**

Mike Horesh moved to accept the donation from Staples to the Nashoba Regional School District of three pallets of 70-count hand sanitizer wipes canisters. Staples values this donation at \$1.81 per unit for the 2,592 canisters. This represents a total value of \$4,691.52 for the donation; seconded by Amy Cohen

**Roll Call:**

Joseph Gleason	Yes
Leah Vivirito	Yes
Karen Devine	Yes
Dr. Mary McCarthy	Yes
Mike Horesh	Yes
Rich Eckel	Yes
Amy Cohen	Yes
Sharon Poch	Yes
Brett Collins	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (9-0-0)**

**8:06 PM DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS REPORT**

Ms. Marone provided a timeline for the of the FY23 budget and reviewed same.

**816PM UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**8:16 PM Composition and Voting Authority of the School Building Committee**

Mr. Gleason advised the voting authority of members of the School Building Committee was discussed at the SBC (School Building Committee) meeting last night. Mr. Gleason stated it is the will of the SBC that the Superintendent be given voting authority on the SBC

**MOTION**

Amy Cohen moved the Superintendent be given voting authority on the Nashoba Regional High School, School Building Committee; seconded by Leah Vivirito

**Roll Call:**

Joseph Gleason	Yes
Leah Vivirito	Yes
Karen Devine	Yes
Dr. Mary McCarthy	Yes
Mike Horesh	Yes
Rich Eckel	Yes
Amy Cohen	Yes
Sharon Poch	Yes
Brett Collins	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (9-0-0)**

**8:33 PM Amendment of Regional Agreement Amendment Subcommittee Vote**

Dr. McCarthy advised this amendment is being brought forward as the Regional Agreement Amendment will be an advisory committee not a subcommittee. Dr. McCarthy advised the difference between a subcommittee and advisory, subcommittees are comprised of School Committee members only and advisory can have non school committee stakeholders on the committee.

**MOTION**

Dr. McCarthy moved to amend the motion taken on October 6, 2021 on the creation of the Regional Agreement Amendment Subcommittee, amendment being, “the NRSC vote to create a Regional Agreement Amendment Advisory composed of nine (9) members: three (3) volunteers from the School Committee, three (3) volunteers one from each town from the Select Board or Finance Committee, and three (3) volunteers, one from each town, with priority given to members serving on school councils”..; seconded by Rich Eckel

**Roll Call:**

Joseph Gleason	Yes
Leah Vivirito	Yes
Karen Devine	Yes
Dr. Mary McCarthy	Yes
Mike Horesh	Yes
Rich Eckel	Yes
Amy Cohen	Yes
Sharon Poch	Yes
Brett Collins	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (9-0-0)**

**8:38 PM SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget and Warrant Subcommittee**

Mr. Eckel reported the subcommittee met on Monday and discussed goals, the work will continue at the next meeting, as there was a member absent.

**Personnel Subcommittee**

Ms. Vivirito reported the subcommittee met earlier today with the Superintendent to continue the work around the Superintendent’s goal setting, and the evaluation system. The Personnel SC has developed an evaluation goal, which will be approved at the next meeting. The Personnel SC will be sending out a survey, results will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Policy Subcommittee**

Ms. Devine advised the committee met to continue working on their goals.

**Communication Subcommittee**

No report

**NRHS School Building Committee**

Mr. Gleason advised to disregard his earlier correspondence regarding an action item required tonight for the Design Selection Committee that will be at the next meeting. Mr. Gleason advised the SBC is in the design selection process, the RFS has gone out, the timeline will be the end of December, beginning of January to enter into a contract with a designer, once the designer is on board the feasibility study will begin, it will be anywhere in the 18-24 month range before the committee receives the final feasibility study report. The SBC must first create the Design Selection Subcommittee, the SBC will make a recommendation at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Audit Advisory**

No Report

**8:45 PM ITEMS FOR NEXT/FUTURE AGENDAS**

- SC Goals
- Supt. Evaluation PD
- Superintendent 21-22 Goals
- Welcome Student Rep (First Meeting)
- MRE, Center, FSS School Improvement Plans
- N.R.H.S. Building Committee - Designer Selection Process
- Protocols
- Presentation of club offerings
- Executive Session
- Wolf Mascot Video
- Masking Mandate Policy
- In person SC meetings timeline
- Sharing motions in text

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION**

Rich Eckel moved to adjourn at 8:49 pm; seconded by Amy Cohen

**Roll Call:**

Joseph Gleason	Yes
Leah Vivirito	Yes
Karen Devine	Yes
Dr. Mary McCarthy	Yes
Mike Horesh	Yes
Rich Eckel	Yes
Amy Cohen	Yes
Sharon Poch	Yes
Brett Collins	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (9-0-0)**

**Reference Documents and Presentations**

Agenda

Draft Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2021

Superintendent's Report

Sizer School 2020-2021 Annual Report (DESE Appr)

2021 MCAS Analysis Presentation

Staples Donation Memo

FY23 Budget Timeline

Approved by NRSC 11/3/21

Submitted by Aleta Masterson



Executive Assistant to the  
Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent