

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

November 6, 2012

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Julie Fay, Reta Rupich, and Kara Keith

ABSENT: Nancy Federspiel, Jeff Odell and Lynn Colletti

Ms. Busch called for a moment of silence for Leah Tepper, a 2011 NRHS graduate who passed away this week after an illness.

ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools, George King, Assistant Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Busch called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM in the School Committee Conference Room.

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda included:

November 9, 2012 Warrant

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3282	11/9/12	VENDOR	\$ 462,751.96
3283	11/9/12	BENEFIT	\$ 619,508.80
3284	11/9/12	PAYROLL	\$1,217,469.71

Minutes of the October 23, 2012 meeting

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Busch stated she received correspondence regarding a theft at the high school and requested an item be added to the next school committee agenda to discuss this issue.

Mr. Wood introduced Nathan Prichard, German Teacher at the high school. Mr. Wood announcing that Mr. Prichard was recently recognized by the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association for his work with student exchange programs. Mr. Wood stated Mr. Prichard won the Intercultural Student Experiences Language Matters Award.

Comprehensive Reporting – Middle School Update

Mr. Bates, Principal, Florence Sawyer School, Ms. Friend, Assistance Principal of Mary Rowlandson Elementary School and Mr. Perkins, Principal of Luther Burbank Middle School attended the meeting to provide an update and review of the Comprehensive Reporting System for the middle schools. Mr. Bates advised parent forums will be held on November 27th, 28th and 29th; the forum flyer is located on the district website as well as school websites.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wood reviewed his Superintendent's report; (*The Superintendent's Report is available in full on the NRSD website at <http://www.nrsd.net>*)

Topics included:

- Family Literacy Month
- FY14 Budget Cycle
- BYOD
- Para Professional Conference

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Advisory Report

No Report

School Councils

Mr. O'Shea, Principal of Mary Rowlandson Elementary and Dawn Cote, School Council Member provided an overview of their school council's makeup this year and reported out on the first meeting of the year. Ms. Cote reported the results of the school survey. Mr. O'Shea report on the goals for this year and on the new before fitness program for the students, staff and parents, stating it has been a great success.

Mr. Bates, Principal of the Florence Sawyer School, Linda Gothie, 3rd grade teacher and district parent, Becky Herberger, Council Member provided an overview of their school council's makeup this year and reported out on the first meeting of the year. Ms. Herberger reviewed what the PAC will be focused on this year and what fund raisers are planned. Ms. Gothie reported out on the reading program, the Daily 5 and The Café Book

Finance SubCommittee

Ms. Busch reported the warrants were signed no other business was discussed.

Personnel SubCommittee

No Report

Policy SubCommittee

Ms. Keith reported the policy committee met twice with a group of parents in October to discuss the safety issues at the high school and the policy subcommittee is recommending language be added to the handbook for the high school and middle school regarding student searches which will be discussed later in the meeting.

ESBC

Mr. Wood report the committee meet last night and they are aggressively trying to wrap up the punch list, which consists of small unfinished items, the biggest of the unfinished items being a redo of the outfield for the Center field for soccer and softball, sod will be done tomorrow.

SPED PAC

Ms. Owen reported she was not able to attend the last meeting but did speak with Joan Finger today. The elections were held and Dr. Graham spoke at them and said he was impressed with the SPED program at the high school and how all the students interact well. Ms. Owen stated Ms. Finger will have information on the Unified Soccer at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Bond Approval

Mr. King reported the district put out a permanent bond bid for \$2,210,000 which was the appropriation for the athletic field at the high school, we received for bids and are awarding a fifteen year bond to Raymond James and Associates at the 15 year interest rate of 1.656%, which is substantially lower than we had projected, so therefore it will be a lower cost per year than projected, with a saving of approx. \$40,000 per year.

MOTION

Julie Fay made a motion to approve the memo from Charlotte Noponen, NRSD Treasurer awarding a bid for bond of \$2,210,000 to Raymond James and Associates for a term of 15 years; seconded by Reta Rupich **IN FAVOR:** Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Julie Fay, Kara Keith and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

MOTION

Reta Rupich made a motion to authorize the Vice Chair, Maureen Busch to sign the Bond Approval Documents as Chair seconded by Kara Keith **IN FAVOR:** Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Julie Fay, Kara Keith and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

Handbook Language

Mr. Wood advised there is a memo with the recommended language from the policy subcommittee. Mr. Wood stated he does not recommend this change is needed as he feels there is not a safety issue at the high school, but in response to the community response to the situation he does understand the request. Mr. Wood also advised the district legal council does not recommend adding the language. Ms. Owen stated she does not agree with the proposed change either, stating she believes it violates the students constitutional amendments to be searched every day. Ms. Rupich states that if a student has been charged with a felony that involves a weapon there is a higher chance that student would bring a weapon to school than a student who has no history or previous weapon charges. Ms. Owen stated she understand the higher risk but the principal is aware and is conducting searches when he feels necessary, Ms. Owen does not feel searches are necessary every day upon arrival at school.

MOTION

Julie Fay made a motion to add the language of "In felonies involving weapons, should the principal not recommend exclusion, the student's safety plan will require daily searches upon arrival at school." to the high school and middle school handbooks under the section of Civil and Criminal Offenses seconded by Kara Keith **IN FAVOR:** Maureen Busch, Julie Fay, Kara Keith and Reta Rupich **OPPOSED:** Kathy Owen **VOTED AND PASSED (4-1-0)**

OLD BUSINESS

District Improvement Plan

Mr. Wood provided and updated on the goals of the district improvement plan in the meeting packet and reviewed same. Mr. Wood reviewed how google apps and the chrome books are being used in the district with students and staff PD, Comprehensive Reporting Committee work in the district, recycling efforts, The Center School Project, district communication.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Elkins stated he was at the Stow Meeting where the Selectmen all voted no on the turf field project and stated it did not help that all the selectmen voted no on appropriating that money and there were people in the room that did not know anything about the project and could have easily been swayed by the entire board of selectmen voting no. Mr. Elkins stated maybe a little more one on one with the selectmen would have helped. Mr. Elkins would like to thank the policy subcommittee and school committee members for their commitment and work they do on the committee, hopefully this is step in the direction we were trying to achieve.

Ms. Mangugseen and Ms. Almay also thanked the committee for hearing and responding to their concerns that every student and staff has a right to go to a safe environment every day. Ms. Almay stated she would still like to see the safety on the buses addressed.

MOTION

Reta Rupich made a motion to adjourn at 7:46 pm seconded by Julie Fax **IN FAVOR:** Maureen Busch, Kathy Owen, Julie Fay, Kara Keith and Reta Rupich **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,
Aleta Masterson
Executive Assistant