

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Remote meeting via Zoom Technology

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, Section 2

October 6, 2021

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE:** Joseph Gleason, Leah Vivirito, Karen Devine, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Rich Eckel, Amy Cohen, Sharon Poch, Brett Collins, Shawn Winsor (joined meeting at 6:36pm), Stephen Rubinstein and Mike Horesh

**ABSENT:** None

**ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Kirk Downing, Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. Maguire, Assistant Superintendent

**6:02 PM CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**6:03 PM CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Keely Nowosacki, attended to voice her opinion regarding students wearing masks, stating she would like to see that students are no longer required to wear masks.

**6:05 PM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

Superintendent Downing advised at the October 20<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting he will be making a recommendation to the School Committee to authorize him to set masking guidelines on a school by school basis. Superintendent Downing displayed the NRSD Covid Dashboard, reviewing each tab.

**6:25 PM NEW BUSINESS**

**6:25 PM Composition and voting authority of School Building Committee**

Chairperson Vivirito advised the School Committee had previously voted that only town residents be voting members of the School Building Committee. Mr. Gleason stated the composition is not in question, the composition of the present committee is working well. Mr. Gleason advised he would like voting authority granted to the district employees. Chairperson Vivirito advised this is for information only and will be brought back to the committee at the next meeting for a vote.

Superintendent Downing left the meeting at 6:36 pm.

**6:37 PM School Committee Protocols**

Chairperson Vivirito displayed the 2019-2020 School Committee Protocols and asked the committee member if they would to add this to an agenda item to review for revisions. Committee members discussed their concerns with the current protocols. Topic will be added to a future agenda for updating consideration.

**6:49 PM UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6:49 PM Finalize School Committee Goals**

Chairperson Vivirito screen shared the SC goal spreadsheet. Chairperson Vivirito advised as the subcommittees meet they should be finalizing their individual SC goal and adding it to the spreadsheet. The committee decided to wait on voting the goals until after all subcommittee have met and established their individual goal. Item will be added to a November agenda.

**6:58 PM Regional Agreement update and estimated legal costs**

Chairperson Vivirito advised whenever a Regional Agreement needs to be updated a subcommittee is usually formed, she was not sure if that was need for our district as the revisions were so small. Chairperson Vivirito advised she has reached out to legal counsel for an estimate of what it would cost of assistance in the revision; the estimated cost for their assistance is approx. \$7000. Once the Regional Agreement is revised it will need to go to Town Meeting for all three towns to approve, warrant items for Town Meeting must be submitted by March. Dr. McCarthy thanked Mr. Gleason for continuing to shine a spot light on the revision process. Dr. McCarthy advised she has contacted Christine Lynch at DESE on advice of either contacting a consultant, retaining lawyers, etc. Ms. Lynch assured Dr. McCarthy the current agreement is legal, as any new laws would take precedence.

**7:03 PM Creation of a Regional Agreement Amendment Subcommittee**

Chairperson Vivirito advised the Personnel subcommittee has discussed the option of developing a Regional Agreement Amendment Subcommittee that would work on the document and bring in legal counsel at the end, which would be required. Dr. McCarthy advised her contact at DESE advised her to seek town members input on review of the agreement, so therefore she would like to make a motion for the School Committee to create a Regional Agreement Amendment Subcommittee.

**MOTION**

Dr. McCarthy moved that the NRSC vote to create a Regional Agreement Amendment Subcommittee 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
Shawn Winsor	Yes
Stephen Rubinstein	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (11-0-0)**

**MOTION**

Joseph Gleason moved to nominate Dr. Mary McCarthy as Chair of the Regional Agreement Amendment Subcommittee; seconded 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
Shawn Winsor	Yes
Stephen Rubinstein	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (11-0-0)**

Dr. McCarthy accepted the nomination.

**7:35 PM Request for volunteers to the Regional Agreement Amendment Subcommittee**

Chairperson Vivirito asked any School Committee members who would like to volunteer to be on the Regional Agreement Amendment Subcommittee contact her.

**7:38 PM Reconsideration of time of School Committee Meetings**

Dr. McCarthy advised she listened to the discussions at the last meeting regarding the start time and provided an analysis of the length of past meetings that included Executive Sessions.

**MOTION**

Dr. McCarthy moved that regular NRSD School Committee meetings begin at 6:30 PM and that whenever possible, Executive Sessions and professional development be scheduled from 6:00-6:30 PM.; 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
Shawn Winsor	Yes
Stephen Rubinstein	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (11-0-0)**

**7:49 PM CONSENT AGENDA**

Topics on consent agenda include:

Warrants of October 6, 2021

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
4195	10/08/21	VENDOR FY22	\$ 352,692.78
4196	10/08/21	AP ACH FY 22	\$ 118,378.45
4197	10/08/21	BENEFIT FY22	\$ 973,560.78
4198	10/08/21	PAYROLL FY22	\$1,481,638.00

**MOTION**

Mike Horesh moved to approve the consent agenda of October 6, 2021 containing the amended meeting minutes of September 22, 2021 (amended by Ms. Cohen) and the warrants of October 8, 2021; seconded by Stephen Rubinstein

**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
Shawn Winsor	Yes
Stephen Rubinstein	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (11-0-0)**

**7:52 PM SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget and Warrant Subcommittee**

Mr. Rubinstein reported the subcommittee meet, and elected Mr. Rubinstein as Chair and Mr. Eckel as secretary of the subcommittee, the next meeting is on October 18<sup>th</sup> where the subcommittee will work on its goal for the School Committee goals.

**Personnel Subcommittee**

Ms. Vivirito reported the Personnel subcommittee is working with the Superintendent to establish the Superintendent's goals which will be presented to the entire committee in early November.

**Policy Subcommittee**

Ms. Devine reported the subcommittee met, Ms. Devine was elected at Chair and Mr. Winsor as secretary, subcommittee is working on its goal for the School Committee goals and will be meeting tonight to continue the work.

**Communication Subcommittee**

Ms. Cohen reported the committee met to review the purpose and purview of the subcommittee and work on their School Committee goal, the subcommittee also discussed the need to review some of the communication related policies. Ms. Cohen will be reaching out to the Policy Subcommittee for assistance with this. At their next meeting they will collaborate with the Superintendent on the District Communication Plan.

**NRHS School Building Committee**

Mr. Gleason reported the subcommittee met on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, the purpose of this meeting was discussion on the Request for Designer Services, which will be published on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The committee discussed whether a sum certain amount should be voted, the subcommittee did vote a sum certain amount of \$850,000. Ms. Marone had presented comparisons to other schools projects.

**Audit Advisory**

No Report.

**7:58 PM ITEMS FOR NEXT/FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Executive Session
- FY23 budget timeline
- Business Manager Report with preface on purpose
- Administrator handbook update
- Sizer Charter School Report Sharing
- MCAS Presentation
- Wolf Mascot Video
- Masking Mandate and Authority to eliminate
- Vote on voting authority of SBC
- Staples Donation Acceptance

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION**

Stephen Rubinstein moved to adjourn at 8:02 PM; 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
Shawn Winsor	Yes
Stephen Rubinstein	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (11-0-0)**

**Reference Documents and Presentations**

Agenda  
 Superintendent's Report  
 School Committee Protocols  
 Draft Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2021

Approved by NRSC 10/20/21  
 Submitted by Aleta Masterson



Executive Assistant to the  
 Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent