

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Florence Sawyer School
100 Mechanic Street, Bolton, MA
School Auditorium

November 20, 2019

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE : Kathy Codianne, Elaine Sanfilippo, Stephen Rubenstein, Michael Horesh, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Joseph Gleason, and Leah Vivirito. Attorney Kevin Freytag from Murphy, Hesse, Toomey and Lehane also attended.

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION IN ATTENDANCE: Brooke Clenchy, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Todd Maguire, Assistant Superintendent; Patricia Marone, Business and Operations Manager; Tania Rich, Athletic Director; Ann Marie Stoica, Director of Human Resources; Martina Kenyon, Coordinator of STEM; and Joan DeAngelis, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services. There were 24 NRSD principals, assistant principals, administrators, and central office or district staff members in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Codianne called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Rabbi Mike Rothbaum from Maynard spoke in favor of considering no school on Jewish high holidays (Rosh Hoshana, Passover, and Yom Kippur) to give Jewish students the day off for their holidays, to show respect for all the traditions of our students, and to relieve students of the worry of missing tests and field trips on those days.

Don Lowe, Bolton Town Administrator, spoke against applying the \$219,000 additional funds this year toward free full-day Kindergarten, and instead suggested giving that money back to the towns, who have been hit with expenses such as the leach field. As non-recurring money, it should be applied toward the debt.

Liz Edwards from Bolton and representing Nashoba Parents Demanding Action, said her group is trying to understand how the “abuse of a student in June was not reported until someone went to the police.” She spoke in favor of placing the superintendent of paid administrative leave.

Grace Saccardo from Bolton said she recently reviewed the court documents. She said that child abuse is common, and children often cannot discern what abuse is. The court document statement that resonated with her was that the interactions with the teacher evolved and became sexual.

Carly Henderson from Bolton, an NRHS student, was in favor of putting the superintendent on administrative leave while there is a discussion about who knew what when. Also, the faculty has questions about what happened.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

Chairman Codianne spoke about upcoming meetings and their agenda items. On December 4, there will be a discussion about the process for the school calendar, especially surrounding professional development early release days. There is a special education presentation coming at a future meeting, and the chairperson distributed folders made up by Joan DeAngelis that contain special education information, a resource finder, and a parents rights brochure.

STUDENT REPORT

Student Isabelle Sonia from Lancaster gave the student report, updating the committee on the arts, sports and events at the district's schools, including the Nashoba Regional High School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Clenchy and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Maguire provided district updates, including NRHS Challenge Day, a request from the Nashoba Regional Education Association to open contract negotiations, an update on the budget process, and a report on the November 19 presentation by the Massachusetts Partnership for Youth. The report is available at https://www.nrsd.net/Departments/superintendent_s_reports

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Sports Update/Unified Sports

Athletic Director Tania Rich reported that the Unified Sports program has grown from 15 children in track seven years ago, to now including other sports such as bowling and basketball, which had a full crowd at their last game. The fall sports program was challenged by EEE concerns, requiring juggling schedules and officials. The Hall of Fame Induction will be held this week.

MCAS Presentation

Martina Kenyon and Dr. Todd Maguire presented an overview of MCAS 2019 Accountability Data. Dr. Maguire reported that none of our schools require intervention from the state, and that Luther Burbank School was named a School of Distinction. Our focus will be on closing the gap with our high needs students. Martina Kenyon gave details on the data by subject area and grade level.

Full Day Kindergarten

We need to decide whether to start free full-day kindergarten next year or the year after, a decision that will impact our budget process. Do we want to bump this up by a year using our additional available funds? DESE projects that our funding would be \$539,112, and our parents pay \$459,180 in tuition. The amount of our state funding would exceed what our parents are paying out of pocket. We could implement free full-day K in the next (2020-2021) school year. There will be more discussion at the December 4 meeting when there will be more information available to consider.

MOTION

Mary McCarthy moved to implement funding for full-day kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year; seconded by Joseph Gleason. **MOTION WAS NOT VOTED.**

MOTION

Stephen Rubenstein moved to table the prior motion; seconded by Joseph Gleason. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Codianne, Stephen Rubenstein, Michael Horesh, Leah Vivirito and Jpseph Gleason. **OPPOSED:** Elaine Sanfilippo and Mary McCarthy. **VOTED AND PASSED (5-2) Prior motion is tabled.**

Negotiations Sub-Committee Organization

Ann Marie Stoica spoke on the previous composition of the negotiating team and on the time commitment required to serve. The members who will serve on the negotiating committee will be Mr. Rubenstein, Dr. McCarthy and Mrs. Codianne.

School Superintendent – Consideration of Placement on Paid Administrative Leave

Discussion on whether the superintendent should be placed on paid administrative leave during the review of the high school situation. The discussion centered around the purpose of that placement and its potential advantages and disadvantages, including whether a placement is necessary to ensure the integrity of the review, and the impact of a placement on the ongoing work of the district.

Mike Horesh and Elaine Sanfilippo are looking into the selection of an external investigator. The process started with twelve recommendations and was reduced due to availability and level of comfort with the subject matter. Three finalists participated in a phone interview, and they recommend Attorney Tim Norris of Norwood due to his ability to communicate, his experience and comfort with the subject matter, his reputation and availability.

MOTION

Kathy Codianne moved to place the superintendent on paid administrative leave because there is evidence of wrongdoing and her continued presence would hinder the investigation; second by Elaine Sanfilippo. **MOTION WAS NOT VOTED**

AMENDED MOTION

Michael Horesh amended the motion. He moved to place the superintendent on paid administrative leave based on her continued presence hindering the investigation, within the timeframe of the investigation; second by Elaine Sanfilippo. **IN FAVOR:** Michael Horesh **OPPOSED:** Kathy Codianne, Elaine Sanfilippo, Stephen Rubenstein, Mary McCarthy, Leah Vivirito and Joseph Gleason. **MOTION VOTED AND FAILED. (1-6)**

The Committee agreed to meet on November 11, 2019 at 4:00 with one agenda item: the selection of the investigator and information on the selection, Attorney Tim Norris. Full committee will hear from Mr. Horesh and Mrs. Sanfilippo about the questions that were asked of the potential investigators, their references, proposed timetable and cost.

OLD BUSINESS

None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Warrant Report

No Report

Personnel Report

Mr. Horesh had already reported on the selection of an investigator.

Policy Report

Ms. Vivirito reported the subcommittee met to discuss several policy manual sections.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Topics on consent agenda were:

Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2019

Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2019

Warrants of November 22, 2019

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3993	11/22/19	VENDOR FY20	\$ 290,616.17
3994	11/22/19	AP ACH FY20	\$ 252,734.14
3995	11/22/19	BENEFIT FY20	\$ 12,846.32
3996	11/22/19	PAYROLL FY20	\$1,755,621.64

MOTION

Mary McCarthy moved to approve the November 20, 2019 consent agenda including the meeting minutes of October 23 and November 22, 2019 and the warrants of November 22, 2019; seconded by Stephen Rubenstein. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Codianne, Elaine Sanfilippo, Stephen Rubenstein, Michael Horesh, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Joseph Gleason, and Leah Vivirito **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (5-0-0)**

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR NEXT/FUTURE AGENDAS

School Year 2020-2021 Calendar Update

Food Service Update

ADJOURN

MOTION

Stephen Rubinstein moved to adjourn at 9:15 pm; seconded by Mary McCarthy **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Codianne, Elaine Sanfilippo, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Joseph Gleason, Michael Horesh, Stephen Rubinstein, and Leah Vivirito **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS (7-0)**

Reference Documents and Presentations

Agenda

SC Planning Calendar 10-9-19

Superintendent's Report

Full-Day K Presentation

Approved by NRSC 12/18/19