

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

This meeting was held remotely via Zoom technology. 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>

February 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm

SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE Leah Vivirito, Michael Horesh, Amy Cohen, Brett Collins, Karen Devine, Joseph Gleason, Maureen Mazzone, Sharon Poch, Shandor Simon, and Amy Vessels

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT: Scott Powell

6:32 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

6:32 Public Comments One resident wished to speak at Public Comments, but he is not yet in the Zoom waiting room. The time on the agenda for Public Comment was 6:35, and it's a bit early. Chair Vivirito said she would keep looking to see if the resident comes to the waiting room, and we can return to Public Comment at that time.

6:33 Consent Agenda

- a) Draft Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2023
- b) Warrants of February 10, 2023

| WARRANT NUMBER | DATE | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 4338 | 2-17-23 | Vendor FY 23 | \$176,229.09 |
| 4339 | 2-17-23 | AP ACH FY 23 | \$187,925.99 |
| 4340 | 2-17-23 | Benefit FY 23 | \$2,737.12 |
| 4341 | 2-17-23 | Payroll FY 23 | \$3,209,414.80 |

MOTION

Mr. Horesh made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, including the Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2023 and the Warrants of February 10 and February 17.

Mr. Horesh withdrew his motion and made a new motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2023 and Warrants of February 10, 2023. Second by Ms. Poch.

Roll Call

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Amy Cohen | yes |
| Brett Collins | yes |
| Karen Devine | yes |
| Joseph Gleason | yes |
| Michael Horesh | yes |
| Maureen Mazzone | yes |
| Sharon Poch | yes |
| Shandor Simon | yes |

Amy Vessels yes
Leah Vivirito yes

Voted and Passed (10-0-0)

6:34 School Committee Chairperson Update None

6:34 Superintendent’s Report

Announcements

- Budget Update
Superintendent Downing introduced Manager of Business and Operations Ross Mulkerin, who said the updated proposed NRSD FY24 budget is \$64,997,516, representing a 4.45% increase over FY 23. Favorable health and dental rates contributed to the reduction of \$429,326.

7:11 Public Comment

At 7:11 Chair Vivirito said that the resident who wished to speak in the Public Comment portion of the meeting was waiting, a link issue having been resolved. Suspended the Superintendent’s Report to allow for a delayed Public Comment.

Mr. Anthony Romano of Stow expressed concern of the upcoming Equity Audit being used to justify a pre-determined outcome. Mr. Romano said that it is a myth that equity audits are impartial, and he requested that the School Committee not support the Audit.

7:16 Updates of Strategic Work

Topics:

- Equity Audit
Superintendent Downing said the Equity Audit was approved through the Strategic Plan. It seeks to learn more about concerns that some students are being treated unfairly, and with a goal of treating all students humanely. He said that we have a moral and social responsibility to learn our current status so we can ask, “Now what? What can we do?” Ms. Poch expressed that it breaks her heart to hear stories of marginalized students, and that she is thankful that we are looking into it and studying possible steps to improve. Ms. Vivirito said that knowledge is power, so she is not afraid of any information that may come from the Audit.
- Genocide Grant
Assistant Superintendent Laura Friend reported that NRSD received a two-year competitive grant of \$19,500 from DESE to support genocide education through professional development and curriculum writing. The goal is to strengthen and elevate our understanding to provide intentional instruction on genocide. We have partnered with Primary Source for professional development and training for ten ELA and social studies teachers in grades 7-12 to support genocide education that is required by MGL

Chapter 98 of the Acts of 2021. Ms. Friend thanked Curriculum Director Laura Pagation for her work on securing this grant, and said the teachers are excited about this learning.

7:27 Student Representative Report None

7:28 New Business

a) School Safety Presentation (7:28)

Director of Health, Wellness and Safety Lesa Gulbicki gave an update on school safety efforts in the areas of safety meetings, crisis teams, drills, evacuation and reunification. Monthly safety meetings had been paused by the pandemic, but are resuming.

b) SY 23-24 District Calendar (7:40)

Director of Human Resources Ann Marie Stoica presented a first reading of a 2023-2024 school calendar, and thanked the NRSD Calendar Committee for its work, and the DEARJ Subcommittee, for its input for formatting improvements. The calendar sets forth days that school will be in session, early release days, and student conference days. The Committee will vote on the calendar at its March 1 meeting.

c) NRSD Regional Agreement Presentation (8:00)

Ms. Vivirito explained the history of the Regional Agreement and presented details of an overhaul of the document, with thanks to former Committee member Mary McCarthy for starting the process of the update and to Brian Boyle for drafting the Summary of Key Changes. Ms. Vivirito further explained the process of having the updated document approved by the School Committee, by all three towns at Town Meetings, and by the Commissioner of Education.

Ms. Vivirito said the Agreement needs to be voted on at the March 1 meeting in order to get the Agreement, if approved, to the towns in time for their Town Meetings. She suggested adding a meeting on March 8 for any budget update, with the hope that the House 1 budget numbers would be available. The members gave a thumbs up to the addition of that meeting, which will be held virtually. The budget will be voted on at the Committee's March 15 meeting, requiring a 2/3 majority vote to pass.

At 8:45, Chair Vivirito's screen froze, and Ms. Poch took over in her stead.

At 8:49, Ms. Vivirito returned.

At 9:08, Chair Vivirito made note of the time and received agreement to continue the meeting. She also suggested continuing with the Operations Report and the DC Trip Donation, and adjourning, skipping the Subcommittee and Advisory Committee Reports. This also received agreement.

d) January Operations Report

Mr. Ross Mulkerin presented the January Operations Report showing budget progress for the year to date. Mr. Mulkerin said that the Operations Report has been shared with the Budget and Warrant Subcommittee.

e) Luther Burbank Washington Trip Donation

Mr. Mulkerin presented a donation to the Luther Burbank Middle School of \$1,000 from the Clinton Exchange Club to defray the cost of the Washington DC trip for students who have requested assistance.

MOTION

Ms. Vivirito moved to accept a donation of \$1,000 from the Clinton Exchange Club to the Luther Burbank Middle School to defray the cost of the Luther Burbank DC trip for students who have requested assistance. Second by Mr. Horesh.

Roll Call

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Amy Cohen | yes |
| Brett Collins | yes |
| Karen Devine | yes |
| Joseph Gleason | yes |
| Michael Horesh | yes |
| Maureen Mazzone | yes |
| Sharon Poch | yes |
| Shandor Simon | yes |
| Amy Vessels | yes |
| Leah Vivirito | yes |

Voted and Passed (10-0-0)

9:21 Adjourn

MOTION

Ms. Cohen moved to adjourn at 9:21 pm, second by Ms. Poch.

Roll Call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Amy Cohen | yes |
| Brett Collins | yes |
| Karen Devine | yes |
| Joseph Gleason | yes |
| Michael Horesh | yes |
| Maureen Mazzone | yes |
| Sharon Poch | yes |
| Shandor Simon | yes |
| Amy Vessels | yes |

Leah Vivirito yes

Voted and Passed (10-0-0)

Reference Documents and Presentations

Agenda

Draft Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2023

Superintendent's Report

Budget Update

FY 24 Proposed Budget Update 2-15-2023

School Safety Report

SY 23-24 District Calendar

January Operations Report

Luther Burbank Middle School Donation Letter

Summary of Key Changes to the Regional Agreement

NRSD Regional Agreement 2-15-2023

Submitted by Ann Marie Stoica

Director of Human Resources

s/Ann Marie Stoica