

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting of March 1, 2023

Meeting Location:

Emerson School – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
50 Mechanic Street, Bolton, MA 01740

**March 1, 2023**

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

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:** None

**6:30 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

**6:32 Public Comments** None

**6:33 Consent Agenda**

- a) Draft Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2023
- b) Warrants of March 3, 2023

<b>WARRANT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>4342</b>	<b>3/3/23</b>	<b>VENDOR FY 23</b>	<b>\$216,162.79</b>
<b>4343</b>	<b>3/3/23</b>	<b>AP ACH FY 23</b>	<b>\$173,874.19</b>
<b>4344</b>	<b>3/3/23</b>	<b>BENEFITS FY 23</b>	<b>\$959,131.42</b>
<b>4345</b>	<b>3/3/23</b>	<b>PAYROLL FY 23</b>	<b>\$1,515,338.75</b>

**MOTION**

Mr. Horesh made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, including the Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2023 as amended, and the Warrants of March 3, 2023. Second by Ms. Vivirito.

**Roll Call**

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

Voted and Passed (11-0-0)

**6:34 School Committee Chairperson Update** None

**6:34 Superintendent's Report**

**Announcements**

- **Mary Rowlandson Elementary School Principal Search Update**  
The third and last finalist will have a site visit to NRSD and MRE on Monday, March 6. There will be an evening Zoom event for the community on Tuesday, March 7 for which we have solicited questions from the community.
- **Mass Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Legislative Breakfast**
- **FY 23 Budget Update**  
Superintendent Downing and Manager of Business and Operations Ross Mulkerin attended a Joint Fin Comm (Finance Committee) meeting last week and a Stow Select Board meeting last night to discuss the budget. Mr. Mulkerin said the updated proposed NRSD FY24 budget is at \$64,902,630, representing a 4.3% increase over FY 23.

**Updates of Strategic Work**

**Topics**

- **Pave Your Path, Nashoba! March 17<sup>th</sup> Full Day PD**  
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Laura Friend articulated the three goals of the March full day PD day as 1) engaging the voices of Nashoba graduates; 2) providing PD that is directly connected to our Strategic Plan and Portrait of a Nashoba Graduate; and 3) to model PD that is reflective of the UDL framework through a choice in content and learning format. There will be 70 workshops, of which 32 will be presented by faculty and staff. She invited School Committee members to participate in workshops, which can be accomplished by emailing Ms. Friend.

**7:03 Student Representative Report**

Student Dan Aube reported a week at NRHS that included a successful chess tournament, and on upcoming events to include a volleyball tournament, a clothing drive to benefit Cradles to Crayons, and Mama Mia on March on March 17. Also on March 17, student volunteers will help with the full day of PD. New School Spirit merchandise is coming!

**7:06 New Business**

- a) **NRHS College Report Card Presentation (at 7:06)**  
Guidance Department Head Jodi Specht presented on college acceptances, attendance, and completion rates.
- b) **Warrants Procedures (at 7:29)**  
Discussion about the process for approving warrants. At the next meeting, the Committee will vote on having each School Committee member still Docusign the warrants, but allowing them to be processed after at least one member from each community has signed.
- c) **Budget Deliberation**  
Skipped this item as it had been covered during the Budget Update earlier in the meeting.

d) School Choice Discussion (at 7:52)

There will be a hearing and a vote at the next meeting, on March 15 on whether to open school choice for next year. NRSD pays out about \$500,000 for outgoing school choice. There are three classes of school choice students remaining at NRHS (sophomores, juniors and seniors) from when we last accepted school choice, so in three years there will be no choice money coming in. Superintendent Downing outlined the parameters for accepting school choice.

e) NRHS DECA Donation (at 8:14)

Mr. Mulkerin presented four donations to defray the expenses of DECA, as follows:

- \$3,000 donation from Clinton Savings Bank, its 13<sup>th</sup> year sponsoring the DECA program;
- \$1,500 donation from Align Credit Union, its 2<sup>nd</sup> year sponsoring the DECA program;
- \$500 donation from Eastern Bank, its 4<sup>th</sup> year sponsoring the DECA program; and
- \$500 donation from Workers Credit Union, its 2<sup>nd</sup> year sponsoring the DECA program.

**MOTION**

Mr. Horesh moved to accept donations to the DECA program in the amount of \$3,000 from Clinton Savings Bank, and \$1,500 from Align Credit Union. Second by Ms. Vivirito.

**Roll Call**

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

Voted and Passed (10-0-1)

**8:21 Unfinished Business**

Chair Vivirito recommended flipping the two items of unfinished business due to the advancing hour and because there were two citizens waiting for the Regional Agreement discussion. The Committee members approved flipping the two items.

a) NRSD Regional Agreement Vote (at 8:21)

The cover letter and draft new Regional Agreement are in the Meeting Materials. Discussion centered around the threshold vote to change the composition of the School Committee and/or changing the threshold for all amendments from all towns approving to 2/3 of towns approving.

Agreement at 9:06 to continue the meeting beyond 9:00pm.

Citizens and RAAAC members Lorraine Romasco and Brian Burke offered their insights on a discussion on conditions and timing of forensic audits.

**MOTION**

Ms. Poch moved to accept the draft Regional Agreement as amended subject to Ms. Vivirito’s consultation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s on the amendment process. Second by Ms. Cohen.

**Roll Call**

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

Voted and Passed (11-0-0)

b) SY 23-24 District Calendar Vote (at 9:31)

Human Resources Director pointed out the differences between tonight’s calendar and that proposed at the February 15 meeting (addition of closed school for voting and resulting changes in last days of school, change in PreK registration date). Mr. Simon pointed out a typo in far right top, it lists April 15 as Early Release PD, correct date is April 5.

**MOTION**

Mr. Horesh moved to approve the school year 2023-2024 as in tonight’s Meeting Materials and with typo correction. Second by Ms. Vivirito.

**Roll Call**

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

Voted and Passed (11-0-0)

**9:40 Sub Committee/Advisory Reports**

Due to the late hour, the only subcommittee or advisory committee report was that of the Audit Advisory Committee, presented by Ms. Mazzone, which had been discussed during the earlier discussion on the NRSD Regional Agreement in Unfinished Business.

**9:42 Adjourn**

**MOTION**

Ms. Vivirito moved to adjourn at 9:42 pm, second by Ms. Cohen.

**Roll Call:**

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

Voted and Passed (11-0-0)

**Reference Documents and Presentations**

Agenda

Draft Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2023

Superintendent's Report

NRHS College Report Card Presentation

FY 24 Budget Update

FY 24 Budget Update Slide Presentation

NRHS DECA Donations Letter

SY 23-24 District Calendar

January Operations Report

Cover Letter - Summary of Key Changes to the Regional Agreement (2-28-23)

NRSD Regional Agreement 2-28-2023, Audit Advisory Committee Comments

Submitted by Ann Marie Stoica, Director of Human Resources

*s/Ann Marie Stoica*

*Approved by NRSC 3/15/23*