

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Remote meeting via Zoom Technology

This meeting was held remotely, 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>

April 26, 2023

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

**ABSENT:**

**6:31 PM Open 2023-2024 School Year School Choice Hearing**

**MOTION**

Mike Horesh moved to open the 2023-2024 School Year School Choice Hearing at 6:31 PM; seconded by Leah Vivirito

**Roll Call:**

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

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

**2023-2024 School Year School Choice Hearing**

Superintendent Downing provided a powerpoint presentation on his recommendation for school choice participation for the 2023-2024 school year along with his recommendation.

The following residents spoke during the public hearing.

Kendra Dickerson, Lancaster MA

Jennifer Stewart Owen and James Owen, Bolton, MA

**7:09 PM Close 2023-2024 School Year School Choice Hearing**

**MOTION**

Joe Gleason moved to close the 2023-2024 School Year School Choice Hearing at 7:09 PM ; seconded by Mike Horesh

**Roll Call:**

Joseph Gleason	Yes
Leah Vivirito	No

Amy Vessels	Yes
Mike Horesh	Yes
Amy Cohen	Yes
Brett Collins	Yes
Maureen Mazzone	Yes
Shandor Simon	Yes
Sharon Poch	Yes
Scott Powell	Yes
Karen Devine	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (10-1-0)**

**7:11 PM Call to Order of Regular Meeting and Pledge of Allegiance**

**7:12 PM 2023-2024 School Year School Choice Discussion**

Committee members asked clarify questions/discussed class size concerns, revenue generated, teacher capacity, expense of students school choicing out, special education case loads, Superintendent Downing advised the Committee that per statue, district are in the school choice unless the withdraw by vote.

**MOTION**

Joe Gleason moved to withdraw from the School Choice Program for the 2023-2024 school year due to enrollment and class size standards as follows; DESE to be notified of this vote

- *Center School: Close school choice for all grades*
- *Mary Rowlandson Elementary: Close school choice for all grades*
- *Luther Burbank Middle School: Close school choice for 6th grade*
- *Florence Sawyer School: Close school choice for grades Kindergarten through 4th grade and 8th grade*

*And further moved to limit School Choice Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year as follows; DESE to be notified of this vote*

- *Hale School: 6th Grade (4), 7th Grade (3), 8th Grade (4)*
- *LBMS: 7th Grade (4), 8th Grade (4)*
- *FSS: 5th (4), 6th (4), 7th (4)*
- *NRHS: 9th (1), 10th (4), 11th (4), 12th (3)*

seconded by Sharon Poch

**Roll Call:**

Joseph Gleason	Yes
Leah Vivirito	Yes
Amy Vessels	Yes
Mike Horesh	Yes
Amy Cohen	Yes
Brett Collins	No
Maureen Mazzone	No
Shandor Simon	Yes
Sharon Poch	Yes
Scott Powell	Yes
Karen Devine	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (9-2-0)**

**7:43 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**7:43 PM CONSENT AGENDA**

<u>WARRANT NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
4358	4/28/23	VENDOR FY23	\$ 208,327.70
4359	4/28/23	AP ACH FY23	\$ 189,080.97
4360	4/28/23	BENEFIT FY23	\$ 9,563.00
4361	4/28/23	PAYROLL FY23	\$1,498,890.41

Draft meeting minutes of April 12, 2023

**MOTION**

Mike Horesh moved to approve the consent agenda of April 26, 2023 containing the draft meeting minutes of April 12, 2023 and the warrants of April 28, 2023; seconded by Leah Vivirito

**Roll Call:**

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

**VOTED AND PASSED. (10-0-1)**

**7:45 PM SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON UPDATE**

Chairperson Vivirito advised the committee of the upcoming town meetings, at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting subcommittee chairs are scheduled to report out on goal attainment, the joint meeting with the SBC and NRSC date has changed to May 30<sup>th</sup>. Chairperson Vivirito also advised the members that are terming off the committee, if the new Regional Agreement passes at town meeting, the new language in the agreement states members will stay on the committee until the organizational meeting, which this year is June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**7:50 PM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

**7:57 PM NRHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Hansi Kommanavancha NRHS Student Representatives to the School Committee provided an update on current events and athletics at Nashoba Regional High School.

**8:01 PM NEW BUSINESS**

**Summative Evaluation PD**

Mr. Horesh provided a presentation on Understanding the Superintendent's Summative Evaluation, reviewing the five step evaluation cycle and the timeline for completion. Ms. Vivirito reviewed the end of cycle summative evaluation report.

Ms. Cohen left the meeting at 8:10.

**Create an OPEB Advisory Committee**

Mr. Horesh advised one of the goals for the Budget and Warrant subcommittee was to form a strategy for the OPEB liability which is approx.. 54 million. Mr. Horesh stated after discussion at the subcommittee meeting the subcommittee decided it was not just a school committee decision but a town resident decision. The subcommittee is recommending to form an OPEB Advisory Committee.

**MOTION**

Mike Horesh moved to form an OPEB Management Advisory Committee comprised of the three Town Administrators or their designee, one resident from each town, a NRSD Central Office representative, and a School Committee Member to make a recommendation on OPEB on FY25 by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 ; seconded by Leah Vivirito

**Roll Call:**

Joseph Gleason	Yes
Leah Vivirito	Yes
Amy Vessels	Yes
Mike Horesh	Yes
Brett Collins	Yes
Maureen Mazzone	Yes
Shandor Simon	Yes
Sharon Poch	Yes
Scott Powell	Yes
Karen Devine	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (10-0-0)**

**8:23 PM UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Mr. Mulkerin’s Entry Plan Findings**

Mr. Mulkerin reviewed the highlights of his entry plan findings, the complete document can be found in the meeting materials.

**Ms. Friend’s Entry Plan Findings**

Ms. Friend reviewed the highlights of her entry plan findings, the complete document can be found in the meeting materials.

**9:18 PM BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS REPORT**

**Food Services Rate Review**

Mr. Mulkerin advised that even though the universal free lunch is continuing through next school year the district still has to have voted rates and is recommending the price be \$3.70, the reason for setting a rate is to ensure our rate is not going to under the reimbursement rate because if our rate is under we would be making money off the reimbursement vs. covering costs. The rate will be voted at the next meeting.

**March Results of Operations**

Mr. Mulkerin reviewed the March Results of Operations.

**9:25 PM SUBCOMMITTEE/ADVISORY REPORTS**

**Budget and Warrant Subcommittee**

Mr. Horesh reported the subcommittee meet on April 10<sup>th</sup>, discussed the OPEB recommendation made earlier, reviewed the operations reports and Mr. Mulkerin shared the new grant approval template, which is Policy DD.

**Communication Subcommittee**

Ms. Poch reported the subcommittee continues to meet with the Policy subcommittee reviewing the School Committee handbook.

**NRHS School Building Committee**

Mr. Gleason advised do to the time of the evening, we will email a report to the school committee members and it will be included in the meeting minutes.

**Personnel Subcommittee**

No additional report other than was provided earlier in the meeting.

**Policy Subcommittee**

Ms. Devine reported, as Ms. Poch stated, the subcommittee continues to meet with the Communication subcommittee reviewing the School Committee handbook.

**Advisory Reports**

**Audit Advisory**

Ms. Mazzone reported the advisory met on April 6<sup>th</sup> and will meet in May to plan the year end meeting with the Auditors.

**Diversity, Equity, Acceptance and Racial Justice Advisory (DEARJ)**

Ms. Poch reported DEARJ is growing, there is community members from all three communities, a student rep, and another teacher has joined. They are working on a presentation to the School Committee for an coming meeting.

**Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)**

No Report

**Regional Agreement Amendment Advisory Committee (RAAAC)**

No Report

**9:30 PM ITEMS FOR NEXT/FUTURE AGENDAS**

The committee reviewed the planning calendar for upcoming meeting items.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION**

Leah Vivirito moved to adjourn at 9:33 pm; seconded by Sharon Poch

**Roll Call:**

Joseph Gleason	Yes
Leah Vivirito	Yes
Amy Vessels	Yes
Mike Horesh	Yes
Brett Collins	Yes

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Maureen Mazzone	Yes
Shandor Simon	Yes
Sharon Poch	Yes
Scott Powell	Yes
Karen Devine	Yes

**VOTED AND PASSED. (10-0-0)**

**Reference Documents and Presentations**

Agenda

School Choice Hearing Presentation

School of Choice Summary Report

NRSD Historical School Attending Report

Draft Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2023

Superintendent's Update

23-24 Physician Contract

Entry Plan Findings, R. Mulkerin, Business and Operations Manager, 2022-2023-Presentation

Entry Plan Findings, R. Mulkerin, Business and Operations Manager, 2022-2023

Entry Plan Findings, Asst. Superintendent of T&L, L. Friend (2022-2023)\_Presentation

Entry Plan Findings, Asst. Superintendent of T&L, L. Friend (2022-2023)

School Lunch Rate Proposal FY24

March Results of Operations

Approved by NRSC 5/10/23

Submitted by Aleta Masterson



Executive Assistant to the  
Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent