

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Held at Emerson School, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 50 Mechanic St., Bolton MA 01740

February 1, 2023 at 6:30 pm

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT: Brett Collins

6:31 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

6:31 Public Comments None

6:31 Consent Agenda

- a) Draft Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2023
- b) Draft Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2023
- c) Warrants of January 20, 2023
- d) Warrants of February 3, 2023

Mr. Gleason proposed an amendment to the January 4, 2023 minutes in that, at 7:03, the motion was to go into executive session, not open session. Also, to add the list of Warrants under the Consent Agenda.

MOTION

Mr. Horesh made a motion to approve the items in the Consent Agenda, with the amendments/corrections proposed by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Ms. Vivirito.

Roll Call

Amy Cohen	abstain
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 (9-0-1)

6:33 School Committee Chairperson Update None

6:34 Superintendent's Report

Announcements

- School Building Project Visits
Superintendent Downing visited town select boards to discuss procedures for incurring debt, and visited the Lancaster Council on Aging with Assistant Superintendent Friend to discuss the building project.
- MRE Principal Search Update
We received fourteen applications, screening interviews are on February 9 to decide which candidates to go to the panel interviews.

Updates of Strategic Work

Topics:

- Formative Evaluation Update
Superintendent Downing presented a summary of work done to advance our strategic objectives and initiatives.
- NRSD FY24 Budget Update

Mr. Mulkerin reported that the budget decreased by \$105,861 to \$65,426,842, a 5.14% increase over FY 23. We are waiting to learn state funding numbers and our insurance, charter and school choice assessments, and the results of negotiations.

7:05 Student Representative Report None

7:05 New Business

The presentation of the NRHS Program of Studies, originally scheduled to be last in the New Business section, was moved to the beginning of New Business.

Nashoba Regional High School Principal Dr. Kate Boynton presented the Program of Studies, which is found in the Meeting Materials. The Change Memo is an executive summary of changes made. The changes are also color coded, red being removed language, blue being new language, and there is language setting forth what was changed and the rationale for the change.

- a) Superintendent Formative Evaluation PD: Part II
Personnel Subcommittee Chair Mr. Horesh presented training for the School Committee members outlining their task in completing the superintendent's formative assessment, the mid-cycle review of the superintendent's progress toward his goals. Ms. Cohen presented the goals, rubric and references to the strategic plan that are found in the evaluation formative report
- b) Superintendent Evaluation Formative Report
Ms. Vivirito reminded the School Committee members that they will rate and give feedback to the superintendent, and that the goal is the Proficient rating. Though not expected by DESE in a superintendent's first three years, she said that Superintendent Downing had

received one Exemplary rating last year, so they should not be afraid to give that rating if deserved.

Superintendent Downing gave a formative evaluation report, which due to transparency efforts, has been updated to the School Committee every two weeks. Information showing progress toward strategic goals has been ongoing, and the Committee and community will continue to be updated as the year progresses.

- c) Subcommittee Goals Check-In
Goals of the subcommittees will be discussed during the subcommittee reports later in the agenda.

- d) Hale DC Trip Donation
Hale Middle School received an anonymous donation of \$1,000 to help defray the cost of the Washington DC trip for student(s) who need the help.

MOTION

Mr. Horesh moved to accept the donation of \$1,000 for the Hale DC trip from an anonymous donor, second by Ms. Vivirito.

Roll Call

Amy Cohen	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 (10-0-0)

- e) December Operations Report
Mr. Mulkerin presented tracking as of the end of December, and the information has been reviewed by the Budget and Warrant Subcommittee.

8:40 Unfinished Business

Preschool / Extended Day Fee

Mr. Mulkerin is asking for a vote on fees presented several meetings ago, with one correction. To maintain the linear progression concern raised with the before school three-day rates, he is now proposing that the three-day before school rate be changed from

\$84.36 to \$81.03 monthly, and from \$843.69 to \$810.30 annually. This will remove the anomaly brought to light in the prior meeting.

MOTION

Mr. Horesh moved to approve the Preschool and Extended Day Learning rates, as amended. Because the amendments only apply to Extended Day rates, and not preschool, Mr. Horesh **retracted his motion**. Mr. Gleason provided insight onto the proper process for retracting an already-seconded motion, which was noted for any future similar situations.

MOTION

Mr. Horesh moved to approve the Extended Day rates as proposed on January 4 and amended this evening. Second by Ms. Vivirito.

Roll Call

Amy Cohen	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 (10-0-0)

MOTION

Mr. Horesh moved to approve the Preschool rates as presented at the January 4, 2023 meeting. Second by Ms. Vivirito.

Roll Call

Amy Cohen	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 (10-0-0)

8:47 Sub Committee/Advisory Reports

Subcommittee Reports including subcommittee goals check-in from New Business, above

- a) Budget and Warrant Mr. Horesh Reports
Subcommittee has several goals relating to accessibility and visibility of the budget setting process. Subcommittee had its second of two meetings this month, an opportunity to ask questions and debrief after budget workshop. Next meeting, in February, has not yet been scheduled.
- b) Communications Ms. Poch Reports
Goal of a School Committee Newsletter has been dropped as the Superintendent's reports cover the information. Goal of creating a resource for School Committee members is a work in progress. Subcommittee is working with personnel subcommittee on updating the School Committee Handbook.
- c) NRHS School Building Committee Mr. Gleason Reports
Meeting January 5 was a presentation on public finance by Jason Tate of the Office of Campaign and Public Finance, a very informative session. Next meeting is next Thursday.
- d) Personnel Mr. Horesh Reports
Goal is to facilitate the superintendent evaluation and goal-setting processes. Had a joint meeting with Communications subcommittee on the School Committee Handbook.
- e) Policy Ms. Devine Reports
Met January 26, goal is to review and revise policy including equity considerations.

Advisory Committee Reports

- a) Audit Advisory Ms. Mazzone, No Report
- b) Diversity, Equity, Acceptance and Racial Justice Advisory (DEAR J) Ms. Poch Reports
DEAR J has two projects as goals: additional language in the school calendar, and serving as a resource for bidding process on equity audit.
- c) Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Ms. Devine Reports
There was a workshop on January 23 on IEPs and related rights, and another is scheduled for February 15 on collaborative problem solving.
- d) Regional Agreement Amendment Advisory Committee (RAAAC) Ms. Vivirito Reports
Committee is pushing out its first reading to the next meeting, with a goal of having a draft ready for town meetings.

Mr. Gleason asked to amend his School Building Committee report to advise that the administration has set three dates for walk-throughs and tours, and he encourages people to take advantage of those opportunities. He also asked if RAAAC would provide an opportunity for public comment. Ms. Vivirito said yes, and that would come as public comment at a school committee meeting. Also, that their meetings are open to the public.

9:05 Items for Next Agenda

Agenda items for the February 15 remote meeting appear on the School Committee Planning Calendar.

9:08 Adjourn

MOTION

Ms. Cohen moved to adjourn at 9:08 pm, seconded by Ms. Poch.

Roll Call:

Amy Cohen	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 (10-0-0)

Reference Documents and Presentations

Agenda

Draft Meeting Minutes of January 4 and January 18, 2023

Superintendent's Report

NRSD Strategic Plan Updates to NRSC, 2022-2023

NRSD FY 24 Budget Update

NRSD FY 24 Proposed Budget, 2-1-23

Hale Donation Letter

December Operations Report

NRHS Program of Studies Review

Submitted by Ann Marie Stoica

Director of Human Resources

s/Ann Marie Stoica