

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session

Date: April 27, 2015

Time: 7:12 p.m.

Place: Distance Learning Lab at North Reading High School

School Committee Members Present

Clifford Bowers

Janene Imbriano (arrived at 6:43 p.m.)

Gerald Venezia

Mel Webster

Staff Members Present

Jon Bernard – Superintendent of Schools

Michael Connelly – Director of Finance and Operations

Patrick Daly – Assistant Superintendent

Visitors: Ms. Emma Hoey (Student Representative), Ms. Cynthia Conant (Director of Pupil Personnel Services, elect), Ms. Julie Koepke, Ms. Marci Bailey, Mr. Dan Tomasello (of the North Reading Transcript)

I. Executive Session

At 6:40 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mr. Webster pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing school security and safety protocols and collective bargaining, and to return to Open Session. Motion passed 3-0 on a roll call vote.

At 6:50 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mr. Bowers to return to Open Session. Motion passed 4-0.

II. Call to Order Open Session:

Chairman Venezia called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

III. A. Public Input:

No public input at this time.

III. B. Student Report:

Ms. Emma Hoey gave the student report and presented her class work.

III. D.1. Recommendation; Director of Pupil Personnel Services Candidate:

Superintendent Bernard gave a formal introduction of Ms. Cynthia Conant as the candidate he is recommending to the School Committee as the new Director of Pupil Personnel Services as of July 1, 2015. After the introduction, Committee members welcomed Ms. Conant and asked some questions prior to taking a vote. Superintendent Bernard thanked Dr. Daly and all those on the interview committee.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to appoint Cynthia Conant as Director of Pupil Personnel Services contingent on negotiating her contract with the Superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Webster addressed a recent letter to the editor of the North Reading Transcript which charged that the School Committee and Board of Selectmen were committing illegal acts with regard to administrative stipends and that the stipends paid were whitewashed or hidden. He emphasized that the opportunity to earn stipends is built into all of the administrative contracts, and that all of the contracts that the School Committee is responsible for are available for the public to review.

III. C.1. Approval: Fiscal Year 2016 Budget:

Mr. Michael Connelly presented an overview of the proposed FY16 Budget. As a result of the Finance Planning Team meeting, the finalized available funds figure is \$27,478,662 and represents a 2.7% increase over FY15, leaving \$407,564 as unidentified reductions. Mr. Webster addressed his concerns regarding the \$407,564 deficit and possible reductions in staff. The goal of the School Committee and District Administration is to have a balanced budget by Town Meeting in June. There are two more Finance Planning Team meetings prior to the Town Meeting and the possibility of additional funds from the State.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mr. Bowers that the School Committee approve and hereby adopt the FY'16 Operating Budget of \$27,478,662; this represents an increase of 2.7% or \$714,647 over the FY'15 appropriation of \$26,764,015. This budget includes \$407,564 of unidentified reductions. Motion passed 4-0.

III. C.1. MSBA/SSBC Update:

- a) E building second story now has 50% of doors hung (1st and 2nd stories); some floor prep has begun for VCT installation on the second floor.
- b) E building second story is almost completely painted (including the unfinished ceilings above the art rooms (these ceilings remain exposed) and 75% of case work is installed.
- c) Storefronts at guidance and nurses areas are in; glazing installation will follow.
- d) Exterior curtain wall, with glazing, installed on northeast side of E-F building connector, and partially on the south side (the future middle school entrance).

- e) Site work continues on west side of the high school where 75% of curbing is now installed.
- f) Building F is 75% wall boarded and taped and approximately 40% primed and/or painted.
- g) The next regular meeting of the SSBC is scheduled for April 28, 2015.

III. C.2. Policy Manual Review/Revision – Second Reading:

The second reading of Policy GBRIH – Domestic Violence Leave Policy

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve the second reading of policy GBRIH – Domestic Violence Leave Policy as written. Motion passed 4-0.

D.2. 2014-2015 School Committee Evaluation:

Members of the School Committee have returned their completed School Committee Self-Evaluations to Mr. Webster, who will compile the information to present at the School Committee Meeting on May 11, 2015. The updated timeline for the evaluation is as follows:

April 27, 2015	Collect Individual Evaluations
May 4, 2015	Compile Results for Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting
May 11, 2015	Present Results at the School Committee Meeting

III. D.3. 2015-2016 Lunch Prices:

Mr. Connelly presented a proposed increase to the school lunch prices for the 2015-2016 school year consistent with the provisions of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The increase is \$.25 from \$2.50 to \$2.75 at the Elementary Schools, and \$2.75 to \$3.00 at the Middle School. The High School will remain at \$3.00.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to approve an increase to type A lunch prices by \$.25 at the elementary and middle school level for the 2015-2016 school year. This increase will make the elementary lunch price of 2.75 and Middle School lunch price \$3.00. Motion passed 3-1, Mr. Bowers voted no.

III. D.4. School Choice Public Hearing and Vote:

Under the Education Reform Act of 1993 there is a need to hold a public hearing on School Choice annually. Becoming a Choice District means that North Reading will accept students from other cities and towns for enrollment in its schools. Once a student is accepted as a choice student, he or she is a student until graduation or the student opts to withdraw. The district receives an additional \$5,000 from the sending district's Chapter 7 funds for each student accepted.

Chairman Venezia opened the floor for the Public Hearing at 8:14 p.m. There was no input from the public, and a brief discussion by Committee members. Mr. Venezia closed the Public Hearing at 8:16 p.m.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to not participate in School Choice because the program as it presently constructed does not ensure that the needs of all of the children of the Commonwealth can be met. Motion passed 4-0.

III. E.1. Minutes:

There were no minutes to approve.

III. E.2. Budget Update:

No budget update at this time.

III. E.3. Staffing:

No staffing update at this time.

III. D.4. Bids and Donations:

No bids and donations at this time.

III. F.1. Subcommittee Reports:

Mr. Bowers gave a brief update of the April 17, 2015 Finance Planning Team meeting.

Mr. Webster gave a brief update of the April 23, 2015 NORCAM BOD meeting.

Subcommittee Schedule:

a) Athletic Subcommittee	April 28, 2015	12:30 PM
b) SSBC	April 28, 2015	5:30 PM
c) Finance Planning Team	May 1, 2015	1:00 PM
d) Evaluation Subcommittee	May 7, 2015	3:00 PM
e) Policy Subcommittee	May 18, 2015	3:00 PM
f) NORCAM BOD	May 28, 2015	7:00 PM

III. F.2. Administrative Report:

- **Chapter 70 and Net School Spending Workshop:** Superintendent Bernard and Mr. Connelly attended a workshop at Taunton High School April 27, 2015.
- **North Reading Dollars for Scholars:** Fundraiser being held on May 4, 2015 at the Horseshoe Grille in North Reading.

- **MSBA Site Visit to Little School:** Reminder of the May 5, 2015 site visit at the Little School to review the Statement of Interest for roof repairs.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week:** Mr. Bernard reminded the Committee of Teacher Appreciation Week and invited the Committee to join him on Tuesday May 5, 2015 to thank the NRPS teachers.
- **Informational Presentation; Ensuring a Safe and Supportive Learning Environment for all Students:** The presentation is May 6, 2015 and opened to the public.

III. F.3. Correspondence: None at this time.

IV. Future Business:

May 5, 2015	2:30 PM	MSBA Site Visit to Little School: SOI/Roof Restoration
May 11, 2015	7:00 PM	School Committee Meeting J. Turner Hood School Presentation
May 26, 2015	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting – Distance Learning Lab at NRHS SEPAC/PPS Presentation

V. Adjournment:

The Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. Student Representative Class Work
2. Resume: Cynthia Conant, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Candidate
3. Fiscal Year 2016 Budget
4. Policy: GBRIH – Domestic Violence Leave Policy
5. 2015-2015 Lunch Prices Memo from Mr. Connelly