

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session

Date: September 28, 2015

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Distance Learning Lab at North Reading High School

School Committee Members Present

Clifford Bowers

Julie Koepke

Janene Imbriano

Gerald Venezia

Mel Webster

Staff Members Present

Jon Bernard – Superintendent of Schools

Michael Connelly – Director of Finance and Operations

Visitors: Mr. Nicolas O’Connell (Student Representative), North Reading residents (to speak about the naming of school facilities), Mr. Dan Tomasello (of the North Reading Transcript)

I. Executive Session

At 6:32 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Mr. Bowers pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to legal matters and school safety and security protocols, and to reconvene in Open Session. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

At 7:02 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Mr. Webster to return to Open Session. Motion passed 5-0.

II. Call to Order Open Session:

Chair Janine Imbriano called the Open Session to order at 7:08 PM.

III. A. Public Input:

No public input at this time.

III. B. Student Input:

Nicolas O’Connell provided his first student report to the School Committee.

III. C.2. Public Input: Naming of School Facilities

The School Committee sought public input on the naming of a school facility pursuant to community interest expressed in honoring Mr. Charles Jones. Several community members, past students and past chaperones spoke on why they believe Main Street at the Middle/High School should be named Charles Jones Way. The process will be that the Committee will discuss the naming of Main Street or possibly another area of the school and bring that forward at the October 19, 2015 School Committee meeting for a vote.

III. C.1. MSBA/SSBC Update:

- a. Puchlist work at the campus continues.
- b. Demolition of the former high school continues and is progressing well. Completion of the demolition will likely be at or just prior to the end of October.
- c. Lower site restoration (drain lines, electrical, fields, parking). This is proceeding at a fairly slow pace currently as the former high school demolition continues (and inhibits completion of restoration of the lower site). Within a couple of weeks, the demolition of the old gymnasium area should be at a point where it can begin to be backfilled at which time the lower site restoration will pick up a bit of speed. This work will continue through the end of the calendar year, with plantings (seeding, etc.) occurring in the spring or 2016.
- d. The tennis courts have been completed and have been getting use.
- e. The next SSBC meeting is September 29, 2015.

III. C.3. 2015-2016 School Committee Goals

The School Committee held Goals Workshops on July 27th and August 24th. The School Committee reviewed the results from their 2014-2015 Self-Evaluation and further reviewed their performance on the 2014-2015 School Committee Goals. The 2015-2016 School Committee Goals were identified and ultimately adopted on September 14, 2015. Superintendent Bernard presented the Action Plan to accomplish the 2015-2016 Goals. The Committee recommended changing of a couple of the due dates and was in consensus to move forward with the Action Plan as amended.

III. C.4. Policy JGI: Physical Restraint of Students

Mr. Bowers and Mrs. Koepke, members of the Policy Subcommittee presented Policy JGI: Physical Restraint of Students, for a second reading.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve the second reading of Policy JGI: Physical Restraint of Students, to comply with State Regulations. Motion passed 5-0.

III. C.5. Fiscal Year 2017 NRPS Capital Improvements Plan Presentation

Based on the presentation made at the September 14, 2015 School Committee meeting on the Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Improvement Plan, the Committee voted on a priority list for submission to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. The items to be presented for FY17 are: Elementary Wireless Infrastructure Upgrade (\$100,000.00), Computer Replacement Plan (\$60,000.00), Utility Vehicle- Toolcat (\$65,000.00), Special Education Wheelchair Van (\$45,000.00), Hood School Paving Phase 2 (\$50,000), Multi-function Activity Bus (\$45,000.00). Keeping in mind that if the Little School Roof financing is extended over several years, funding would come out of future School District Capital Improvement Plan Project funds. The total of the FY17 Large Capital Project Priority List items is \$365,000.00.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mrs. Koepke to approve Administrative Team's priority list of Large Capital Projects for FY17. Motion passed 5-0.

III. D.1. Report: Relations with Booster and Support Organizations

The Director of Finance and Operations, Mr. Connelly made a presentation with respect to the School Committee's policy on Relations with Boosters and Support Organizations. This presentation included a list of organizations which have completed the requisite paperwork consistent with the provisions of said policy.

1. Batchelder School Parents Organization
2. Hood School Parents Association
3. E. Ethel Little School Parents Association
4. North Reading Middle School Parents Association
5. North Reading High School Parents Association
6. Friends of Hornet Productions (Middle School Music and Drama)
7. North Reading Music Boosters Inc.
8. North Reading Diamond Club
9. North Reading High School Hornet Hall of Fame

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Mr. Bowers that the North Reading School Committee recognizes the above organizations (1-9) as support groups whose mission is consistent with the North Reading Public Schools' mission and School Committee policies, and authorizes the School Administration to have a collaborative working relationship with and for the betterment of the North Reading Public Schools and its fine programs. Motion passed 5-0.

III. D.2. School Committee Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Goals

The Director of Finance and Operations made a presentation on Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Goals for the School Committee to consider.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mr. Bowers to accept the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Goals as edited and annotated tonight. Motion passed 5-0.

III. D.3. NRPS 2016: Year 5

Superintendent Bernard provided an update on the school district's strategic plan, "NRPS 2016: A Strategy for the Future", with a focus on Year 5.

III. E.1. Minutes:

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve the September 14, 2015 Open Session minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

III. E.2. Budget Update:

Mr. Connelly provided a status report of the FY16 budget.

Last spring and during the budget process the Committee discussed the substitute teacher pay rate. North Reading's substitute pay rate is one of the lowest in all the surrounding communities according to a recent survey of substitute pay rates. Due to this low pay rate (\$60 per day) it is becoming more difficult to find and retain substitute teachers. An increase of \$10.00 a day (to \$70 per day) would result in the range of a \$5,000 cost impact for the year. The rate after 20 days would remain at \$75.00 per day. The Committee discussed this and recommended that it be put on the next meeting agenda for a vote.

III. E.3. Staffing:

Superintendent Bernard informed the Committee that Dr. Daniel Downs has been hired as the new Digital Learning Coordinator. Dr. Downs will begin his work in North Reading on October 5, 2015. Dr. Downs will be formally introduced at a future meeting.

III. E.4. Bids and Donations:

Superintendent Bernard requested the acceptance of the following donation:

- Mr. Michael Callahan: \$5,120.00 for three defibrillators for the Middle School. This brings the total to 10 defibrillators donated to the District from Mr. Callahan.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mr. Bowers to accept with gratitude a \$5,120.00 donation from Mr. Michael Callahan for three defibrillators for the Middle School. Motion passed 5-0.

- Batchelder School Parent Organization: \$2,000.00 for laminating machine and supplies.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Mr. Bowers to accept with gratitude a \$2,000.00 donation from the Batchelder School Parent Organization for a laminating machine and supplies. Motion passed 5-0.

- North Reading Touchdown Club: \$441.00 for Football Jerseys.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Mr. Webster to accept with gratitude a \$441.00 donation from the North Reading Touchdown Club for football jerseys. Motion passed 5-0.

III. F.1. Subcommittee Reports:

Mrs. Koepke gave a report on the September 21, 2015 Evaluation Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Webster gave a report on the September 22, 2015 Finance Planning team meeting.

Mr. Venezia and Mr. Webster gave a report on the September 22, 2015 Athletic Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Venezia gave a report on the September 24, 2015 Athletic Subcommittee meeting.

Subcommittee Schedule:

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|--------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| a) SSBC | September 29, 2015 | 5:30 PM |
| b) Athletic Subcommittee | October 20, 2015 | 12:30 PM |
| c) NORCAM Board | October 22, 2015 | 7:00 PM |
| d) Finance Planning Team | October 23, 2015 | 8:15 AM |
| e) Policy Subcommittee | TBD | 3:00 PM |

III. F.2. Administrative Report:

- Update: Little School Roof Restoration Project/MSBA Reimbursement:
Contract negotiations have been completed with the project manager (Compass Project Management, Inc., of Medfield) and the firm to conduct the feasibility study (HAKS Engineers of Boston). Contracts were submitted to the MSBA on September 28th. School officials are working to obtain an estimated project cost for the October 5th Town Meeting. A meeting is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 1st to review the cost estimates. Preliminary work at the Little School took place early last week.
- North Reading Middle School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House:
The Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to commemorate the opening of the new North Reading Middle School will be held on Wednesday, September 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

There will be a speaking program, musical performances by students, a ceremonial ribbon cutting and opportunities for self-guided tours of the campus.

- Flagpole Donation: Thank you to Mr. Michael Prisco and family for the beautiful flagpole installed on Friday on the site of the new North Reading Middle/High School. Mr. Prisco and family also donated two new NRHS banners.

III. F.3. Correspondence:

No Correspondence at this time.

IV. Future Business:

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| September 30, 2015 | 6:30 PM | Open House/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to Commemorate the Opening of the new North Reading Middle School |
| October 5, 2015 | 6:30 PM | Regular Meeting prior to Town Meeting NRHS |
| October 19, 2015 | 7:00 PM | Regular Meeting, NRHS DLL |

V. Adjournment:

The Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mr. Venezia to adjourn at 9:40 pm. Motion passed 5-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. Student Work
2. Policy Facility Expansion Program / FDCA: Naming of Schools and School Related Facilities
3. 2015-2016 School Committee Goals and Action Plan (draft)
4. Policy Students / JGI: Physical Restraint of Students
5. Large Capital Improvement Plan Project Priority List
6. Memo from Michael Connelly dated 9-22-15 Re: Booster and Support Group Applications of Recognition
7. FY 17 School Committee Budget Goals
8. NRPS 2016: A Strategy for the Future – PowerPoint
9. Minutes: Open Session – September 14, 2015
10. FY16 Budget Report
11. Substitute Teacher Pay Rate Survey
12. Gift Acceptance Memo – Mr. Michael Callahan
13. Gift Acceptance Memo – Batchelder School Parent Organization
14. Gift Acceptance Memo – North Reading Touchdown Club