

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session

Date: February 23, 2015
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Middle School Cafeteria

School Committee Members Present

Clifford Bowers
Janene Imbriano
Gerald Venezia
Mel Webster (not present)

Staff Members Present

Jon Bernard – Superintendent of Schools
Michael Connelly – Director of Finance and Operations
Cindy Elmore – Recording Secretary

Visitors: Mr. Jenson Kaithamattam (Student Representative), Ms. Cathy O’Connell (Principal, Middle School), Students, Parents and Faculty of the Middle School, Mr. Geoff Simons, Mr. Dan Tomasello (of the North Reading Transcript)

I. Executive Session

At 6:15 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Food Service provider contract, personnel matters and collective bargaining, and to return to Open Session. Motion passed 3-0 on a roll call vote.

At 6:49 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Mr. Bowers to return to Open Session. Motion passed 3-0 on a roll call vote.

II. Call to Order Open Session:

Chairman Venezia called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

III. A. Public Input:

No public input at this time.

III. B. Student Report:

Mr. Jenson Kaithamattam gave the student report and presented his class work.

III. D.1. Middle School Presentation:

Ms. Cathy O'Connell, Principal, and members of the Middle School faculty and students gave the third school presentation to the School Committee for the 2014-2015 school year.

III. C.1. MSBA/SSBC Update:

- a) Window installation at the Middle School is substantially complete
- b) Exterior brick work is ongoing and the anticipated completion of this work is set for later this month. Work was slowed slightly due to the weather.
- c) Interior work at the Middle School will begin in full as the structure becomes weather tight in the next three-plus weeks. This includes the interior framing of walls which is ongoing. Rough electrical, plumbing and HVAC work is also ongoing behind the installation of walls.
- d) Sprinkler installation and ductwork is substantially complete at this time.
- e) The audio/visual consultant and the installer were on site at the High School on February 16th to finish the last of the commissioning of related equipment in the gymnasium. A report will be issued shortly.
- f) Work to complete the roof at the Middle School is ongoing, weather permitting. As of February 18th there were approximately four days needed to complete the effort.
- g) The next regular meeting of the SSBC is scheduled for February 24, 2015.

III. D.2. Proposal: Academic Leveling at North Reading Middle School:

Ms. Cathy O'Connell, North Reading Middle School Principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation on academic leveling changes to take place at the Middle School beginning with grade 7 students (current grade 6 students) for the 2015-2016 school year. This is one of six goals in the Middle School Improvement Plan presented by Ms. O'Connell this past June. Of the six goals, three have been implemented this school year and the other three will be implemented in 2015-2016 school year. Superintendent Bernard supports the academic leveling plan for the Middle School.

III. E.1. Minutes:

The Committee voted on a motion by Mrs. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve the Open Session minutes of February 10, 2015 as written. Motion passed 3-0.

III. E.2. Budget Update:

No budget update at this time.

III. E.3. Staffing:

No staffing updates at this time.

II. D.4. Bids and Donations:

Superintendent Bernard requested the acceptance of the following donation:

- Braga’s Landscaping donation of \$400.00 to assist with expenses for the North Reading High School boys’ basketball team.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to accept with gratitude the donation of \$400.00 from Braga’s Landscaping. Motion passed 3-0.

- J. Turner Hood School Parents Association donation of \$21,283.00 to upgrade and repair the Hood School Smart Boards.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mrs. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Bowers to accept with gratitude the donation of \$21,283.00 from the J. Turner Hood School Parents Association. Motion passed 3-0.

III. F.1. Subcommittee Reports:

There have been no subcommittee meetings since the last School Committee meeting.

Subcommittee Schedule:

a) Athletic Subcommittee	February 24, 2015	2:30 pm
b) SSBC	February 24, 2015	5:30 pm
d) NORCAM BOD	February 26, 2015	7:00 pm
e) Finance Planning Team	March 6, 2015	8:15 am
f) Policy Subcommittee	TBD	

III. F.2. Administrative Report:

- **New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Update:**
Superintendents and Principals continue to collaborate with representatives of NEASC on efforts to enhance the accreditation process and better align the standards for accreditation with state and federal mandates. Emphasis is being placed on three key items: (1) individual school’s efforts to address their own improvement priorities; (2) ways in which schools meet the standards for accreditation while preserving their individual identity; (3) demonstration that individual schools are self-reflective learning organizations. Efforts will intensify this spring and summer to continue to address the priorities as outlined, so as to achieve an accreditation process that is further authentic, that supports schools’ needs, that does not derail professional development, that assembles visiting committee members who are particularly interested in and able to contribute to the particular school’s priorities, that limits recommendations to a handful of target suggestions, that create a clearinghouse for creative solutions to schools’ challenges, and that results in an organization that can play an advocacy role for capacity-building approaches and against one-size-fits-all mandates.

- **Update on Extensions and Alternate Test Schedules for Spring 2015 Testing:** The Administrative Council will be discussing on Thursday the DESE Commissioner’s memo of February 19, 2015 regarding extensions and alternate test schedules for spring 2015 testing (MCAS and PARCC), due to the number of snow days used this year.
- **Reminder:** “The Secret Life of a Massachusetts Teen” program, sponsored by the Community Impact Team, will take place on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

III. F.3. Correspondence:

None at this time.

IV. Future Business:

March 9, 2015	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting NRHS Distance Learning Lab
March 23, 2015	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting NRHS Distance Learning Lab
April 6, 2015	7:00 PM	FY16 Public Budget Hearing, NRHS DLL

V. Adjournment:

The Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to adjourn at 8:37 pm. Motion passed 3-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. Student Representative Class Work
2. Middle School Presentation Agenda
3. Minutes: February 10, 2015 Open Session
4. Gift Acceptance Memo from Braga's Landscaping
5. Gift Acceptance Memo from J. Turner Hood School Parents Association