

**NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
North Reading, Massachusetts

**Regular Meeting of the School Committee**  
*Open Session*

Date: February 24, 2014  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Town Hall – Room 14

***School Committee Members Present***

Clifford Bowers  
Karen Errichetti  
Janene Imbriano  
Gerald Venezia  
Mel Webster

***Staff Members Present***

Kathleen Willis – Superintendent of Schools  
Michael Connelly – Director Finance and Operations  
Cindy Elmore – Recording Secretary

Visitors: Ms. Jackie Lanzaro (Student Representative), Mrs. Judy Dymant (North Reading Representative to the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School), Mr. Ted Nickole (Superintendent/Director, Northeast Metro Tech), Mr. Dan Tomasello (North Reading Transcript)

**I. Call to Order Open Session:**

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**II. A. Public Input:**

None at this time

**II. B. Student Report:**

Jackie Lanzaro provided the student report and presented her class work.

**1. C.1. MSBA/SSBC Update:**

- The last SSBC Meeting was held on February 11, 2014 beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- Construction Update: Mr. Venezia, Mr. Bowers and Mrs. Imbriano gave a brief update.
- Design Update: The High School ceiling tiles are being installed and much effort is focused on the coordination of utility installation in the auditorium.
- Invoices were approved. A report on the reimbursement from MSBA through December will be made at the next SSBC meeting.
- At 6:10 p.m. the SSBC entered into Executive Session to discuss the deployment of security devices and strategies with respect thereto and reconvened in Open Session.
- The next regular meeting of the SSBC is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2014.

**II. D.1. Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School: North Reading School Committee Representative Update:**

Mrs. Judy Dymont, North Reading Representative to the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School, and Superintendent/Director Ted Nickole attended the meeting and engaged in a discussion with the North Reading School Committee as requested through the 2013-2014 Goal for Family and Community Relations. They provided highlights from the school year to give the North Reading School Committee a better understanding of the work being done in that district. Mr. Nickole invited the Superintendent and School Committee to come to the Northeast Metro Tech for lunch and a tour, and to possibly have a joint meeting with the School Committees from all the districts that participate.

**II. D.2. 2014-2015 Half Day Kindergarten Program:**

Kindergarten registration for the 2014-2015 school year was recently held in all three schools. The elementary principals and Superintendent Willis met to review the distribution of full-day and half-day requests for next year. A comparison of the kindergarten program from this year to next year is as follows:

	2013-2014			2014-2015		
	Total Students	Full-Day	Half-Day	Total Students	Full-Day	Half-Day
<b>Batchelder School</b>	73	2 (21,21)	2 (18, 13)	56	2 (20, 20)	1 (16)
<b>Hood School</b>	46	1 (21)	1 (25)	51	2 (19, 19)	1 (13)
<b>Little School</b>	61	2 (19, 20)	1 (22)	43	1 (20)	1 (23)

During their discussion they thought about ways to be most cost effective. One solution was to consider relocating one half-day session of kindergarten from the Hood School to the Batchelder School. Since the Batchelder School is already set up for two half-day sessions and will be down one half-day session next year, it is more cost effective to move the entire half-day session from the Hood to the Batch. The Hood School would need to locate another classroom and purchase additional supplies, materials, and furniture for a third kindergarten setting since we are adding another full-day session next year based on parent requests. If the enrollment at the Little School for next year stays as is, we will reduce the

full-day program by one but we need to watch the enrollment of the half-day program and will likely need to add a second session or redistrict new enrollments to the Batchelder.

After reviewing with the School Committee it was agreed that Superintendent Willis would continue to work with the principals to refine this plan.

**II. E.1. Minutes:**

The Committee voted on a motion by Mrs. Errichetti and seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve the January 27, 2014 Open Session minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

**II. E.2. Budget Update:**

None at this time.

**II. E.3. Staffing:**

None at this time.

**II. E.4. Bids and Donations:**

North Reading School District requests that the School Committee accept the following donation:

- Middle School parents donated \$2,080 to provide financial assistance for students to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, D.C.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Errichetti to accept with gratitude the \$2,080 from various Middle School parents to help fund the cost for students to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, D.C. Motion passed 5-0.

**II. F.1. Subcommittee Reports:**

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

**Subcommittee Schedule:**

a) Policy Subcommittee	February 26, 2014	9:00 AM
b) Athletic Subcommittee	March 11, 2014	12:30 PM
c) Finance Planning Team	March 14, 2014	8:15 AM
d) Evaluation Subcommittee	TBD	

**II. F.2. Administrative Report:**

- **Update on Andover Charter School Applications:** Two new charter school applications were recently approved for the next school year. The Andover proposal known as STEAM Studio Charter School that included North Reading as a community for application did not receive approval.

- **NEASC Letter to Superintendents:** Since last spring there has been significant discussion between school districts about concerns over the NEASC process. In March 2013, a letter from several school districts was written to the NEASC expressing their concerns about the process. Some districts have taken a position on the process and many more school districts have joined in the conversation about these identified concerns. A copy of a recent letter from the President/CEO of NEASC outlining their progress to date in developing a reform agenda in response to these concerns was distributed to the Committee.

**II. F.3. Correspondence:** No correspondence at this time

**II. Future Business:**

Monday, March 10, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Town Hall
Monday, March 24, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Town Hall
Monday, April 7, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, FY15 Budget Hearing, Middle School LGR

**III. Adjournment:**

At 8:08 p.m., the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Errichetti to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.

**Documents and Exhibits:**

1. NE Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School: 2014 Winter/Spring Program of Studies – PowerPoint
2. NE Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School 2013-2014 Program of Studies – PowerPoint
3. Minutes – January 27, 2014, Open Session
4. Letter from Mr. Connelly requesting motion to accept \$2,080 gift from various Middle School Parents to help fund the cost for students to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington, D.C. trip.
5. Update on Andover Charter School Applications
6. MEASC Letter to Superintendent