

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session

Date: June 23, 2014

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: North Reading 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 of Finance and Operations

Visitors: Ms. Emma Hoey (Student Representative), Mr. Frank Carey (NRHS Baseball Coach), Senator Bruce Tarr, Representative Brad Jones, Board of Selectmen Steve O’Leary, Robert Mauceri and Jeff Yull, Principal Catherine O’Connell (Middle School), Principal Jon Bernard (NRHS), Mr. AJ Loprete (NRHS Assistant Principal), Dr. Patrick Daly (Director of Academic Services), various residents of North Reading discussing PARCC, Mr. Dan Tomasello (of the North Reading Transcript)

I. Call to Order Open Session:

Chairman Venezia called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

II. Executive Session:

At 6:05 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Dr. Errichetti and seconded by Mr. Webster pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to reconvene in Open Session. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

At 6:25 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to return to Open Session. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

III. B. Student Report:

There was no student report.

III. D.1. Joint Board of Selectmen/School Committee Appointment to the SSBC:

In accordance with 963 CMR 2.00 regarding membership on a school building committee, an interim member that possesses the MCPPO certification must be appointed due to the departure of the Town Administrator. Director of Finance and Operations Michael Connelly possesses the MCPPO certification and needed to be appointed by both the School Committee and Board of Selectmen to the SSBC until the new Town Administrator assumes his position.

The Board of Selectmen and the School Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to appoint Michael Connelly to the Secondary Schools Building Committee. Motion passed 8-0.

III. D.2. School Committee Award of Merit:

Nominated by Principal Jon Bernard, Mr. Frank Carey, the winningest High School Varsity Baseball Coach in the history of Massachusetts, was honored with an Award of Merit. A plaque to commemorate this award was presented by to Mr. Carey by Mr. Venezia. Representative Brad Jones congratulated Mr. Carey and acknowledged his success as a teacher and coach. Senator Bruce Tarr joined the meeting late and acknowledged Mr. Carey's success.

III. C.1. PARCC Presentation and Discussion:

At the June 9, 2014 School Committee meeting the School Committee listened to a presentation on the topic of PARCC by Dr. Patrick Daly and engaged in a discussion with members of the audience. All Districts need to make a decision regarding a switch from MCAS to PARCC for the 2014-2015 school year and submit that decision to DESE by June 30, 2014. Based on legal opinion from MASC and MASS, the decision is a matter of policy so the School Committee needed to take a vote on the recommendation made by the Superintendent.

As a result of the discussion with the audience, the Committee tabled taking a vote until this School Committee meeting so that more parents could attend and voice their opinions. Dr. Daly presented the School District position on PARCC and then fielded questions by the audience. The School Committee also responded to Dr. Daly's presentation and the audience's comments. After a lengthy discussion Superintendent Willis made the recommendation that the School Committee vote to accept the change from MCAS to PARCC for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mr. Bowers to have the North Reading Public Schools administer the PARCC test in the 2014-2015 school year in the 3rd and 8th grade ELA and Math, and 9th grade Algebra. Motion passed 4-1, Dr. Errichetti voted no.

III. A. Public Input:

There was no public input.

III. D.3. School Improvement Plan Presentation – Middle School and High School:

Principal O'Connell of the Middle School presented the progress made to achieve her 2013-2014 School Improvement Plan goals and presented the 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan for North Reading Middle School.

Principal Bernard of the High School presented the progress made to achieve his 2013-2014 School Improvement Plan goals and presented the 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan.

The Committee voted on a motion by Dr. Errichetti and seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve the North Reading Middle School's 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Dr. Errichetti to approve the North Reading High School's 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan. Motion passed 5-0.

III. D.4. 2014-2015 North Reading High School Student/Parent Handbook:

Principal Bernard proposed that there be a change in the Student/Parent handbook on the use of smart phones during school. After a thorough discussion with the School Committee and Dr. Daly the Committee voted to accept the change with the amendments Dr. Daly provided.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to approve the changes in the 2014-2015 NRHS Student/Parent Handbook with the amendments by Dr. Daly. Motion passed 5-0.

III. C.4. Superintendent's Evaluation:

At the last School Committee meeting, Superintendent Willis shared her Educator Evaluation Portfolio. This evaluation of performance was from February 2013 until June 2014 using the new model. Ms. Imbriano of the Evaluation Subcommittee collected the individual documents from the School Committee and created a composite of the evaluation.

Ms. Imbriano presented the compiled evaluation results. Superintendent Willis received an exemplary evaluation from the School Committee. Chairman Venezia made a recommendation to the Committee for a 2% COLA raise for the Superintendent effective July 1, 2014.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve a 2% COLA salary increase for the Superintendent beginning July 1, 2014. Motion passed 5-0.

III. C.5. New Superintendent Search:

Dr. Errichetti and Mr. Webster provided an update on the new Superintendent search. The search committee will consist of 27 members.

III. D.7. Contract Negotiations:

In the last week, collective bargaining has concluded with three unions/associations: The North Reading Federation of Paraprofessionals, the North Reading Administrators Association, and the North Reading School Secretaries Association. Superintendent Willis shared the outcomes of each tentative agreement in Executive Session. The School Committee presented and accepted the terms of the three tentative agreements. This completes all the current contract negotiations.

The Committee voted on a motion by Dr. Errichetti and seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve the tentative agreement with the North Reading Federation of Paraprofessionals. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Dr. Errichetti to approve the tentative agreement with the North Reading School Secretaries Association. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to approve the tentative agreement with the North Reading Administrators Association. Motion passed 5-0.

III. C.2. MSBA/SSBC Update:

- a) The last SSBC was June 10, 2014.
- b) Mr. Venezia, Mr. Bowers and Ms. Imbriano gave a brief update to the progress on the building project. Only 80 more days till the project end date and all is on schedule.
- c) The next regular meeting of the SSBC is scheduled for June 24, 2014.

III. C.3. Policy Manual Review/Revision – Second Reading:

The School Committee conducted the second reading of policy GAM and GAM-R on Background Checks and C.O.R.I Requirements.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to approve the second reading of Policy GAM and GAM-R Background Checks and C.O.R.I Requirements as written. Motion passed 5-0.

III. D.5. Assistant Varsity Coaching Positions:

The Athletic Subcommittee recommends that funding be approved to support the establishment of Assistant Varsity Coach positions for the girls' soccer team and the boys' soccer team. The Director of Finance and Operations provided information regarding the financial impact of these two stipends on the FY15 budget.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Webster to approve the establishment of two Assistant Varsity Coach positions for the girls' and boys' soccer team. Motion passed 5-0.

III. D.6. Nurse Substitute Rate Increase Proposal:

The North Reading Public Schools has experienced significant difficulty finding nurse substitutes when a school nurse needs to be absent. The District has tried to have one nurse cover two schools for a day but that is becoming increasingly more difficult due to the severe medical issues some of our students deal with daily. The Director of Finance and Operations conducted an analysis of surrounding districts' daily nurse substitute rates and discovered the average rate is \$126/day. The North Reading Public Schools currently pays \$75/day. As a result, it was recommended that we increase our daily rate to be in line with the market standard. A comparison report was provided to the Committee.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve a \$50.00 an hour increase in the Nurse Substitute Rate. Motion passed 5-0.

III. D.8. Annual Municipal Review of Town Owned Land:

The Committee reviewed the Town Owned Property list of parcels that are not under any jurisdiction (schools, recreation, town, etc.) and indicated no interest in any of the Town owned land.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Webster and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to leave all the town owned land as listed. Motion passed 5-0.

III. D.9. Summer Meeting Schedule:

The School Committee agreed on the following dates for the Summer School Committee Meetings and Goal Setting Workshop: July 28, 2014 and August 26, 2014 – Regular Meetings; August 6, 2014 – Goal Setting Workshop.

III. E.1. Minutes:

None at this time.

III. E.2. Budget Update:

Mr. Connelly presented a brief budget update and also made the recommendation for establishing a Performing Arts Center and Distance Learning Lab Manager for the new High School/Middle School facility with an annual stipend of \$1,500.

The Committee voted on a motion by Dr. Errichetti and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to approve the establishing of a Performing Arts Center and Distance Learning Lab Manager with an annual stipend of \$1,500. Motion passed 5-0.

III. E.3. Staffing:

None at this time.

III. E.4. Bids and Donations:

Principal Jon Bernard requested that the School Committee accept the following donation:

- Chartwell's donation of \$1,000 to provide a scholarship to a deserving High School graduate.

The Committee voted on a motion by Dr. Errichetti and seconded by Mr. Webster to approve with gratitude the donation from Chartwell's of \$1,000 to provide a scholarship to a deserving High School graduate. Motion passed 5-0.

Principal Catherine O'Connell requested that the School Committee accept the following donation:

- Middle School Parent Association donation of \$3,000 to help fund the cost of end of the year activities, especially costs associated with "Legacy Day."

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve with gratitude the donation from the Middle School Parent Association of \$3,000 to help fund the cost of end of the year activities, including costs associated with "Legacy Day". Motion passed 5-0.

III. G.1. Subcommittee Reports:

Mr. Venezia gave a brief update of the Finance Planning Team meeting that was held on June 12, 2014.

Mr. Webster gave a brief update of the Athletic Subcommittee meeting that was held on June 17, 2014.

Subcommittee Schedule:

- a) Athletic Subcommittee July 8, 2014 12:30 pm
- b) Finance Planning Team August 22, 2014 8:15 am
- b) Evaluation Subcommittee TBD
- c) Policy Subcommittee TBD

III. G.2. Administrative Report: None at this time

III. G.3. Correspondence: No correspondence at this time

IV. Future Business:

- Monday, July 28, 2014 7:00 PM Regular Meeting, Town Hall
- Monday, August 6, 2014 6:00 PM Goal Setting Workshop, Central Office Conference Room
- Monday, August 28, 2014 7:00 PM Regular Meeting, Town Hall

V. Adjournment:

At 10:15 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Bowers to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. Middle School – 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan
2. High School – 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan
3. Proposed changes to the 2014-2015 NRHS Student/Parent Handbook
4. Superintendent Evaluation
5. Policy: GAM and GAM-R on Background Checks and C.O.R.I Requirements
6. Substitute Nurse Rate Comparison by Districts
7. Listing of Land Owned by Town of North Reading
8. Job Description - Performing Arts Center and Distance Learning Lab Manager
9. Memo from Principal Bernard regarding Chartwell's donation of \$1,000
10. Memo from Principal O'Connell regarding the \$3,000 donation from the Middle School Parent Association