

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE  
NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
September 10, 2009

**Executive Session:** 6:30pm in the Library of J.F.K. Middle School – Massachusetts General Law – Open Meeting Law Chapter 39, Sec. 23B (3).

Ms. Hartry made a motion, seconded by Ms. Milne, to go into Executive Session at 6:37pm. Upon a roll call vote, the Committee went into Executive Session. The motion carried.

A motion was made, and seconded, to go into the regular session of the School Committee Meeting. The motion carried at 7:17pm.

**I. ROLL CALL:**

Ms. Pick called the meeting to order and a roll call was taken at 7:23pm, to open the regular session of the School Committee meeting. Members present were Mayor Higgins, Ms. Newman, Ms. Hartry, Mr. Zuchowski, Dr. Gladings-DiLorenzo, Ms. Minnick, Ms. Pick, Ms. Milne and Mr. Flynn. Others present were Superintendent, Dr. Rodriguez and Business Manager Ms. Susan Wright.

**Absent:** Ms. Miller, Mr. Mailloux

**II. PUBLIC SESSION:**

Jason Harder, of 144 Bridge Road spoke to the Committee about the fee associated with bus transportation in the District.

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

There were no announcements.

**IV. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

Ms. Pick moved to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2009, and the Minutes of the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Budget and Property Sub-Committee as a group.

Ms. Foote-Newman seconded the motion.

The Committee VOTED to approve the motion unanimously.

**V. REPORTS AND RCOMMENDATIONS**

**Report: Gift:**

**Vote: Acceptance of Gifts Ms. Davina Miller, M/Mrs. Zuchowski, Ms. Stephanie Pick, Ms. Teddy Milne**

Ms. Foote-Newman made a motion to accept the donation of stipends from Ms. Miller, Mr. Zuchowski, Ms. Pick and Ms. Milne.

Ms. Hartry seconded the motion.

The Committee VOTED to approve the motion unanimously. The gift was accepted with the gratitude of the School Committee.

**Report**

### **Elementary School Reporters**

The elementary school reporters were not present.

### **Report of the Northampton High School Representative**

The High School representative was not present.

### **Vote: High School Field Trip to Costa Rica**

Superintendent Rodriguez asked teachers Leslie Prudhomme and Dan Moylin to present information about their proposed environmental and conservation science trip to Costa Rica in April, 2010. It would include working with Leatherback turtles, an indigenous community in the jungle, and a side trip to work with manatees in Panama through the trip organizer, EcoTeach. The trip would be open to 20 students.

Ms.Minnick made a motion to approve the planned field trip to Costa Rica by students at Northampton High School, expressing her appreciation for the community service learning trip.

Mr. Flynn seconded the motion.

The Committee VOTED to approve the motion unanimously.

### **Report: School Improvement Plans**

**NHS School Improvement Plan:** The Committee received the written School Improvement Plan from the Northampton High School. Principal Athas thanked the custodians and administrative staff for keeping the school so well maintained. Principal Athas reviewed her written report for the Committee and answered the Committee's questions.

**Ryan Rd Elementary School Improvement Plan:** The Committee received the written School Improvement Plan from the R.K. Finn Ryan Road Elementary School. Principal Riddle reviewed her written report for the Committee and answered the Committee's questions.

### **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent reviewed her written report with the Committee.

She reported on a very successful school opening, and especially thanked the maintenance teams for making the facilities look beautiful.

She reminded members of the schools' Open Houses and invited, and encouraged all School Committee members to attend. No actions were required.

### **Business Manager Report**

Ms. Wright presented her written report to the Committee and reviewed its contents.

She presented the following contracts to the Committee for its approval:

- Alston Supply
  - Clark HVAC (joint with the City)
  - Mirick O'Connell
  - Van Pool
  - JJS Universal Construction Co. (amendment #2)

Ms.Foote-Newman moved to approve contracts as a group.

Ms.Pick seconded the motion. After discussion, the Committee VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

Ms. Wright distributed a copy of the comprehensive budget for school year 2009-1010 as it stands on this day.

Ms. Wright shared an update on bus fees for elementary school students. This year, the letters went out to parents later than they typically have in the past, which created a compressed time frame for families.

Ms. Wright presented information about the National School Lunch Program for the 2009-2010 school year.

Ms. Foote-Newman made a motion to authorize participation in the program.

Mr. Flynn seconded the motion.

The Committee VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

### **Sub-committee Reports**

There was no report from the Rules and Policy Sub-committee.

Ms. Foote-Newman referred her colleagues to the Budget & Property Subcommittee minutes in their packet.

There was no report from the Curriculum Sub-committee.

Ms. Pick presented the report of the NEW-SPIN (Now Expanding Work of Strategic Plan in Northampton) Sub-committee. They have had enthusiastic meetings and the minutes have been corrected and will be re-distributed.

### **New Business**

#### **Vote: MASC / MASS Conference Delegate**

Committee members were asked to consider becoming the Committee's delegate for the November Annual Meeting. They will take up the nomination at the next meeting.

Ms. Minnick anticipates bringing new articles of agreement with HEC to the next meeting.

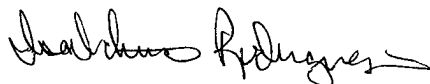
Mayor Higgins noted the sad passing of David Bourbeau, a longtime advocate for and member of the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Board of Trustees and thanked him and his family for his many years of service to the city's youth.

Ms. Pick moved to adjourn.

Ms. Minnick seconded the motion.

The Committee VOTED unanimously to adjourn at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Isabelina Rodriguez, Ed.D.  
Superintendent