

ESSEX NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

MARCH 20, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: G.R. Harvey, Essex, Chairman
M. Patterson, Department of Agriculture, Vice Chairman
L. Bonfanti, Peabody, Secretary
L. Siewko-Story, Department of Agriculture (Arrived 7:20 p.m.)
D. Blake, Beverly
R. Fravel, Danvers
M. Teixeira, Gloucester
D. Ketcham, Hamilton
P. Anderson, Lynnfield
J. Sabella, Manchester
M. Sweeney, Marblehead
E. Weitzler, Middleton
B. Perkins, Rockport
T. St. Pierre, Salem
W. Jackson, Swampscott
C. Robinson, Topsfield
W. Nichols, Wenham

MEMBERS ABSENT: Boxford
Department of Agriculture
Nahant

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. O'Connell, Superintendent-Director
M. Znamierowski, Business Manager
C. Worth, District Treasurer
K. Nigro, PMA Consultants
C. Levesque, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. It was noted that a quorum was present.

2. Tentative Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2014 for Approval

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. Anderson and VOTED to approve the Tentative Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2014 as presented. Abstentions: Ms. Teixeira and Mr. Sabella

3. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. Worth, Treasurer, reviewed the February 28, 2014 Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss. There were no comments or questions from members of the School Committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney and VOTED unanimously to approve the Balance Sheet of February 28, 2014 and place on file for audit.

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney and VOTED unanimously to approve the February 2014 Profit and Loss and place on file for audit.

4. Communications

All communications included in the packet were read and accepted.

5. Owner's Project Manager Report – Mr. Kevin Nigro

Request to Award (RTA)

A motion as made by Mr. St. Pierre and seconded by Ms. Teixeira and VOTED unanimously to approve awarding the following construction packages as recommended by the School Building Committee:

RTE 62 Traffic Signal Installation	\$241,429.00
Academy Signage	137,278.00 (not to exceed)
Team Room	483,343.00
Dental Equipment	69,751.00
Xray Equipment	13,508.00

Authorizations to Proceed (ATP's)

A motion was made by Mr. St. Pierre and seconded by Ms. Teixeira and VOTED unanimously to approve the Out of Scope ATP #334 in the amount of \$7,615.00 for Nora Flooring as recommended by the School Building Committee.

Gilbane Co. Requisitions - #22

A motion was made by Mr. St. Pierre and seconded by Ms. Teixeira and VOTED unanimously to approve Gilbane Co. Requisition #22 not to exceed the amount of \$4,953.239.00, as recommended by the School Building Committee.

Invoices

A motion was made by Mr. St. Pierre and seconded by Ms. Teixeira and VOTED unanimously to approve DesignPartnership of Cambridge Invoice #1008847 in the amount of \$103,879.00, as recommended by the School Building Committee.

Contract Amendment

A motion was made by Mr. St. Pierre and seconded by Ms. Teixeira and VOTED unanimously to approve Contract Amendment #5 for the following as recommended by the School Building Committee:

CDW - Increase to \$52,570.00
RJKenney Construction – Increase to \$52,240.00
Foundation Redesigns - #13,200.00
Team Room & Conditioning - \$6,400.00

Mr. Nigro reviewed the Progress Schedule Report and stated that currently there are over 170 workers on site. Mr. Nigro continues to document the progress being made.

Mr. Nigro encouraged members to schedule a tour of the building, which usually take place Monday to Thursday starting at 3:00 p.m. Please email Mr. Nigro if you are interested in attending a tour.

Members that have taken a tour expressed how impressed they were with the building.

Mr. Nigro recently had his car repaired by Collision Repair and complimented the teachers and students for the excellent job they performed. Mr. Nigro added that the school should be extremely proud of their teachers and students.

6. Superintendent-Director's Report – Mr. O'Connell

Merger Transition Plan Update

Mr. O'Connell reported that administrators continue to work on the items and update the status as progress is made. Mr. O'Connell reminded members that the Plan is reviewed and updated by administrators at their weekly Principal meeting.

Negotiations Update

Mr. O'Connell reported that the bus drivers have petitioned with DLR to negotiate with AFSCME to unionize. On behalf of the district, legal counsel filed a petition with the Department of Labor and an election for teachers, guidance counselors, librarians, etc will be held in May.

Healthcare Update

Mr. O'Connell reported that an amendment to the Legislation will be written to table the Health Insurance for one year. Employees of both districts can keep the insurance they currently are enrolled in and new employees will be added to the Massachusetts Bay Health Trust.

Mr. O'Connell and Mrs. Znamierowski received two proposals from MIIA that were very similar to the Massachusetts Bay Health Trust and GIC's proposals.

Mr. O'Connell recommends that the Committee appoint an Ad Hoc Healthcare Committee and a consultant to assist this Ad Hoc Committee through this process.

Mr. St. Pierre asked what healthcare provider would be available to the teachers currently employed by Peabody. After discussion, Mr. O'Connell will address this issue with the consultant.

501(c)(3) Update

"Save the Date" Monday, July 21st for the Golf Tournament at Ferncroft Country Club in Middleton. Mr. O'Connell reported that the golf tournament will be at Ferncroft as the Foundation has signed a three-year contract them. Mr. O'Connell stated that he is working on a partnership for the school's golf team with Ferncroft.

Sports Complex Update

Mr. O'Connell reported that an amendment to the Legislation to extend the land lease to 25 years was passed in the House Ways & Means and will be forwarded to the Senate.

North Shore and Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce Presentations

Mr. O'Connell reported that he felt his presentation on the new district was well received at the North Shore Chamber of Commerce Executive Breakfast Meeting on March 5th. He had numerous discussions with business leaders interested in partnerships with the new school.

Mr. O'Connell reported that he presented an update regarding the new district at the second annual "Focus on Education" Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce Caucus on March 7th at Gorton's in Gloucester.

Admissions Update

Mr. O'Connell reported that "Conditionally Accepted" letters were mailed to quality 10th, 11th applicants.

7. Old Business

Mr. Harvey asked Ms. Teixeira to report on the conference she recently attended. Ms. Teixeira stated that Mayor Kirk invited her to attend a U.S. Conference of Mayors partnering with The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to host a "Mayors in Education" on March 13 & 14 in Washington, D.C. It was an event to promote Common Core and how it relates to PARCC test. Mr. Gates message is to promote and raise the Common Core standards. Ms. Teixeira stated that she found this an opportune time to network with other school districts.

8. Sub-Committee Reports

Finance & Property Sub-Committee

Mr. O'Connell reviewed the FY15 Budget and answered questions that members had regarding certain line items.

Ms. Teixeira asked for clarification on certain line items in the budget to which Mr. O’Connell answered. Mr. Nichols questioned the Superintendent’s salary that was reflected in the budget. Mr. O’Connell replied the salary is what he currently earns.

Mrs. Weitzler expressed concern that the students could be at a disadvantage if their families are not willing to assume the expense or cannot for the 1:1 iPad initiative. Mr. O’Connell assured her that the district would always find a way to make it work for students and their families.

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney to accept FY15 Budget in the amount of \$28,500.00.

Mr. O’Connell stated that he feels confident that the FY15 budget could be lower than 28.5 million.

Ms. Teixeira asked if the Committee would have an opportunity to revisit the budget. Mr. O’Connell stated that the assessments would be adjusted as the budget process continues.

Ms. Teixeira stated that she could not support the FY15 budget without Ch. 70 Aid figures. Mr. O’Connell replied that the district does not have those figures yet. Mr. O’Connell stated the history of meetings and issues with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Mr. O’Connell encouraged members to contact their State Representative or Senator to inform this of Ch. 70 Aid error and ask for their support for this situation.

Mr. O’Connell expressed his frustration with the Ch. 70 rate set by the State and errors reported by the DESE for student enrollment that have created this situation.

Members asked why the Committee is approving a FY15 budget total at \$28,500,000.00 if Mr. O’Connell is confident that it will be lower. Mr. O’Connell stated that he and Mrs. Znamierowski, Business Manager, are comfortable with a FY15 budget of \$28,038,701.00, the amount reflected in the budget presented tonight.

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney to withdraw their previous motion to accept the FY15 Budget in the amount of \$28,500.00.

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Sabella to approve the FY15 budget in the amount of \$28,038,701.00 to be taken by Roll Call vote.

Ms. Teixeira stated that the Committee is doing the right thing to move forward but she could not support the motion as it would severely impact the Gloucester budget assessment. Based on these circumstances, which are beyond the Committee’s control, she encouraged members to contact their elected officials.

Mr. Bonfanti echoes Ms. Teixeira’s sentiments and cannot support the motion.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the FY15 budget in the amount of \$28,038,701.00.

YES – Dr. Story, Mr. Blake, Mr. Fravel, Mr. Ketcham, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Sabella, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Weitzler, Mr. Perkins, Mr. St. Pierre, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Nichols, Dr. Patterson, Mr. Harvey
NO – Ms. Teixeira, Mr. Bonfanti

YES – 15 WEIGHTED – 24
NO – 2 WEIGHTED – 6 Motion Carries

Mr. O'Connell referred to the School Financing Plans 1, 2 and 5 that were distributed and asked members to please consult with their Town/City Administrators which Plan they prefer. A vote will be taken at the April 17th School Committee meeting. Mrs. Znamierowski will issue a cover letter to Finance Director's and include the Financing Plans and ask them to email the Committee members their preference.

There was no meeting of the **District Policy Sub-Committee**. Dr. Patterson reported that MASC has delivered the draft Policy Manual, which was generated by MASC. Dr. Patterson will put a preliminary process in place before the Sub-Committee reviews in April.

There was no meeting or report by the **Personnel Policy Sub-Committee**

9. Warrant

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Teixeira and VOTED unanimously to accept the warrant of March 20, 2014 and place it on file for audit.

10. Adjourn

A Motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Weitzler and VOTED unanimously to adjourn.

Mr. Harvey, Chairman, declared the meeting adjourned.

The Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School Committee adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

Meeting handouts: Tentative Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2014
School Financing Plan 1, 2 and 5

All reference documents and reports are filed in the Superintendent-Director's office.