



NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Ashby – Pepperell – Townsend, Massachusetts

MEETING MINUTES – July 29, 2026
Virtual via Zoom

PRESENT

Lisa Martin	Member, At-Large
Kym Craven	Member, Townsend ~ Absent
Qenan Francois	Member, Townsend ~ Absent
Jacqueline (Jackie) White	Member, Pepperell
Michael LaBossiere	Member, Pepperell
Alexander (Alex)	Bankuti Member, Pepperell
Chris Sloan	Member, At-Large
Lisa Bloom	Member, At-Large
Carla Lima	Member, Ashby ~ Absent

NMRSD STAFF

Brad Morgan	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Gary Burboa-Reese	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Kevin Cormier	Business Manager
Jeremy Hamond	Director of Operations ~ Absent
Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary
Erin Upton	Director of Special Education Services

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Lisa Martin called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m., and it was announced that the meeting was being recorded. It was noted for the record that Jackie White was participating by telephone.

Roll Call:			
Lisa Martin	Yes	Chris Sloan	Yes
Kym Craven	-	Alexander Bankuti	Yes
Qenan Francois	-	Lisa Bloom	Yes
Jackie White	Yes	Carla Lima	-
Michael LaBossiere	Yes		

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

1. Robin Eibye reported that no public comments had been received.

OUR MISSION: At NM, we are committed to creating a diverse learning environment where students are provided a meaningful education through academic, social, and emotional learning experiences. Together with parents, caregivers, and the community, students are encouraged to ignite and embrace their individual potential to find success within NM and beyond.

NEW BUSINESS/GENERAL DISCUSSION – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

1. JKAA Time-Out, Seclusion, and Restraint of Students

Chair Lisa Martin introduced Policy JKAA: Time-Out, Seclusion, and Restraint of Students, noting that the policy had previously been reviewed in February without adoption of changes at that time, and that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) had since issued updated model language. Erin Upton and Dr. Gary Burboa-Reese worked with the district's special education attorneys, who recommended the revisions presented to the Committee.

Erin Upton reported that state law regarding time-out, seclusion, and restraint has been updated for both public and private school settings, and that the draft policy reflects changes from the previously adopted version. She noted that the MASC version is more procedural in nature, whereas counsel's recommended version is drafted at the policy level, with procedures to be maintained at the district level and revised as needed to align with policy changes.

Chair Martin noted that the policy was being brought forward for adoption without a first reading due to the need to have it in place before the start of the school year, consistent with an August 17 regulatory deadline referenced by counsel and MASC.

- Motion made by Michael LaBossiere to adopt Policy JKAA: Time-Out, Seclusion, and Restraint of Students, as amended by NMRSD's legal counsel.

Seconded by Alexander Bankuti.

Members noted that the proposed policy aligns with updated DESE regulations and state law, that the level of detail is appropriate for policy-level language with procedures maintained by administration, and that adoption is time-sensitive to ensure compliance before the upcoming school year.

Roll Call Vote:

1. Michael LaBossiere – Yes
2. Chris Sloan – Yes
3. Alexander Bankuti – Yes
4. Lisa Bloom – Yes
5. Jackie White – Yes
6. Lisa Martin – Yes

Outcome: The motion unanimously passed, 6-0

Chair Martin thanked Dr. Burboa-Reese and Erin Upton for their work on the policy.

OLD BUSINESS – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

1. NMRHS Fitness Court – G. Burboa-Reese

Dr. Burboa-Reese provided an update on the fitness court project, reporting that representatives of the Town of Townsend and district administration had met following the prior School Committee meeting to discuss the project and review a draft agreement with district legal counsel. He stated that the draft agreement identifies the School Committee's acceptance of a fitness court and related equipment as a gift from the Town of Townsend, and provides for community use of the fitness court and fitness studio by Townsend, Pepperell, and Ashby residents outside school hours.

Dr. Burboa-Reese noted that the agreement had been shared with the Town, which appeared receptive pending a formal vote by the Townsend Board of Selectmen, and that the Recreation Department, which secured the grant and the fitness court, had already given initial approval. He explained that three separate votes would be needed: acceptance of the gift, entry into a memorandum of agreement (MOA), and authorization for the Chair to sign the MOA. No substantive questions were raised prior to the motions.

- **Motion made by Michael LaBossiere** that, pursuant to General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37A, the School Committee accept a gift by the Town of Townsend for an educational purpose consisting of fitness equipment, on the condition that the equipment be available for use by Townsend, Pepperell, and Ashby residents outside school hours.

Seconded by Lisa Bloom.

Roll Call Vote:

1. Michael LaBossiere – Yes
2. Chris Sloan – Yes
3. Alexander Bankuti – Yes
4. Lisa Bloom – Yes
5. Jackie White – No
6. Lisa Martin – Yes

Outcome: The motion passed, 5-1

- **Motion made by Michael LaBossiere** that the School Committee enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Town of Townsend regarding the Town's gift of fitness equipment and the School Committee's acceptance of the gift.

Seconded by Chris Sloan.

Roll Call Vote:

1. Michael LaBossiere – Yes
2. Chris Sloan – Yes
3. Alexander Bankuti – Yes

4. Lisa Bloom – Yes
5. Jackie White – No
6. Lisa Martin – Yes

Outcome: The motion passed, 5-1

- **Motion made by Michael LaBossiere** that the Chair is authorized to execute the memorandum of agreement with the Town of Townsend on behalf of the School Committee.

Seconded by Chris Sloan.

Roll Call Vote:

1. Michael LaBossiere – Yes
2. Chris Sloan – Yes
3. Alexander Bankuti – Yes
4. Lisa Bloom – Yes
5. Jackie White – No
6. Lisa Martin – Yes

Outcome: The motion passed, 5-1

Michael LaBossiere commended the progress made from initial concept through negotiation and preparation of the draft MOA. Chair Martin thanked Dr. Burboa-Reese for coordinating the project.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion made by Michael LaBossiere** to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Lisa Bloom.

Roll Call Vote:

7. Michael LaBossiere – Yes
8. Chris Sloan – Yes
9. Alexander Bankuti – Yes
10. Lisa Bloom – Yes
11. Jackie White – Yes
12. Lisa Martin – Yes

Outcome: The motion unanimously passed, 6-0

Adjournment Time was 5:19 PM.

Documents Reviewed / Referred To:

- 2026 07-29 Agenda
- Policy JKAA

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Eibye, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: August 11, 2026
