



Northbridge Public Schools Northbridge School Committee

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Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org, Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,
Michael Clements, Kate Tracy, Randi Zanca

**Northbridge Public Schools
School Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 26th, 2016 7:00 PM
Northbridge High School Media Center**

I. Call to Order (7:00)

II. Attendance

Michael Clements	Present
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Joseph Strazzulla	Present
Kate Tracy	Present
Randi Zanca	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Catherine Stickney and Business Manager Melissa Walker.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording

V. Statement of Mission

VI. Recognition

Northbridge Rams Football Division V Super Bowl Champions

Catherine Stickney, Michael Gauthier, and the School Committee recognized Kenneth LaChapelle for his outstanding year as Coach on the Northbridge High School Varsity Football team. The Rams were named Division 5 Super Bowl Champions

VII. Public Comment-

None.

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VIII. Superintendent's Report

Catherine Stickney stated that she is pleased to kick off 2016 with news from the MSBA. Cathy has been invited to the Board meeting tomorrow where she anticipates that Northbridge will be named on the list of districts to expect an invitation to begin work on a building feasibility study. The Middle School and NES have been encouraged to complete a Statement of Interest as we do every year. However, Balmer was notably not included. We are eager to learn more about the process and expectations moving forward.

The staff was very pleased to host the School Committee members as they toured all four schools on January 13th. Members were able to see what goes on during the school day, as well as the conditions of the facilities.

On Friday, January 15th, staff members participated in professional development activities. We had a presentation from Samaritans regarding support and assistance for working with students who are depressed and may be suicidal. We also reviewed our enhanced safety training protocols with School Resource Officer DeJordy. Additionally, staff members learned about the revised state requirements concerning student discipline and restraint.

The FY17 draft budget has been shared with the Budget Subcommittee. This initial draft reflects a 5% increase, which is consistent with neighboring towns. The Governor's budget will be released tomorrow, and we are very concerned about the impact of costs that are beyond our control. We will continue to work at bringing forth a Superintendent's budget that is reasonable, transparent, and fair for our students.

We are pleased to announce that Northbridge has been selected to receive a Financial Education Innovation Fund award. This award of \$5000 will assist us in hosting a financial literacy fair that will run in conjunction with the Celebration of Learning on March 9th.

Please plan to support the Drama Club production of Footloose on Feb. 5th and 6th at NHS. We also want to ask families to save the date of Feb. 27th. The MS Athletic Boosters will host an evening of entertainment and raffles at the Uxbridge Progressive Club. Proceeds will go to fund MS spring sports. Please visit the NMS Athletic Booster Club Facebook page for more information.

Spring is on its way. Thursday marks the 90th day of school - officially marking the halfway point of the school year. Keep up the good work, everyone!

IX. Consent agenda

- a. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes from 6:15PM on January 12, 2016
- b. Warrant 36-28s 1/7/2016 \$189,398.51

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Michael Clements. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 4-0.

X. Discussions:

- a. Trip Request by NHS Student Council to State Conference 3/9-3/11/16

Carol Lourie requested the approval of the School Committee for an overnight field trip for the NHS Student Council Members. The trip is for the Student Council State Conference. It will take place on March 9-11, 2016 and they will be traveling to Hyannis, MA.

- b. Superintendent's Formative Evaluation

Catherine Stickney shared the Superintendent's Formative Evaluation. Catherine shared that Significant Progress has been made in the following areas: Student Learning Goal, Professional Practice, and School Improvement.

- c. Naming of NES

The School Committee discussed whether or not to form an Ad-Hoc Committee prior to the results from the MSBA. Catherine Stickney stated that we have received the required 150 signatures. This will be an item on the next agenda.

- d. Review of School Tours from January 13, 2016

The School Committee shared informal feedback regarding the buildings. The School Committee commented on programming, facilities, and positive and negative feedback.

e. Review of Budget Subcommittee Meeting from January 25, 2016

Melissa Walker stated that last night the budget subcommittee met with the Principals, Directors, and site based budget managers to review the initial draft budget for FY17. Site managers reviewed their budget binders and answered questions from the committee. The initial draft compilation of each sites budget binders reflects a 5% or 1.2 million dollar budget increase for FY17. The two largest categories that accounted for this increase are salaries and out of district tuition and transportation. In addition to contract obligations, the increase in salaries is partly due to fully funding positions next year that were pro-rated or filled by a substitute this year. We have some staff currently out on unpaid leaves of absence and we are filling their position with a substitute, but we are planning on their return for the upcoming year and therefore have to budget their full salary. We also have some positions that were not filled for the entire year this year – for example, if an employee resigned and we had to hire a replacement, that replacement may not have been in place until a month or so after the resignation, so we would not have technically paid a salary for this full year, but we have to budget a full salary for next year. Although salaries are currently projected to increase by nearly \$700,000 over \$245,000 of that figure is due to making pro-rated positions full time and accounting for staff on leaves of absence returning.

The second largest increase is projected to be OOD tuition and transportation. This line is projected to go up over 18%, or approximately \$540,000. This increase is due to both the increase in the cost of tuition, and an increase of 5 out of district students. We do have three students that we have paid tuition for this year that have either moved or are slated to return to the District for next year, which helps offset the increase, but the added tuition and associated transportation cost is still substantial.

We are expecting the release of the Governor's budget tomorrow and will then get a better picture of revenue and how we move forward.

f. Charter Cap

Joseph Strazzulla discussed the Charter Cap. The Town of Oxford voted to take the position to oppose any lifting of a Charter School Cap. This idea was brought forth by the Governor. They voted to indicate they are representing the majority of their constituents stating that they were opposed to lifting the cap. This will be an action item on the next agenda.

XI. School Committee Individual Comments

Michael Clements- Wanted to thank the Administrators and all of the schools for hosting the School Committee. It was a great day and interesting to see. They were very helpful and glad to have us there.

Randi Zanca- Hopes to have an article together soon.

Connor Nowlan- The Student Advocate Committee has been discussing school start times. They have put together a survey and hope to have results soon. They would like to present these results to the Committee once compiled.

Catherine Stickney stated that next time around when Connor presents the Student Representative report that he should include an update on who serves on the committee, what your function is at the High School, and a little overview.

Joseph Strazzulla- Wanted to Thank A Better Northbridge for the bike rack donation. Keep an eye on tomorrow and what happens with the budget. Preliminary reports are interesting but it will really depend on how well we can involve the town and the district about what the budget really is what the process is.

XII. Adjournment

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm. The motion was seconded Michael Clements. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded

Michael Clements	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 4-0.