



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 Wednesday, March 28, 2017 6:15 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

I. Call to Order (6:15)

II. Attendance

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

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

III. Reconvene in Open Session (7:00)

IV. Attendance

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

Also in attendance were Superintendent Catherine Stickney, Business Manager Melissa Walker and Student Representative Connor Nowlan.

V. Pledge of Allegiance

VI. Statement of Audio and Video Recording

VII. Statement of Mission

It is the policy of the Northbridge Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or homelessness in its educational programs, services, activities, or employment.

VIII. Recognition

Catherine Stickney and Amy McKinstry recognized the 2017 Abigail Adams Scholars. Thirty-six seniors received this recognition.

IX. Presentation

Carissa Letendre, a participant in the Blackstone Valley Youth Leadership Academy, presented a project that she is working on. Carissa shared with us her goal to have wheelchair accessible swings put in at both of the elementary schools.

Representative Muradian, Senator Moore, and Senator Fattman spoke to the committee in regards to the FY18 State Budget.

X. Public Comment

Jill Redding- NTA President, spoke to the committee in regards to the FY18 school budget. Jill shared concerns of the teachers regarding the budget and positions.

XI. Superintendent's Report

It has been a very busy time as spring has arrived!

Our students are working diligently to enter into the final stretch this year. Students began working on sample tests for MCAS online this week. Today we practiced having our two largest classes - all fourth graders and all eighth graders online testing simultaneously. The technology staff all pitched in to be sure that devices were ready and protocols were followed. Despite being a practice session, the students took this very seriously. Thank you to all administrators and staff members for such solid preparation for this event. Grade 10 students completed their ELA testing last week. This testing is not yet available online.

We have had very successful student trips for DECA, NASA, and Student Council groups. Academically and in the community, our students continue to be recognized for their achievements.

Our Character Assemblies and School-wide celebrations at NES and Balmer this week gave us a chance to celebrate students as they demonstrate core values and social growth, as included in our strategic plan. As we strive for academic excellence, we want to support our students as growing members of our community.

Next week, we will welcome 10 students from China. They will be staying with families in the community and shadowing students for the week. They will be accompanied by a teacher, who is also very eager to learn more about the American school systems.

We have many upcoming spring events - the MS Band Concert, the MS Chorus Concert, the HS Spring Concert, and the Evening of the Arts. Spring sports practices are underway.

We are beginning our transition planning for the 2017-2018 school year. Dates are being arranged for grade 8 visits to the high school to learn more about the Career Academies. I will also be coordinating Superintendent Coffees with each principal so we can tour buildings and answer questions for parents of students who may be advancing to a new building next year.

Springtime is exciting and filled with many distractions. However, we have two and a half months left, and we are committed to continuing to focus on teaching and learning.

I. Consent Agenda

a. Warrant 37-38s 03/16/17 \$212,857.45

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

Michael Clements

Absent

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

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

II. Action items

a. Line Item Transfers

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to approve the line transfer of \$21,000.00 from the Heat, All Buildings line item into the Negotiations- Legal Services line item and a transfer of \$23,000.00 from the Heat, All buildings line item into the Special Education Attorney line item. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

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

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0

b. FY18 Budget

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to approve the FY18 level service budget in the amount of \$27,152,325.00. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

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

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to withdraw Article 4 from the town warrant and to not pursue an override of any kind this year. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca.

The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements Absent

Mike LeBrasseur Yes

Joseph Strazzulla Absent

Kate Tracy Yes

Randi Zanca Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0

III. Discussion:

a. School Committee Self-Evaluation

Michael LeBrasseur stated that he included the template for the self-evaluation in the packet.

Mike asked the committee if they would like to continue doing the self-evaluation and if so, in the same format? The committee will vote on April 11th.

IV. School Committee Individual Comments

Michael LeBrasseur- Thank you again to the Legislatures, the Board of Selectman, and Town Manager. We had good conversation with them, and they were supportive. Good luck tomorrow at the Finance Committee, and we thank them for their support as well.

V. Adjournment 8:35

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to adjourn the meeting to meet in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21 (a) for the following purposes:

a. Regarding Grievance Hearing with AFL-CIO, STATE COUNCIL 93, LOCAL 1709, Unit C- Custodial, Not to reconvene in Open Session

b. Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, specifically to deliberate and determine a response to the NTA Jones grievance.

The motion was seconded Randi Zanca. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
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Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
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Joseph Strazzulla	Absent
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Kate Tracy	Yes
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Randi Zanca	Yes
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3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.