



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

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Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, [mlebrasseur@nps.org](mailto:mlebrasseur@nps.org), Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,  
Michael Clements, Kate Tracy, Randi Zanca

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### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 12th, 2016 7:00 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (7:00)
- II. Attendance
  - Michael Clements Present
  - Mike LeBrasseur Present
  - Joseph Strazzulla Present
  - Kate Tracy Present
  - Randi Zanca Present
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. Recognition and Update- NASA ICED Students

Catherine Stickney recognized the Mr. Gorman and group of gentlemen from NHS. The School Committee had recently approved a trip for these students to go to NASA in Langley, VA. Since that meeting NASA lost its funding for the trip. These students were able to fundraise the money needed and will be able to attend. They also explained some of the research that they will be sharing with NASA.

## VII. Student Representative's Report

Connor recognized a student at Northbridge High School who graduated last Thursday. Michael DeFazio graduated early to serve his country as he leaves to join the US Navy. Michael is an exceptional young man, and we at NHS are proud of him

It has been a very busy past month at NHS. There have been many educational field trips. AP Biology went to MIT to tour the labs, and there was another field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts. On Wednesday, March 30th, some of music students visited the State House and sang the Armenian National Anthem to the Armenian President in front of the Statehouse, and got to witness the front doors opening, a once in a lifetime experience. DECA will be traveling to Nashville for National competitions soon, and the NASA students have their field trip coming up.

The first round of MCAS testing has a 100% attendance rate.

On Friday, April 1st, we sent our Student Representative to Student Government day at the Statehouse. They participated in mock sessions of Senate and House of Representatives and voted on two bills.

Last Tuesday, the Student Advisory Committee had a meeting and one of the topics on the agenda was School Committee rep for next year. The committee voted, and I will continue to be the Student Representative for the School Committee for the 2016-2017 year.

On Last Wednesday, term 3 ended, and report cards came out today. Seniors will be getting increasingly anxious about graduating, and students will work hard to keep their grades up as we enter the final quarter.

This past weekend was the Northbridge Junior-Senior prom at the DCU center. The senior class and their advisors did an excellent job setting up and the event was fun and well run.

This Saturday, April 16th, my class, the Class of 2017 will be hosting a car wash at Advanced Auto Parts, please come out and support our class and get your car washed on what is looking to be a good day.

Spring sports have begun their season.

Scheduling for the 2016-2017 school year is progressing towards completion

AP Testing will be coming the first week of May.

All in all, it's an extremely busy time in NHS.

#### VIII. Public Comment

Senator Ryan Fattman discussed the committee regarding the budget, the challenges they are facing, the opioid bill, and the Charter School Cap.

Steve Falconer addressed the committee regarding the fees for sports, the fee cap, and overall participation decrease.

Heather Elster addressed the committee regarding the extended day care program and the recommendation the Superintendent was going to make to the committee.

#### IX. Consent agenda

##### a. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes from 4:00PM on April 1, 2016

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

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

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0.

#### X. Presentation:

Michael LeBrasseur discussed the School Committee Self-Evaluation. Michael stated that they have been conducting this survey since 2012. Michael stated that, in general, we have seen a

steady improvement over the years. There were two areas of concern that were raised from the evaluation. The PR plan which is something we have been challenged with for a few years and continue to work on and being prepared and ready to make decisions at meeting.

I. Discussions:

a. MSBA

Michael LeBrasseur stated on March 30<sup>th</sup>, he attended the Board meeting of the Massachusetts School Building Authority along with the Superintendent, Business Manager, Town Manager, and the Chief of the Fire Dept. At this meeting, Northbridge was invited into the Eligibility Phase. This is the start of the process in completing the feasibility study for Balmer School.

b. Middle School Principal Search Process

Catherine Stickney stated that the MS Principal position has been posted. Catherine shared a timeline for the hiring process. Catherine stated that we are also looking for individuals to be a part of the search committee and shared a recommended search committee configuration.

c. School Choice 2016-2017

Catherine Stickney requested that the School Committee approve to accept School Choice students for the 2016-2017 school year. The district is currently accepting School Choice at every grade except for 2 and 4. Catherine also informed the committee that grade 8 will also be closed for the remainder of the year.

d. Extended Care programming

Catherine Stickney shared a letter with the committee recommending that the School Committee approve Springboard as the extended care provider for Northbridge Public Schools, pending successful contract negotiations and legal counsel review.

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Springboard as the extended Care Provider pending successful contract negotiations and legal review. The motion was seconded by Michael LeBrasseur. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	No
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes

Joseph Strazzulla	No
Kate Tracy	No
Randi Zanca	Yes

2 members having voted in the affirmative  
3 members having voted in the negative  
The motion was denied with a roll call vote of 3-2.

#### XI. School Committee Individual Comments

Joseph Strazzulla- Thank you to Mrs. Boyle for inviting Joe to read to his daughter's class. Thank you to Mrs. Healy for the opportunity.

Michael Clements- Thank you to the NHS music department for the Spring Concert. It was a great program, great job. Mike also wanted to thank those who have come the last couple of weeks to express their feelings and thoughts on the extended care program, Mike agrees with Kate we are a close community, and we need to consider our options in-house.

Connor Nowlan- Last Tuesday, there was a Student Advisory Committee Meeting and they voted on the Student Representative position for 2016-2017. Connor will remain in the position.

Michael LeBrasseur- Thank you to Senator Fattman for coming tonight. A reminder that Senator Moore and Rep. Muradian will be at our May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thank you everyone for your input. There is a new policy related to the dispensing of Narcan. Mike would like to refer that policy to the policy committee to look at to see if we need to update.

#### XII. Adjournment

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to enter into executive session conduct strategy for contract negotiations with AFSCME Council 93, Local 1709, Unit A and Northbridge Teachers' Association- not to reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

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

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0.