



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Erin Donahue, Brian Paulhus, Steven Falconer, Allan Richards, Kathryn Atchue

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 7:00PM

Northbridge High School Media Center

I. Call to Order (7:00)

II. Attendance

Steven Falconer	Present
Brian Paulhus	Present
Allan Richards	Present
Kathryn Atchue	Present
Erin Donahue	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Amy McKinstry and Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker

III. Statement of Audio and Video Recording

IV. Statement of Mission

V. Public Comment

Comments for this meeting may be emailed in advance of the 7:00 p.m. start time to school_committee@nps.org. All comments will be recorded in the record, and all attempts will be made to mention them live during the meeting. Any emails received during the meeting before the public comment period ends will also be attempted to be mentioned.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry started her report off by reflecting on the NES spirit week last week and then informed the School Committee about the upcoming preschool family picnics and the kindergarten celebration occurring next week. The first graders wanted to thank everyone who participated in their flag event, to honor those who served on Memorial Day. The high school will host underclassmen elections tomorrow and also has a new website that will serve as a literacy hub for writers. In person high school summer school will be offered for ELA, math, and science. There will be two sessions and students required or recommended to attend will find out shortly as more information comes out. Amy announced that interim principal Bill Bishop will be staying with Northbridge High School for one more year. Amy advised the 8th grade dance was on Friday and there were 125 participants, and their graduation will be held this coming Friday and will be livestreamed and recorded. Awards for grades 5-7 will be held on 6/14 and any remediation letters have been sent out to students at this time. The middle school will be hosting a social-emotional summer camp for grades K-5 and they will be sending out a survey to parents shortly. Remediation academies for grades K-5 in ELA and math will also be held and invitations will be sent out upon review of results and attendance. The Northbridge and Uxbridge Police Departments are hosting a police academy July 19-23 and applications are available at the middle school, as it is available to students in grades 5-8. Lastly, the district strategic plan will be reviewed and ready to present to the committee at the July meeting.

VII. Introduction – New Technology Director

Amy McKinstry introduced the new Director of Educational Technology, Tiago Vital. Tiago has the

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opportunity to speak on and introduce himself in front of the committee.

VIII. Recognition

A. Retirees

Kelle Walker – 24 years
Nancy Sanko – 20 years
Paul Morin – 18 years
Melissa Connell – 17 years
Carolyn Mutell – 26 years
Jayne Blood – 33 years
Moirra Larson – 21 years
Dean Bennett – 19 years

B. Support Staff of the Year

Lauren Hubbell – NHS
Pam Roche – NMS
Cassie Moriarty – W.E. Balmer
Elizabeth Mantoni – NES

C. Teacher of the Year

Russell Cron was recognized as the Teacher of the Year.

IX. Presentation

A. Freshman Academy

Superintendent Amy McKinstry presented the new Freshman Academy that will be implemented at Northbridge High School. She provided data on how many students in 9th grade suffer from failing grades and how many students nationally enter high school performing 2-3 years below grade level. She discussed the early warning signs that are predictive of underperformance and provided data from DESE on students as of last year. Amy advised of the approach the academy would take to assist 8th graders in making a smooth transition to 9th grade while promoting unity, community, and early intervention strategies to help the academic and social transition. She discussed the roles and commitments needed from the staff, the learning outcomes, professional development, planning and orientation, instruction, social and emotional support, and the benefits. The full presentation can be found [here](#) at 21:07.

X. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from May 25, 2021

B. Warrant 41-48s \$168,607.35 May 27, 2021

C. Donation – Balmer Food Pantry

A motion was made by Allan Richards to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

XI. Additional Appointments

A. Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Board Member

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to appoint Amy McKinstry as Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Board Member. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

B. Warrants

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to appoint Erin Donahue to Warrants. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

C. Weekly Payroll

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to appoint Brian Paulhus to Weekly Payroll. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

XII. Action Items

A. Update SY 21-22 Calendar

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to approve the updated 2021-2022 School Year Calendar. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
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Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

B. RFP (Before/After School Program)

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to award the before and after school care contract to Alphabest. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

C. Additional positions proposals

A motion was made by Allan Richards to approve the additional position proposals. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

D. FY22 Budget FTE Position Transfer

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the FY22 Budget FTE Position Transfer. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

E. Surplus Books

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to declare the listed books as surplus. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

XIII. Discussion

A. Summer meeting schedule

The School Committee will be switching to meeting once per month over the summer and will meet on 6/22, 7/27, and 8/31.

B. Superintendent's Summative Evaluation

Steven Falconer reviewed the summative evaluation timeline and process and addressed and provided the evaluation on how well Superintendent Amy McKinstry met her goals for the school year. All of this information is provided in the packet and is available for public consumption and can be found on the website as well. This will be voted on at the next meeting.

XIV. Information

XV. School Committee Individual Comments

XVI. Adjournment (8:00)

A motion was made by Allan Richards to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

Note: The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Also, the timeframe for each topic is a general guideline and may not be strictly adhered to.

