



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Steven Falconer, Chairperson, stfalconer@nps.org
Brian Paulhus, Kathryn Atchue, Allan Richards, Erin Donahue

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Tuesday, October 12, 2021 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (7:00)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. 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

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. Public Comment

Patrick Smith advised he has 4 children in the school system and last time he spoke during public comment he provided a 38 page legal complaint stating neither the superintendent, school committee, or DESE had the legal authority to force face masks on children. He asked two questions regarding the district's dependency on funding in relation to face masks. Steven Falconer advised that the questions were sent to DESE. Patrick was there to provide a 12 page document from a journalist from Quincy regarding the negative impacts of face masks on children.

- VII. Student Representative Report

The Student Representative did not provide a report this evening, as he was involved in athletics.

- VIII. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry provided an update on the current progress at NES including that the playground for the upper grades is set to be completed next week and the main parking lot or preschool pick up and drop off lot will be completed in November and was slowed down due to weather. Picture days will start on Wednesday, October 13th. The middle school held assemblies regarding Tik Tok challenges around the country and students were receptive and understanding. The middle school recently started an advisory club to discuss important issues and their first meeting, which had over 40 students in attendance, was October 6th. The middle school will be sponsoring their first family movie night and showing Hocus Pocus on a giant inflatable movie screen. The school will also be providing extra support in ELA and math on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and students with low grades have been invited to join. The PSAT and SAT exams will take place at the high school tomorrow, and throughout the month different colleges will be visiting every day. Freshman academy students have been working on thinking about career paths. The high school just recently held their 3rd dress code committee meeting. In general, there are still families that have not yet sent in the beginning of the year paperwork and test and stay program is now up and running. The numbers at the high school are rising daily with 14 positive and 136 close contacts. A large group of them are doing test and stay and 79 are vaccinated. Amy also provided an athletics update.

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.

IX. Presentation

A. Director of Curriculum – Assessment Results & Curriculum Update

Jill Healy provided a presentation on how the district did in regard to MCAS this past year. She discussed information about the new MCAS as well as how it is scored and what ranges each score is based on. She then went on to discuss how each individual school fell short, met, or exceeded expectations in each subject level, including information on the different subgroups as well. She provided an annual comparison from 2019-2021 as well and went over their plan to improve going forward. The full presentation can be found on page 6 of the packet.

X. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2021

B. Warrant 42-14s 9/30/21 \$761,531.05

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to approve the consent agenda. 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.

XI. Action Items

A. Additional Position – Part-Time Occupational Therapist

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the addition of a part-time occupational therapist. 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. Additional Positions – Instructional Assistants

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the addition of 6 new Instructional Assistants. 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.

XII. Discussion

XIII. Information

A. Donated and Displayed Athletics Items

Steven Falconer announced that the outlined athletics items in the 10/12/21 packet are donated to the district but can be removed at any time per request from the owner of the items, Ken Lachapelle, Scott E. Vandersea, and Kathy Vandersea Fagan.

B. Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

XIV. School Committee Individual Comments

XV. Adjournment (7:45)

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to adjourn. 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.

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.

