



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Erin Donahue, Chairperson, Edonahue@nps.org, Jill Leonard, Vice-Chair, jleonard@nps.org
Allan Richards, aerichards@nps.org, Heather Alden, halden@nps.org, Rebecca Johnson, rjohnson@nps.org

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Agenda Tuesday, April 11th, 2023 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

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

Erin Donahue	Absent
Jill Leonard	Present
Allan Richards	Present
Heather Alden	Present
Rebecca Johnson	Present

Also in attendance was Superintendent Amy McKinstry

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording (7:01)
- V. Statement of Mission (7:01)
- VI. Student Representative Report (7:02)

Student representative Sarah was unable to make the meeting. Report read by Jill Leonard. Kickoff of Spirit Week before April Vacation. Class of 2025 attended a Sophomore Social in recognition of getting their class rings. There was a cornhole tournament and a raffle as well. Monday March 27th, Mr. Finkle's and Mr. Lamay's law classes attended a presentation from representatives of the Worcester Court House: Justice Amelia (family court), Stephanie Fattman (register of probate), Penny Welch (Assist. Chief Prob. Officer). Michael Lubie (Assist. Chief Court Officer). Extra Events: Friday March 31st and Saturday April 1st, Band and Chorus classes participated in MICCA. Concert Choir earned a Bronze Medal and Concert Band earned a Silver Medal. March 17th, Students in Arts/Ceramics II visited the Worcester Art Museum, where they were able to explore artwork from various and varied cultures throughout the world.

- VII. Superintendent's Report (7:05)

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.

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Friday April 14th, NES is holding the Me and My Special Person's Dance at 6:30PM in the NES gym. Grades 4 and 5 are taking ELA MCAS. NMS had their first Unified Sports Jamboree last week, information will be presented later in the meeting. NPS Family survey results will be shared at the next committee meeting. Superintendent McKinstry will send the survey out again before vacation in the hopes that the school break will free up time to allow more Middle School and High School parents to reply.

Blackstone Valley Job Educator fair was last Tuesday, April 4th. Collected 17 resumes for the 3 schools. High School Principal search is underway for 23-24 school year. Ms. Healy will be leading the committee to look through the applications. Initial interviews will happen 4/18 and 4/19, with finalist interviews happening the following week.

Chris Herren will be giving an anti-drug/alcohol presentation to grades 8-12 on May 10th, 12:30PM and at 6:30PM for family and community members. April 12th, Celebration of Learning and Belonging and Evening at the Arts from 6:00PM-7:30PM. Chorus and Bands will be performing. NES students will be doing an African Drumming performance in the field house. Highschool and Elementary Art programs will be presenting. Report cards issued April 11th.

VIII. Presentations: (7:10)

A. Project 351 - Nicolette Paradise (7:10)

Ambassador Nicolette 8th grade – Worked with Cradles to Crayons to help with clothing insecurity. Collected children's clothing to donate. 12 bags of clothing were collected, 7 donated to C2C, 5 to another org. Liaison praised Nicolette's leadership and work ethic. Nicolette was awarded a certificate of achievement to recognize her work, presented by Principal Diorio. Thanked and acknowledged by Jill Leonard

B. MS Unified Sports - Matt Gauthier (7:14)

Thanked all of their teammates and students, noted the students who were present and some who were not. Had Jamboree last week and it was very successful. Started in Fall with Pep Rally. Praising the student's sportsmanship and ability. Filled out application for their Nationally Recognized Unified Banner 4/11. Looking to incorporate Track and a few other sports. Thanked Superintendent Amy for the support and funding to get the wrist bands for all the students who went to the Jamboree "Unified Basketball/Choose to Include". Gave one to each of the members and Superintendent in attendance. Leadership team went to the Jamboree in show of support. This year was the first year Northbridge Hosted Jamboree.

Praised Maya McCloud for her sportsmanship towards an opposing player. Passed out framed certificates to students from Unified Sports. Board members thanked the teachers and student participants.

IX. Consent Agenda (7:26)

A. Warrant 43-40s 03/30/2023 \$89,194.00 (7:26)

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Warrant. The motion was seconded by Allen Richards.

Erin Donahue Absent

Jill Leonard Yes

Allan Richards Yes

Heather Alden Yes

Rebecca Johnson Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

B. Warrant 43-41s 04/04/2023 \$161,280.93 (7:27)

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the warrant. The motion was seconded by Rebecca Johnson.

Erin Donahue Absent

Jill Leonard Yes

Allan Richards Yes

Heather Alden Yes

Rebecca Johnson Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

C. School Committee Meeting Minutes: February 14, 2023 (7:27)

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Rebecca Johnson.

Erin Donahue Absent

Jill Leonard Yes

Allan Richards	Yes
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

D. School Committee Meeting Minutes: March 21, 2023 (7:28)

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Rebecca Johnson.

Erin Donahue	Absent
Jill Leonard	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

X. Discussion (7:28)

A. FY24 Superintendent's Recommended Budget (7:28)

Presented multiple times. No further questions as previous presentations were thorough.

B. School Choice SY 23-24 (7:29)

School Committee needs to vote on if they will still allow School Choice. Recommended as a lot of students in the district are School Choice. Does recommend further review in the future. Will look further in May after census report to verify the open enrolment numbers.

C. 23-24 School Calendar (7:30)

Did not put second page dates. Only included dates that apply to everyone. Already approved by the Union and altered as per the Union. Keeping PD frontloaded on year. Teaching staff would like more Trauma Informed Care practices in PD.

XI. Public Comment (7:32)

Rebecca Straight (7:32), of 119 School Street, representing herself and Laura Cameron. Asked to be put on Agenda for next Committee meeting. Statement: Express concern of Culture of Bullying, by students and teachers. Upset with the actions the school suggested,

to remove the bullied child from the room and segregate them in the Connect Classroom, rather than dealing with the root of the issue. Wants to have a closed door discussion with the leadership team and the SPED department to help alter the culture of the district.

Joe Strazzulla (7:34), of 170 Rebecca Road, asking for the next meeting to put on the Agenda looking at the Middle School Cell phone Policy. Wants cell phones to be turned off, locked and away in lockers for the entirety of the day. Wants to make it more permanent. Works as a middle school teacher in Milford, and has seen cyberbullying drop drastically in Milford with the cellphones locked away.

XII. Action (7:36)

A. FY24 Superintendent's Recommended Budget (7:36)

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Budget. The motion was seconded by Rebecca Johnson.

Erin Donahue	Absent
Jill Leonard	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

XIII. Information

XIV. Adjournment (7:36)

A motion was made by Heather Alden to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Rebecca Johnson.

Erin Donahue	Absent
Jill Leonard	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

