



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org,
Brian Paulhus, Steven Falconer, Allan Richards, Kathryn Atchue

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Tuesday, April 27, 2021 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

**Remote public attendance only via the Zoom Link in accordance with the Governor of
Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting
Law G.L. c. 30A, Section 20**

- I. Call to Order (7:00)
- II. Statement regarding Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law
- III. Attendance

Michael LeBrasseur	Present
Steven Falconer	Present
Brian Paulhus	Present
Allan Richards	Present
Kathryn Atchue	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

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.

VII. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry provided an update to the committee beginning with noting that the high school held a very successful April vacation academy that included apex recovery courses and opportunity for remediation. This academy had double the attendance from the February academy, even triple on some days. The middle school also held an academy with 17 participants. They were supposed to have more students but due to covid-19 close contacts increasing, there was a lower attendance. The middle school still has 14 students attending tutoring on Wednesday afternoons and is looking to continue increasing this. They held successful PBIS event encouraging students to maintain a 95% or better attendance rate and miss fewer than 4 assignments for the month of March in order to receive their choice of a reward, and 460 students met this goal. There are currently 3 open positions within the district including the Director of Educational Technology, Northbridge High School Principal, and the Northbridge Middle School Assistant Principal. Amy went over the timeline for each position and where they are at currently in the process. Over April vacation the new NES planning team met with a group of teachers to produce a schedule for the next year. The leadership team also met last week to work on strategic planning initiative and

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developed 3 focuses that include leadership, teaching and learning, and inclusive culture. The diversity and inclusion book club will begin next week and there are still plenty of books for any students, staff, parents, or community members that would like to join. The Board of Health is hosting a vaccine clinic for high school students on May 5th for any NHS students age 16-18. A parental consent form will be sent out shortly. The commissioner has changed the outdoor graduation limitations and has allowed students to sit 3 feet apart rather than six. Amy took the time to thank Mr. Valaar from Southbridge as he lended additional chairs for graduation and the Superintendent of Grafton Public Schools for donating additional desks and chairs to NES to allow us to bring all students back. Lastly, Joseph Early will be presenting a check to Operation Graduation in the amount of \$1,345.00 for their after graduation event.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2021

B. Warrant 41-42s \$490,753.95 April 15, 2021

C. High School Food Pantry Donation

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

Michael LeBrasseur Yes

Steven Falconer Yes

Brian Paulhus Yes

Allan Richards Yes

Kathryn Atchue 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.

IX. Presentation

A. DESE Student Internship

The student internship presentation will be postponed until a future meeting.

X. Recognition

A. Blackstone Valley Youth Leadership Graduates

Two students graduating from Blackstone Valley Youth Leadership, Abigail and Samantha took a few moments to present their experience. Abigail worked with the Milford Humane Society to gather donations for the animals by setting up a donation box in the lobby of the high school and asking St. Patrick's church for a generous donation. Samantha worked to educate and assist teachers in helping students with anxiety disorder by working with the school counselors and preparing presentations on anxiety disorder, how it works, and how teachers can better help their students. Throughout this program and their projects, they were able to develop leadership skills, meet leaders and other individuals in their communities, and participate in volunteer activities.

XI. Action Items

A. School Choice Vote

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to accept school choice with the superintendent's authority to close grades as needed. The motion was seconded by Steven Falconer. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur Yes

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	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. Surplus Books and Equipment

A motion was made by Allan Richards to declare the identified books at Balmer as surplus. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	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.

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to declare the identified items in technology and equipment at as surplus. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	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. Line Item Transfer – Library Books

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to approve transferring \$49,300.00 from the out of district transportation line item to the NES/Balmer library books and supplies line item to purchase library books for the new elementary school. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	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. New NES Job Descriptions (Principals/Dean)

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to approve the two principal positions and the dean of students position at the new elementary school. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	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

A. School Committee Self Evaluation

Michael LeBrasseur presented the School Committee Self-Evaluation results in a presentation format. He explained that there should be 75% or more of response agreement and anything below that is an area the committee may need to focus on. This year was the 6th straight year that the committee has met benchmark on all categories with a 90% or above. He identified 6 questions that could be areas to focus on including governance, superintendent and committee relations, community relations, and conduct of meetings. He went through the presentation where he shared the results of the questions in those categories as well as their historical comparisons. The committee then responded and shared their thoughts and comments. To watch the full presentation click [here](#) and skip to 18:53

B. Policy EEAA – *Transportation Services*

The policy subcommittee met last week to go over this policy. There will be more students using transportation to the new school and the change will be to add fifth grade. This will be an action item at the next meeting.

C. Eliminate Policy ACAB/JICFB – *Bullying and Harassment*/Replace with “Northbridge Civil Rights Procedures for non-Title IX Claims” and “Northbridge Civil Rights Procedures Title IX Sexual Harassment Only”

The attorneys went through the policies and developed recommended policy changes, as there have been new harassment and Title IX laws passed. The change recommended is to replace the current bullying and harassment policies with the grievance procedures for non-Title IX claims and Title IX sexual harassment only. Amy will double check with the attorneys to see what the actual policy would be named and advised that all districts will eventually need to do this.

D. Eliminate Policy ACA – *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex* and Policy JBA – *Student to Student Harassment*

The recommended change is to eliminate policy ACA and policy JBA.

XIII. Information

XIV. School Committee Individual Comments

XV. Adjournment (7:43)

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue. The vote was

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

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	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.