



# 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

**Northbridge Public Schools  
School Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 24th, 2017 7:00 PM  
Northbridge High School Media Center**

**I. Call to Order (7:21)**

**II. Attendance**

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Joseph Strazzulla	Present
Kate Tracy	Present
Randi Zanca	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Catherine Stickney, Business Manager Melissa Walker, and Student Representative Connor Nowlan.

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording**

**V. Statement of Mission**

**VI. Public Comment:**

None

**VII. Superintendent's Report**

Catherine Stickney wanted to share with the SC and community this evening that Mr. Gauthier is currently taking a medical leave from NHS. In his absence we have a team of Mrs. Amy McKinstry and Mr. Bill Bishop serving as acting principals. Mr. Bishop is a

retired principal who has worked with Mrs. McKinstry in the past. We all wish Mr. Gauthier the best.

We have jumped right into a busy time in the classrooms coming back from vacation. We've hosted teachers and administrators from Millbury, Auburn, and Dudley-Charlton for two Learning Walks in the district.

We also had an Early Release day for professional development. We focused on student engagement, the next science standards, and the identification and reporting of bullying and harassment.

As the term is ending at the high school and we are collecting our mid-year data at the elementary level, we are seeing amazing reports of progress at NES. We are still reviewing the Balmer data and are eager to share their results with you as well.

It was Cathy's pleasure to join Joseph Canoy with the other Worcester County Superintendent's Association Annual Scholars for the luncheon at Clark University. It was an amazing celebration of collective brilliance, inspiration, and hope for the future all in one room!

Over the past two weeks, we have hosted tours for vendors as part of the MassIT program. We are 1 of 20 schools moving forward in the funding process.

We hosted a workshop with the Northbridge Coalition presented by Paul Richard from the SHINE Institute. We discussed the topic of mental health for our young people and how to find support. We also welcomed Dr. Larry Berkowitz, founder of the Riverside Trauma center to meet with our staff and some of our high school parents this week. We appreciated his assistance

Cathy also wanted to share that she has applied for the Attorney General's Opioid Prevention Grant for Northbridge. We propose to work with Whitin Community Center, the Rockdale Youth Center, and Family Continuity to provide after school support for

students and families. There is a letter of support from Sen. Moore written to the Attorney General on our behalf supporting our proposal. We will also look to continue the groups into the summer and incorporate some mentoring and park activities.

The Our Kids book group will appear again on About the Valley on Feb 9th to assist in garnering support for a summer parks program.

Additionally, Cathy is continuing to work on obtaining grant funding to provide lunches for our students during the summer. We plan to work collaboratively with the Community Garden and the Rockdale Youth Center to pilot a small program. Cathy hopes to have more positive news on this in the future.

Cathy is also proud to announce that Lauren Giroud scored the second highest score at Central Districts in percussion and has been named to the All State Concert band. Congratulations, Lauren.

The Middle School Drama program presented Law and Order: The Fairy Tale Unit and did a spectacular job! The high school is gearing up for their performance of Annie in February.

Our new website is up and running. We are still adjusting and working out the bugs, and we appreciate everyone's patience in the process.

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter - especially for those early morning weather announcements.

#### VIII. Consent Agenda

- a. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes from 7:00PM on January 10, 2017
- b. Warrant 37-28s 01/05/17 \$248,766.12

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

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

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

#### IX. Discussion:

##### a. Field Trip- Out-of-State High School Ski Trip

Andrew Zollo proposed an Out-of-State Ski Trip to Killington, VT. The date of the trip is February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and the cost is \$75.00 per student. They will be doing a joint ski trip with NIPMUC students and faculty.

The motion was made by Randi Zanca to move this item to an action item. The motion was seconded by Kate Tracy. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

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

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

##### Field Trip- Out-of-State High School Ski Trip

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to approve the Out-of-State Field Trip to Killington, VT.

The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

Kate Tracy Yes

Randi Zanca Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

b. Field Trip- Overnight Student Council Trip to Conference

The Student Council is requesting to go to an overnight conference. The Student Council Conference will take place in Hyannis, MA at the Cape Cod Resort and Conference Center. The dates of the conference are March 8-10, 2017.

c. Pre-school Proposal

Jill Healy discussed the Pre-school program. Jill stated that a survey was sent out in November to the parents of NES/Balmer students and district wide in December. The purpose of this survey was to show the needs of the community and solicit input for the number of days a student will need preschool regardless of age. One of the biggest needs was to add a 5 day, full day program and a 5 day AM program for 3 year olds. Jill stated that registration ends February 28<sup>th</sup> and she will have a better idea of what parents are looking for.

d. Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Catherine Stickney stated that youth risk behavior survey is distributed every two years at NHS. This survey is a confidential survey that is completed in-house so we own the data and we are able to pick and choose our own questions. There is a parent opt-out for the survey.

e. Bullying Surveys

There are bullying surveys for different groups. There is a survey for parents/guardians, faculty, grades 3-4, and grades 5-12. The format of the survey is online and paper copy. The survey is anonymous.

f. SWCEC

Quarterly Sharing- No Comments.

g. Budget Timeline

Melissa Walker reviewed the budget timeline. The next meeting of the Budget Subcommittee is January 31, 2017 at 6:30pm to discuss revenue and discuss the direction in which we are headed.

h. School Calendar 2017-2018

The School Calendar has been shared with the NTA and Leadership team. We are looking to have a bagged lunch option for students on the early release days.

i. Superintendent's Formative Evaluation

Catherine Stickney shared her Formative Evaluation. Catherine discussed the progress made toward the goals and supplied evidence for each of them: Professional Practice Goal, District Improvement Goal, and Student Learning Goal.

X. School Committee Individual Comments

Joseph Strazzulla- Spoke in regards to the letter from Senator Michael Moore to Attorney General Healey. He is glad that we applied for the grant that addresses Youth Opioid Prevention. Joseph also acknowledged the Press Release regarding the NHS hockey team helping out at Bruins MDSC Hockey event.

XI. Adjournment 8:43

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm. The motion was seconded Randi Zanca. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

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

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.