



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org, Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,
Michael Clements, Kate Tracy, Randi Zanca

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Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 23rd, 2016 7:00 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

I. Call to Order (7:00)

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 stated that at our last SC meeting, we had already missed two days of school due to snow, which unfortunately pushed the last day of school to Monday, June 20th. The seniors are very pleased, since this will not affect them. However, we were very excited by the notoriety of our Snow Day video that went viral. It was exciting to see our talented students

recognized in such a positive way. Thank you to TRI-M for their hard work and the ability to keep a secret for a year. Stay tuned for next year's installment.

As we continue our work on the Strategic Plan, one of the ways that I have addressed open communication is to conduct a "listening tour". Cathy has been on a mission to sit with the staff at each school to listen to their input, concerns, and suggestions. Families and people in the community need to know how dedicated these individuals are. They put blood, sweat, and tears into their work every day because they truly care for the children in Northbridge. They have provided her with wonderful insight that she will apply in her ongoing work.

The technology department and Balmer administrators also met to troubleshoot issues at the Balmer Computer lab. We have developed a plan of action for both short term solutions and a longer range plan to assist our students as they learn to incorporate more technology into their academic learning.

Vacation week was very busy with planning for the Celebration of Learning - and hopefully - our Career Fair. We are looking for families and community volunteers to share their careers and interests with the students.

The Gr. 8 students (the class of 2020) had an official presentation regarding the Career Academies and the Program of Studies as they prepare to choose their courses for next year.

Cathy also met with Kelly Bol from the Senior Center last week. We are looking to create partnership programs between the seniors and middle school students as ongoing mentoring for both groups!

We've had many students successfully move into elite spots for winter sports. Girls' basketball will be moving into the playoffs. Senior indoor track students all placed at States. Kristina Morrison and Keegan Burchard set new PR and qualified for finals. NPS had the best indoor track season in 20 years!

Robert Baldwin Von Bruno moved into day 2 at the State Wrestling Tournament

Annemarie Haas participated at States for swimming. The Northbridge team finished 11 out of 48 teams.

College acceptances and scholarship offers continue to roll in - Rutgers, WPI, West Virginia, Stonehill, Trinity, URI, Mass College of Pharmacy ~

We are continuing our budget work and are finalizing the superintendent's budget for a public hearing on 3-8.

Many times, students are interested in what Cathy does. She wanted to share with us a glimpse into her day today as an example – She started by visiting with gr. 5 at Morning Meeting. They discussed establishing lunchtime book clubs, how to call a snow day, and what is important to consider if we can build a new elementary school; then she watched gr. 6 ELA debates; Cathy then went to the High School for “a learning walk”. They visited classes and provided feedback on the instruction we observed. Cathy also conducted a presentation for grade 8 students regarding the Career Academies. Days like this are the best part of the job!

We have so many positive activities going on here in Northbridge. Please plan on attending the Celebration of Learning so that we can share them with you as well.

VIII. Consent agenda

- a. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes from 7:00PM on February 9, 2016
- b. Warrant 36-32s 2/04/2016 \$225,675.53

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to accept the consent agenda as presented. 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.

IX. Action Items:

a. Accept the Motion for Statement Regarding Chapter 70 Foundation Review

A motion was made by Kate Tracy for the Northbridge School Committee to adopt the resolution asking the Legislature and Governor to fund the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission and recommend the Selectman and Finance Committee follow suit. 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. School Calendar 2016-2017

A motion was made by Kate Tracy to approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar. 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.

X. Presentation:

a. Springboard- Extended Learning Day Programs

Kim Jennings, VP of Partnership Development, discussed Springboard Education to the Committee. Kim stated that Springboard exists to make an authentic difference in out-of-school time programming and students' lives. Doctoral-Level educators dedicated to out-of-school time developed the Springboard Model. This model is a new model of learning

and fun. It is a STEAM and Literacy focused Curriculum that is project and outcome based.

XI. Discussions:

a. Northbridge High School Program of Studies 2016-2017

Michael Gauthier and Aaron Katz discussed the changes to the Program of Studies for the 2016-2017 school year.

b. Northbridge High School- Graduation Rate and Drop-out Rate

Michael Gauthier discussed the NHS Graduation and Drop-Out summary. The Graduation Rate for 2014-2015 was 90.40%.

c. FY 17 Budget

Melissa Walker stated that in accordance with our budget timeline, we are submitting the draft Superintendent's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 17. The budget for FY 17 is of about 4.3%. Our contribution from the town in the form of appropriation is of about \$425, 000.00. Of that \$425,000.00, \$46, 000 is coming from Chapter 70.

d. FY2016 Budget Transfers Across Line Items

Melissa Walker stated that a motion was needed to transfer \$31,846.78 from salary line items and \$17,870.80 from the athletic transportation line items to Out of District Tuition line items.

XII. School Committee Individual Comments

Joseph Strazzulla- Congrats to the Girls Varsity Basketball Team they are going to Districts. Stay tuned for the Budget Review process taking place on March 8th at the public hearing.

XIII. Adjournment

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. 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.