



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 [www.nps.org](http://www.nps.org)

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, March 8th, 2016 7:00 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK  
DOREEN M. LORONE

16 APR - 6 PM 2:08

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#### I. Call to Order (7:04)

#### II. Attendance

Michael Clements	Present
Mike LeBrasseur	Present
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-

Alicia Cannon stated that the MS Booster Club has raised the full funding needed for the Spring 2016 MS sports season (baseball and softball).

The motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to accept the MS Spring sports donation contingent on confirmed amount. The motion was seconded by Kate Tracy. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes

Joseph Strazzulla Yes

Kate Tracy Yes

Randi Zanca 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.

Talia Berkowitz, a NES staff member, shared her concerns with Springboard. Talia stated that the program needs to remain in house. She stated that it is a high quality program that includes enrichment. Talia feels that the after school program does not need to be so structured as their days are already structured. She feels the program is an outlet for them to grow socially and creatively. Talia also feels that it is important to keep quality assistance and teachers because it supplements their income. They count on this income.

Pamela Brazauskas, BASE Coordinator, stated that she agrees with Talia that the program needs to be kept in house. Pamela stated that they have a high quality program with teachers and Instructional Assistants that needs to be kept in the community.

## VII. Student Representative's Report

Last week, upperclassmen participated in a Distracted Driving simulator that highlights the dangers of texting and driving, and further illustrates the importance of safe driving.

Last Wednesday, we held our annual Science Fair and Invention Convention; students ran experiments/ designed an invention of their choice and presented it to judges. Some students will be moving on to another fair, which will be this Thursday in Leicester.

In Advisory last week, students selected their classes for the 2016/2017 school year, and many are excited over the new classes being added to the Program of Studies. Last Friday, progress reports were released.

Tomorrow is the Third Annual Celebration of Learning, which is being held at the high school from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

This week is National Foreign Language Week. All throughout the school, there are posters hung up containing facts about different cultures and countries of the world.

There are several field trips going on right now. Tomorrow, Student Council leaves for their MASC Hyannis trip. On Thursday March 10th, DECA will compete in its MASS State competition, and on Friday our NHarmonics will be going to Disney.

The 10th grade ELA MCAS is scheduled for March 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.

Winter Sports have ended, and Spring Sports are right around the corner with Captain's Practices beginning this week. With the weather getting warmer, the teams will be hoping to get outside soon.

College acceptances and scholarships are still coming as the seniors are getting closer and closer to graduation.

All in all, it's a busy time at Northbridge High School with a lot of exciting things coming up.

#### VIII. Consent agenda

- a. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes from 7:00PM on February 23, 2016
- b. Warrant 36-34s 2/19/2016 \$416,967.04

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

Michael Clements	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	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. Action Items:

a. FY16 Line Item Transfers

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to approve the FY16 Line Item Transfers. The motion was seconded by Michael Clements. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	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. Springboard-Extended Day Learning Programs

This action item was tabled until 3/22/16.

c. Northbridge High School Program of Studies 2016-2017

A motion was made by Kate Tracy to approve the Northbridge High School Program of Studies for 2016-2017. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

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

X. Presentation:

a. Proposal 2016-2017 Third Grade Departmentalization

Karlene Ross and Lisa Clements read letters expressing interest in departmentalizing the third grade for the 2016-2017 school year. Teachers feel that becoming an expert in either

literacy content or math/science content would help them refine their work with curriculum and become stronger teachers.

XI. Discussions:

a. Overnight Field Trip Request- NASA ICED Class to Langley, Virginia

Mr. Gorman has requested that the School Committee approve trip to Langley VA for a symposium at NASA. The trip will occur on April 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2016. There will be about 25 students attending. Tour busses will be provided for transportation.

b. Website Improvements- Virtual Schools

Virtual Schools develops webpages for K-12 school districts. Each design is custom made to align with the district layout/design. Their focus is on the Municipal sector, and their Drupal-based CMS is state of the art. There would be unlimited customer support, monthly training seminars, and user group meetings.

c. MSBA Statements of Interest for NMS and NES

*Having convened in an open meeting on March 22, 2016 the School Committee of Northbridge, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated March 08, 20165 for Northbridge Middle School located 171 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:*

*#5 replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related cost in a school facility,*

*and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits Northbridge to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.*

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*Having convened in an open meeting on March 22, 2016 the School Committee of Northbridge, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated March 08,*

*2016 for Northbridge Elementary School located at 30 Cross Street, Whitinsville, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:*

*#5 replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related cost in a school facility,*

*and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits Northbridge to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.*

d. School Committee Goals

Michael LeBrasseur discussed the 2015-2016 School Committee goals. Michael stated that they are on track for Goal 1: Secure the requested budget to meet the needs of our students. Goal 2: The Committee still needs to identify the metrics. Part of this goal was identifying PARCC verses MCAS. Joseph Strazzulla stated that having met with the Director of Curriculum, they have spoken in regards to coming up with a metric for each school. Goal 3: Execute the Capital Maintenance and Building Projects - Michael LeBrasseur stated that since we have written our goals, we have been informed of the MSBA project with Balmer, and that is a huge component of this. Mike stated that they have toured the buildings, and they have prioritized their Capital Maintenance project list. The cost analysis of Capital Maintenance Expenses vs. Building Project Expenses is a long term goal.

XII. School Committee Individual Comments

Joseph Strazzulla- Stated that is looking forward to tomorrow night at Celebration of Learning.

Randi Zanca- Stated that SC is on the flyer for a table. However, this had not been discussed and it was decided to remove the table for SC.

Michael LeBrasseur- Stated that during the last SC meeting, the SC approved a "Support for Resolution" to request that the Governor and the Legislature implement the Recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission that took place last year. The Foundation Budget is what determines what is considered to be an adequate level of funding for a school district. The

Commission confirmed that the formula is not adequate and does not accurately represent what it costs to provide to fund a school district. This Committee voted to support it, and Mike wanted to make sure that everyone knew that on Monday the Board of Selectman also supported it. On Wednesday of last week, the Finance Committee also supported it. The three chairmen will be signing and sending a letter to the Legislatures to let them know that we all support this resolution and are requesting that they consider this for the FY17 budget.

### XIII. Adjournment

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to move into Executive Session for the Purpose of Conducting Strategy for Contract Negotiations with the Teachers' Association of Northbridge and to Conduct Strategy Regarding Contract Negotiations with Non-Union Personnel Not to Reconvene in Open Session. The motion was seconded Randi Zanca. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded (8:45)

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