



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 www.nps.org

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

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:00PM

**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

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 advised that she had the opportunity to spend time in each school last week and had the chance to speak to many students who were happy to be back in school. She commended the way that teachers have overcome the challenges this transition faced them with. Some of these challenges included students not having their audio or video on during class meetings. Amy advised that in order to maximize instruction time, she is asking parents to please assist with this. Amy informed that there is now a COVID-19 data table on the Northbridge Public Schools website that reveals the number of students and staff quarantined and is updated at least weekly. She then went over the current numbers. Amy also spoke about the NHS Best Buddies virtual chapter having their first meeting, and updated everyone on the current status of MCAS for 11th grade students, advising that it will be pushed to later in the spring. Amy advised that NMS principle John Diorio has recruited approximately 40 parent volunteers to assist in day to day activities in the school, delved into the workshop being offered for parents, and went over some exciting events that

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happened or will be happening within the schools for students. Amy informed of the Friends of Lasell brick fundraiser and advised that individuals could get more information at friendsoflasell.com. Amy also advised there would be a pick-up of approximately 2,000 masks on Thursday and that she would look into the possibility of offering an SAT for Northbridge students only.

VIII. Presentation: Glen King, Community Preservation Committee

Glenn King reminded the committee of the Community Preservation Act developed in 2017. This provides money for residents of Northbridge to request for use towards historic preservation, open space and recreation, and affordable housing. Brian Paulhus evaluates the requests for funds before it then goes to the town meeting where they can approve or deny the spending of money. This money is contributed to by 10.00 from residents' real estate bill and can be utilized for School Committee projects, by residents, and in other towns, students have utilized these funds for projects as well. There is weight given to requests where others support it and the requests can't overrun the duties of the town. The process of evaluating the requests can take a couple of months.

IX. Recognition: AP Scholars; Superintendent Awards

Superintendent Amy McKinstry proudly recognized the AP Scholars as well as the students who received Superintendent Awards. The AP Scholars recognized were Colin Brody, Hannah Lomonaco, Katharine Tubbs, and Christian Wermuth. The recipient of the Worcester County Superintendents Association Award was Brennan Mahoney. The recipient of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence Award was Justine Michaud. The recipient of the Northbridge Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence was Vincent Duca.

X. Consent Agenda

- A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from November 24, 2020
- B. Warrant 41-20s 11/12/20 \$625,213.80
- C. Warrant 41-22s 11/25/20 \$314,794.00
- D. Balmer Food Pantry Donation

A motion was made by Steve Falconer to approve the consent agenda. 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.

XI. Action Items

XII. Discussion

A. Winter Sports Update

NHS Principle Timothy McCormick discussed the status of winter sports. He advised that there was a letter recently sent out to all student athletes and their families informing them of the winter sports

season being postponed to start on January 4. There had been several meetings held between Athletic Directors, Superintendents, and principles to discuss how winter sports can be carried out safely. They have touched upon the possibility of exposure and who is considered a contact, and the ventilation of indoor venues. There had been a vote taken to postpone until after the holidays and revisit given the current pandemic circumstances.

XIII. Information

A. Student grade/progress information – 1st quarter

Steven Falconer advised that this topic should be a discussion item and brought up that the data for both 7th grade students and high school sophomores is concerning and sticks out the most. He brought up how resiliency in these situations as well as social emotional health in middle school is concerning and something that should be addressed. Amy McKinstry informed that she will be looking into whether or not there is a correlation between absenteeism and the heightened failure rates. She does believe there is a relationship between low grades and the students' participation and attendance. This is currently a nationwide issue and it will be addressed at the next leadership team meeting. There is also an idea that some of this data is also reflected as students who also struggled from the spring. Students lost a lot at the end of last year leading to regression. They are going to expand the buddy tutor program to high school students, and look into new after school programming as well as strategies about communication with families regarding student performance.

XIV. School Committee Individual Comments

XV. Adjournment (7:45)

A motion was made by Allan Richards 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.

