



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Steven Falconer, Chairperson, stfalconer@nps.org,
Brian Paulhus, Allan Richards, Kathryn Atchue, Erin Donahue

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Tuesday, October 26, 2021 6:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (6:00)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Attendance

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NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK

Steven Falconer	Present
Brian Paulhus	Present
Allan Richards	Present
Kathryn Atchue	Present
Erin Donahue	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

Brandon King of 75 Sheryl Drive raised concern over how the district plans to make up for lost education time due to late arrival of busses and the start of school. Some busses aren't being unloaded until 8:25. He also spoke about the mask mandate being extended and stated that everybody who is eligible and wanted to be vaccinated is vaccinated and everyone who doesn't want to, won't. He fears Northbridge will never meet the level of vaccination needed, and most of the town is on the same page. He ultimately blamed the School Committee for voting to agree with this mandate unanimously and mentioned that they pledge to the flag before the meeting then tell people they can't make the choice. He is against masks going into the winter, believes this is not good, and we can't vaccinate our way out of this.

Stacia Rogerson of 6 McBride Street advised she has a medically fragile child and appreciates the protection of the mask mandate. She spoke about a demographic of parents being forgotten about when sending students home for testing, as some parents do not have transportation. She inquired about a bus or way to get students home if they are being sent home for health reasons. Her child has many health issues and is often sent home due to symptoms and testing, losing out on instructional time.

VII. Student Representative Report

The student representative was not able to attend this meeting.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

Amy McKinstry provided school news, starting with the NHS fall concert occurring on Thursday which will be the first in person concert since December 2019, tickets are on sale at the high school main office and at the door. The NHS SADD chapter wrapped up their seatbelt safety contest which gathered 41 selfies, and they gained a lot of followers on their new page. Winter sports registration opens November 1st and the link can be found on the athletics page. The NES playground is done and in full use and the Pre-K parking is scheduled to be complete in a couple weeks. The QR code system is working well, but parents do need to be on time to pick up their children. The NES food pantry was inspected yesterday and is good to start taking donations. The district is partnering with family continuity to offer workshops for parents and families for topics that families indicated in a survey that they would like to learn more about. The first workshop will be held November 17th at 6:00 at the Rockdale Youth Center. The NPS community closet is now open, it can be accessed via the back entrance of the middle school off of Pleasant Street and donations in good condition are welcome. Quarter 1 ends November 2nd and there is an early release for professional

development on November 3rd. The commissioner announced today to extend the mask mandate to January 15th. With vaccination coming out for younger students, he wanted to give them time to get vaccinated. So far, 20 schools in the state have applied for waivers due to meeting vaccination requirements. As of 2 weeks ago we had 62% vaccination rate at NHS and 47% at NMS. Amy congratulated the varsity football team for an outstanding game last week and Erin Donahue added in a discussion about the gift card fundraiser being run by the middle school.

IX. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2021

B. Warrant 42-16s 10/14/21. \$471,534.10

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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. Action Items

XI. Discussion

A. Additional Grant Funded Positions

Melissa Walker advised they have submitted the Esser 3 grant application and brought forward the positions written into that grant. It included a social worker, a nurse administrative assistant, a .5 FTA nurse at NES, a part time day custodian at NHS, and a night custodian at NES. When the application is approved, they will be looking to hire these positions.

XII. Information

XIII. School Committee Individual Comments

XIV. Adjournment (6:45)

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.