



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Erin Donahue, Chairperson, Edonahue@nps.org, Jill Leonard, Vice-Chair, jleonard@nps.org
Allan Richards, aerichards@nps.org, Heather Alden, halden@nps.org, Rebecca Johnson, rjohnson@nps.org

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Agenda Tuesday, March 28th, 2023 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (7:00PM)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance (7:00PM)
- III. Attendance (7:01PM)

Erin Donahue	Present
Jill Leonard	Present
Allan Richards	Absent
Heather Alden	Present
Rebecca Johnson	Absent

Also in attendance was Superintendent Amy McKinstry and Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording (7:01PM)

- V. Statement of Mission (7:01PM)

(Stepped out of order): Asked Mr. Hoffman and Ms. Allen to come forward and provide an award to Reese Lamonda for High Achievement on the MCAS. (7:02PM)

- VI. Open Public Hearing for FY24 Budget (7:05)

A. FY24 Budget Presentation

Superintendent provided recap on 22-23 about the open vacancies in Teachers and IA, Masking regulations and COVID have been down. Activities and Athletics have had a typical year. Continuation of Universal Breakfast and Lunch program. ESSER allowing them to provide remediation for students. Focus for FY24 is to keep meeting the student needs and closing gaps. Earlier start to hiring process, ensuring retention of talent, and improving school climate and culture. Supporting year 3 of 3 year plan. Shown a large increase in Low Income, High Needs, Students with Disabilities populations. Each of the

special populations increased the budget. 36% of total expenditures for Special Education Needs. ESSER III Grant Funded positions included in the budget.

Director Walker outlined where the funding was coming from: Chapter 70 State, Town Contribution, Grants, and Revolver accounts. Show an increase in funding per student via CH70 and Town Contribution. Currently trending underbudget, meaning the Revolver accounts may have more in them at EOY than anticipated. Full Budget and Numbers can be found in Packet. Transportation and Salaries causing increase in FY24 total budget.

Superintendent overviewed reorganization of positions: Transfers, additions, and restructuring.

Director Walker explained the Budget Gap and the continued growth of Gap.

Recommended that we need a change in Revenue structure.

Superintendent McKinstry informed we will be losing ESSER III and SEL and Mental Health Grant funds between FY24 and FY25.

B. Public Comment on Budget

C. Close Public Hearing (7:23)

VII. Student Representative Report (7:23)

Student Representative Sarah Cowen Congratulations to the Feb. Students of the Month: (freshman) Luke Davis, (sophomore) Matthew Poppa, (junior) Emily Guarino, (Senior) Thomas Shaw. Athletics: March 20th was the start of the '23 Spring Season. Clubs: March 13th -24th, Student Council running the Penny Wars Fundraiser. Penny donations got raffle entries. Raffle winner Freshman Aiden Holcomb. Proceeds went to: Pawfect Life Rescue in Uxbridge.

VIII. Superintendent's Report (7:25)

Due to having the Public Meeting this week and having had a meeting last week, the SR was skipped this week.

IX. Presentations: (7:25)

A. Worcester County Superintendents Association Scholar Award

Superintendent recognized Caroline Katz. National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, Brown University Book Award, Mass DECA food marketing series State Champion, NHS student Science Fair Choice Award, Mass Student Regional Delegate representing Northbridge and Central Mass, Finalist in the Mass. Brain Meet, Volunteers to

help with Mental Health with suicidal and transgender people, Accepted to Brown University's PLME program (2% acceptance rate).

B. NES - Principals' Update (7:30)

Had first ALICE drill at school. Found places to improve their ALICE procedures and how to improve the safety, such as staining or blacking out the large windows. DATA Days at end of Jan. Reviewed data, establish new groups, and identify students who need SST (Student Support Teams). ST Math Open House. NES is a "Model School" based on the support given to the teachers and the progress the students have made. Worcester DA's office came to speak with the students about internet safety. Looking to do something a little more inhouse as the students were too young to fully understand what the DA representatives were talking about.

Pre-School did an Animal Tracks Program, by PTA and MassWildlife. Finished ACCESS Testing. EL teachers Ms. Nico-Buda and Ms. Trehan thanked for doing a fabulous job. New Clubs and current clubs: Girls on the Run, Girls who Code, Art Club, Band & Chorus, MCAS Academy. Looking to better co-ordinate clubs to prevent double booking.

Read Across America 2/27-3/3. Thanked all of the community readers who made this enjoyable for the students.

Laid out events that will be coming up within the next month. Provided update on staffing transfers and openings.

Provided discipline data under the new SWISS reporting program and possibilities for improvements. Can see where and when the infractions happen, which can help provide updates to how each student is helped.

Preschool lottery held and the school filled. SRSD PD program through Prov. College paused on 2/22/22. Will continue to move forward with program with internal coaches for the program with the library SRSD provided NES with.

Committee had questions about the SWISS program, and how accurate it is compared to actual needs and to relearning from COVID isolation and learning. Prin. Allen informed that there is not enough data nationally or internally for differentiation yet, but using the SWISS info to help pinpoint pain points and learn to differentiate.

J. Leonard asked if other districts have done the SRSD training and if these placed would come do inhouse training for us. Hopkinton and Worcester have done this for years, and it shows an improvement, with both interest from the teachers and students.

Asked why the 2 day Inclusion Activities were not happening. Principal Hoffman explained that it is going to be rolled into the Celebration of Learning, as they are facing difficulties with staffing and funding for activities for a separate evening for the Inclusive Learning. Trying to increase inclusivity all around with afterschool programs and activities and increasing the number of clubs and events available.

X. Consent Agenda (8:15)

A. Warrant 43-38s 03/16/2023 \$197,889.97

B. Warrant 43-39s 03/23/2023 \$297,955.07

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve both warrants. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes
Allan Richards	Absent
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Absent

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

C. Donation - HS Food Pantry

Donation of \$300.

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Donation. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes
Allan Richards	Absent
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Absent

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

D. Donation - HS Weight Room

Fitness Smith donating Demo equipment to the High School.

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Donation. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes
Allan Richards	Absent
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Absent

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

XI. Discussion (8:18)

A. FY24 Superintendent's Recommended Budget

No comments

XII. Public Comment (8:18)

No comments

XIII. Action (8:18)

A. FY23 Indirect Costs

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Costs. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes
Allan Richards	Absent
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Absent

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

B. FY23 Budget - Line item transfers

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the transfers. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

Allan Richards	Absent
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Absent

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

XIV. Information (8:20)

A. School Attending Reports

Director Walker gave information about the Attending reports: Which students from Northbridge attend NPS, and which students from Northbridge attend other schools (private, religious, other school systems). Does not include children going to NPS via school choice, just the children who live in the district and where do they go. Overall trend of 45 fewer students living in Northbridge from last year to now.

XV. Adjournment (8:25)

A motion was made by Heather Alden to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes
Allan Richards	Absent
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Absent

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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