



# 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)

Steven Falconer, Chairperson, [stfalconer@nps.org](mailto:stfalconer@nps.org)  
Brian Paulhus, Kathryn Atchue, Allan Richards, Erin Donahue

### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting

#### Tuesday, February 8, 2022 7:00PM

Northbridge High School Media Center

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

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| 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
- VII. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry started her report by talking about the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school celebration at NES. She was able to go to the school and celebrate. Students dressed up in old person outfits and did projects based on the number 100. Kindergarten registration will start on Wednesday February 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 3:00pm at NES and is appointment only. Last Thursday the middle school inducted 25 students from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to the National Junior Honors Society, the students did a great job reading and presenting. The middle school will have a grade 8 parent meeting Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Lisa Gogolinski has been chosen to participate in a panel of Massachusetts educators in digital literacy to review curriculums across the state. Students from NHS will be participating in an internship program hosted by DESE. 6 students will be working in NES as substitutes and assistants, and the department of education will be paying them. This Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, will be senior night for boy's basketball against Uxbridge and on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, spring sports registration will be open.

#### VIII. Presentations

##### A. NHS Senior Trip Proposal – Jeff Kozik

Jeffrey Kozik and Nate LeMay presented information on the NHS senior trip. They advised they would be selling coffee to help offset the price per student for the trip. Whatever amount the students sell helps with their own individual trip cost. They are willing to work with students who really want to go but may be unable to afford it. They sent surveys out to students to let them know that it would be a more expensive trip ahead of time and received a lot of responses of interest for this specific trip. This will be voted on during the February 22<sup>nd</sup> School committee Meeting.

##### B. HS Dress Code – Proposed Changes by Student Committee

Students Graham Williams and Molly Consigli joined Assistant Principal, Eric Tracey in presenting the updated NHS dress code. The committee reviewed other school handbooks and worked together over the last couple of

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months to create a dress code that promoted a safe and healthy environment. Students will be allowed to wear hats, but no bandanas and sunglasses. There is no longer a mention of measurements of clothing or midriff area. Clothing must not over expose where undergarments may be. Steven Falconer mentioned that the committee also has a dress code policy, but they would like to support the district policy and that there isn't a need to stack the policy. Would like to change it to change in support of the district decided policy once it is cleaned up. Kathryn Atchue raised concerns about vagueness and suggested measurability and objectivity. Erin Donahue recommended clear cut and measureable guidelines, and that otherwise it would be too hard to implement otherwise. Brian Paulhus advised there will need to be a plan for communicating these changes out to the parents and to allow for feedback. Eric Tracey advised that there will be reports sent out.

#### IX. Consent Agenda

##### A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2022

##### B. Warrant 42-32s 2/3/2022 \$450,793.08

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to approve the consent agenda. 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.

#### X. Action Items

##### A. SEL and School Climate Coordinator Position – 332 grant

A motion was made by Allan Richards to approve the SEL and School Climate Coordinator position. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| 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.

##### B. Out-of-state Ski/Snowboard Club Trip Discussion and Approval

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to approve the Out-of-State Ski/Snowboard Club trip. 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.

## II. Discussion

### A. School Committee Review and Feedback on Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Progress Report

In response to the Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Progress Report, Erin Donahue advised that it looks like Amy is on goal and moving the district in the direction it needs to go. She loves that there are seminars for parents taking place. Brian Paulhus advised that he loved the success rate of the Freshman Academy and that failures decreased. He also enjoys that the Buddy Tutor Program is in progress. Overall, the Freshman Academy was very positive.

### B. Indirect Costs

Melissa Walker spoke on the 2022 proposed indirect costs provided in the packet. This agreement with the town tries to capture what the town paid expenses that are for education and separate from the appropriation the schools receives. She included a sheet with the 2021 agreement was and the 2021 actual numbers. The actual includes what is reported to DESE at the end of the year. The one number she pointed out is health insurance. It is based on an estimate based on the first 3 and 4 months of bills. This number should be expected to be lower, as the amount is an estimate currently at 75%.

### C. Spring Town Meeting Requests

Melissa Walker advised that the next step after determining the capital plans is to find out if the district can fund these projects. The warrant does not go out until March 4<sup>th</sup> and any action would be taken at that meeting. There will be a sum of money that would come from the town that would go towards a discussed project, for example, such as the cameras at the schools. Melissa discussed some of the projects the district would include in the article for funding.

### D. Current Year Budget Update

Melissa Walker provided a year to date report on what the original budget was approved for, what changes have been made this far, what has already been expended or encumbered, and what is still available. If it is available, it just hasn't been committed yet or does not have a purchase order at this time. She advised of line item updates and the report will reveal line by line if there was increases or funds being removed. The last page of the report summarizes all line item transfers and breaks them down by category. Most adjustments are salary related adjustments.

### E. HS Principal Search Timeline

The high school principal position will be posted tomorrow, and upon checking recent postings, there are not too many in the area currently. There will be two School Committee members on the screening committee and Jill Healy has reached out, put out surveys, and gathered representatives for the screening committee. They are hoping to have new candidates by mid-March.

### F. Revisions to Policy JICA – Student Dress Code

School Committee will mirror their policy to match the policy that the school puts forth. Steven Falconer went over edits to the policy and would like the format cleaned up. It will be an action item at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

### G. Revisions to Policy DJA – Purchasing Authority

Amy McKinstry advised that this policy is changing the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, second line to the purchasing authority. If the grant is written for a position, does the district need to put it through School Committee for approval? The district would notify school Committee but not need to seek approval only for grant funded positions written into the grant.

#### H. Revisions to Policy DJE – Bidding Requirements

Policy DJE an update to bidding requirements, updated with the most current law updated overtime. This is reflecting the new policy. If a purchase was over \$25,000 you would need to do competitive bidding, it is now \$50,000. This change would update and clarify the language.

### III. Information

#### A. Closing Grade 3 to School Choice

### IV. School Committee Individual Comments

### V. Adjournment (8:15)

A motion was made by Allan Richards to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus.

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.