



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 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, virtually, and Director of Business and Finance
Melissa Walker

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. Public Comment (7:05)
- VII. Student Representative Report (7:10)

New student representative, Sarah Cowen, a sophomore at Northbridge High School, presented an update. On Wednesday, March 2nd, Plymouth State University visited the school to talk and meet with seniors considering applying, and on March 3rd, the Nichols Academy students attended a monthly field trip to the school. Jesse Green spoke at an assembly for NHS students and it proved to be an inspirational and enjoyable experience for the students. Sarah discussed world culture week including the themes for each day and the culture fair. There is a playoff game for girls' basketball on March 9th and NHS will be hosting a shadow day for 8th grade students and they will be paired with current NHS students. On March 16th there will be a student versus staff basketball game and spring sports registration is currently open. S.A.D.D has been working on projects to address dating violence prevention and drunk driving awareness and prevention.

- VIII. Superintendent's Report (7:15)

Superintendent Amy McKinstry provided an update on the district. She thanked the over 50 volunteers that volunteered as community readers last week during the NES spirit week in honor of Dr. Suess's birthday. There were volunteers from within administration, the district, and local businesses and members of the community. Amy talked about the NMS and NHS multi-cultural activities to celebrate National World Language Week. In addition to the activities mentioned by the student representative, NMS is hosting a culture dress up week as well as a multi-cultural night on Wednesday, March 9th. NMS is also hosting kindness assemblies during the day on Friday for the middle school students and staff and Brian Williams, the Kindness Ninja will be presenting. Amy congratulated sophomore Anthony Vickers who competed in the All-New England Meet as the first wrestler in Northbridge history. Amy provided reminders of the upcoming parent teacher conferences and the upcoming professional development day/ The NHS principal search committee will be conducting initial interviews for principal candidates and they will send the top 3 candidates to Amy for final interviews. She

hopes to be able to share the final name within the next couple of weeks. Amy also announced that Karlene Ross will be retiring, and they will be positing the position later this week. Amy ended the report by holding a moment of silence and honoring the loss of a beloved teacher from Northbridge Middle School.

IX. Presentations (7:20)

A. Superintendent's Recommended FY23 Budget

Superintendent Amy McKinstry and Director of Business and Finance, Melissa Walker proposed the FY23 budget. They discussed the goals and initiatives of the district and the 2021-2024 District Strategic Plan and how they plan to achieve those goals through the proposed budget. They advised that there was an increase in special populations including an increase of 1 EL student, 60 students with disabilities, and 113 low-income students. They looked back on the challenges of Covid-19 on the district and presented the focus for the FY23 budget. This included addressing academic and opportunity gaps from the pandemic, meeting increasing demands for social-emotional and behavioral support for students, providing diverse and engaging opportunities, increased support for high needs students, and maintaining healthy, clean, and safe school buildings. This will be done through shared leadership, inclusive culture, and teaching and learning. The Superintendent's recommended budget includes an increase for salaries of \$1,046,873, an increase in out of district tuition and transportation by \$118,242, an increase in transportation of \$64,349, and an increase in athletics by \$43,722. There will be a reorganization of positions such as moving a grade 4 teacher to grade 3 and moving the instructional technologist at NES to a technology teacher role .5. There will be additional positions added including moving the athletic director role from stipend to 1.0 DTE, going from a .5 to a 1.0 FTW library clerk, moving the middle school music teacher from .5 to 1.0 FTE, and moving an NES 1:1 nurse from .74 to 1.0 FTE. There will be a new RISE teacher addition and a floater secretary substitute added as well. The occupational therapist, COTA, and EL paraprofessional positions will be restructured. The total reorganization summary included the FTE positions reduced of 4.61, FTE positions added of 5.16, and total FTE's added of .54. You can find the full-detailed presentation [here](#).

X. Consent Agenda (7:30)

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from February 22, 2022

B. Warrant 42-36s 3/3/2022 \$241,589.12

C. Food Pantry Donation

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

XI. Action Items (7:35)

A. 2021-2022 Calendar Revision – May 18th PD Day

A motion was made by Allan Richards to approve the 2021-2022 Calendar Revision. 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

II. Discussion (7:40)

A. 2022-2023 School Calendar

The 2022-2023 calendar was provided to the School Committee members. Superintendent McKinstry advised that they are still in the process of contract negotiations, and therefore, certain pieces of the calendar presented may be subject to change throughout negotiations.

B. FY23 Budget Discussion

School Committee members discussed and asked questions regarding the budget presentation. Erin Donahue asked a question regarding if the transportation rates could be expected to increase due to the cost of fuel right now. Melissa advised that we have a fixed rate in the contract, however, there is a part of the contract that addresses fuel rates and if they go above a certain amount, the district would be responsible to pay the difference. There will be a public hearing and budget discussion at the March 22, 2022 School Committee meeting.

III. Information (7:50)

A. NES Principal Timeline

IV. School Committee Individual Comments (7:55)

V. Adjournment (8:00)

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to adjourn. 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

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.