



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 22, 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. Open Public Hearing for FY23 Budget

A motion was made by Allan Richards to open the public hearing for FY23 budget. 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

A. FY23 Budget Presentation

Superintendent Amy McKinstry and Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker presented the FY23 Superintendent's recommended budget to the public and committee. They started by sharing the special population numbers to show the increase need in certain areas. They addressed the focus which is to address opportunity gaps, increased demand for social emotional support for students, create diverse and engaging opportunities for all students, increase support for high needs students, and maintain healthy and safe school buildings. They discussed the FY22 positions they would like to continue to fund including a social worker, 3 adjustment counselors, a language based learning disability teacher, instructional assistants, a .5 custodian, nurse, and a 1.0 nurse. They revealed a pie chart that shows a visual of where the ESSERIII funding is allocated. They are currently expecting approximately 15.7 million in chapter 70 state aid and the town contribution was increased since the last meeting presentation. They are expecting to utilize \$2,033,469 in grant funding and \$3,285,773 in revolver funds. They then

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discussed and compared the FY22 projections and FY23 projections, before going into the recommended budget. They went over the amount of increase under each category, revealing that salaries make up the largest budget increase. They went over reorganizations and transfers, additions, restructures, and reductions to staff members. The full presentation can be found at 2:06 [here](#).

B. Public Comment on Budget

Brandon King of 75 Sheryl Drive asked questions regarding FY24 being a challenging year financially. He questioned if two principals were needed at Northbridge Elementary School and advised that Superintendent McKinstry oversees all of the schools, which is a lot more students than just the elementary school. He stated that it seemed like a hefty price tag to have two on staff. He also stated that Athletic Directors are not cheap, as he knows what others make at different schools, and advised that it was not the best idea to add an Athletic Director.

C. Close Public Hearing

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to close the public hearing for FY23 budget. 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

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Student Representative Report

Student Representative, Sarah Cowen, gave her report in multiple sections. For her student body update she congratulated the January Students of the Month and advised that the 2022 senior class will be hosting a fundraiser to support their senior class trip to North Country Rivers Company. This fundraiser is through an organic coffee company called Dean's Beans. For her athletics update she stated that the Class of 2024 students hosted a full house during the students versus staff basketball game fundraiser and the girls and boys basketball teams won against the staff with a final score of 80-77. The unified track team is starting again this spring and will be held every Thursday and Friday and their first meet is April 8th. For her club update Sarah advised that the Student Council will be participating in the polar plunge fundraiser and provided a donation link [here](#). The E-Board members also attended the MASC state conference on Saturday, March 12th. The DECA program attending the Massachusetts DECA State Career Development Conference in Boston and she congratulated the students for their participation and Adam Chen for placing in the top 12 and Caroline O'Brien for placing in the top 6, making her eligible to compete at the International Career Development Conference. Sarah also provided extra information including information on the first annual spring festival, the 8th grade shadow days, the sustained silent reading block and discussions, and the MR. NHS competition, where Matt Wildman was the winner.

IX. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry started her report by congratulating the winner of the Mr. NHS event and congratulated the student basketball team for beating the staff team in the staff versus student basketball game. She advised that MCAS is officially starting and reminded families to make sure that students arrive to school on time and prepared for testing. The Northbridge Middle School student advisory council is hosting a spring kindness festival inspired by guest speaker, the Kindness Ninja, who spoke at school assemblies. Yesterday was a full professional development day for staff and included multiple different sessions for staff members to choose from and attend. Next week is the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation Business and Education Forum. Several of the Blackstone Valley superintendents put together a job fair to recruit for open positions for the schools next year and it will be held at Milford High School. The district has hired a SEL and School Climate Coordinator and they will be focusing on the middle school this year to get their PBIS program up and running and they will be introduced

at the April 12th meeting. In addition to that, the NHS principal will be announced before the end of the week and introduced as well. The screening committee for the NES principal will be meeting next week to screen applicants.

X. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2022

B. Warrant 42-38s 3/17/2022 \$259,163.92

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

A. 2022-2023 School Calendar

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar. 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

A. FY23 Budget

The FY23 budget is set to be voted in during the April 12th School Committee meeting. Most of the information was discussed at the previous meeting and it was addressed that FY24 is going to be a challenge. Steven Falconer advised there have been previous years that were thought to be challenging but there were positive changes. It is almost impossible to project. They are starting off looking at what is less, what drives cost, and looking at the big ticket items such as salary. Some of the other items are mandated and items such as transportation do not have a lot of room for negotiation. Superintendent McKinstry addressed the concerns of Brandon King and explained that the Athletic Director position had previously been a member of the teaching staff and was part of their contract and job. She advised that having a full-time Athletic Director would not be impacting them more than a teacher's salary portion would have. She also addressed questions regarding the need for a second principal at the new Northbridge Elementary School. The size of the building is too large for one person to manage and the responsibilities of each principal differ. She advised that the other buildings in the district have the same number of administrators but also only have about 500 students, and because the new school is double that at about 1,000, there would be less administration coverage per capita.

III. Information

A. School Attending Reports

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IV. School Committee Individual Comments

V. Adjournment (8:10)

A motion was made by Allan Richards 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.