



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, May 24, 2022 7:00PM

Northbridge High School Media Center

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

Erin Donahue	Present
Kathryn Atchue	Present
Allan Richards	Present
Jill Leonard	Present

Also in attendance was Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. School Committee Reorganization

A. Chairperson

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to appoint Erin Donahue as Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

B. Vice-Chairperson

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Kathryn Atchue as Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

C. Secretary

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to appoint Allan Richards as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

VII. Appointments and Subcommittees (7:10)

A. Budget Subcommittee (2)

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Erin Donahue to Budget Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

B. Policy Subcommittee (2)

A motion was made by Jill Leonard to appoint Allan Richards and Kathryn Atchue to Policy Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

C. Negotiations Subcommittee (2)

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue and Erin Donahue to appoint Kathryn Atchue and Erin Donahue to Negotiations Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

D. Building, Planning, and Construction subcommittee (1)

It is the policy of the Northbridge Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or homelessness in its educational programs, services, activities, or employment.

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Brian Paulhus to the Building, Planning, and Construction subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4	members having voted in the affirmative
0	members having voted in the negative

E. Community Preservation Committee (1)

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to appoint Jill Leonard to Community Preservation Committee. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4	members having voted in the affirmative
0	members having voted in the negative

F. Fields Committee (1)

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to appoint Jill Leonard to Fields Committee. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4	members having voted in the affirmative
0	members having voted in the negative

G. Green Committee (1)

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Melissa Walker to Green Committee. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4	members having voted in the affirmative
0	members having voted in the negative

H. Safety Committee (1)

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint George Simmons to Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

I. School Building Committee (School Committee Representative)

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Brian Paulhus as the School Building Committee, School Committee Representative. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

J. School Building Committee (Community Representative)

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Michael Lebrasseur as the School Building Committee Community Representative. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

K. Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Board Member

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Amy McKinstry as the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Board Member. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

L. Warrants (1)

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to appoint Erin Donahue to warrants. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes

Jill Leonard Yes
4 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

M. Weekly Payroll (1)

A motion was made by Jill Leonard to appoint Allan Richards to weekly payroll. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Erin Donahue Yes
Kathryn Atchue Yes
Allan Richards Yes
Jill Leonard Yes
4 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Student Representative Report

Student representative, Sarah Cowen provided an update. The Blackstone Valley Youth Leadership Academy, which provides 9th and 10th graders opportunities to enhance leadership, held their graduation from the program. Students from NHS participated, presented their projects, and received recognition. Sarah also advised the winners of the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association award and announced the Student Council E-Board winners. The unified track season ended with meets at Millbury and Grafton. Seniors had their last full day of school last Friday and senior events will be held. Sarah also provided an update on Northbridge Athletics, and teams are currently looking to qualify for the Central Mass tournaments. Friday, May 13th, the NHS concert band attended Great East and were awarded a gold medal.

X. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry provided a report. She advised this time of year is the busiest time. The NMS is hosting their spring concert tonight and last Thursday, NES had their first concert with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade chorus and band. They did a phenomenal job. Friday, the NMS had their 8th grade dinner dance and the students had a great time. There was also a dodgeball tournament held, and approximately 100 people were involved. The 7th and 8th grade students will be taking a youth risk behavior survey to provide data about student behaviors and the health and safety needs. NES will be working on a big buddy project, pairing up with older class grades at the school to do landscaping and beautification around the building. Parents are also welcome to volunteer. The NES book fair is running May 31st through June 13th and Wednesday, June 8th will be held in the evening. June 10th is the last day for preschool, and the 14th and 15th are preschool screening days. There are a lot of senior events coming up and Friday evening will be operation graduation. Amy reminded that the community closet is open at NMS tomorrow and it is a n early release for students. Amy also thanked Brian Paulhus for his work on School Committee.

XI. Introduction

A. NHS Principal – Dawn Stockwell

New NHS principal, Dawn Stockwell introduced herself to the committee. She is very excited to move out this way and start at Northbridge High School. It will be her 24th year in education. She has been in high school special education, a department head, an assistant principal, and a principal. She comes in with a wide variety or backgrounds, ages, and ability levels. She loves sports and all extracurricular. Her educational philosophy is that all students are good, some make bad choices, and she has never met a bad student. She will be coming to spend the day on June 9th.

B. SEL Coordinator – Joel Khattar

Joel Khattar was unable to attend the meeting tonight.

XII. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from May 10, 2022

B. Warrant 42-46s 5/12/2022 \$428,275.79

C. Warrant 42-48s 5/26/2022 \$294,414.12

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Steven Falconer Yes

Allan Richards Yes

Kathryn Atchue Yes

Erin Donahue Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 4-0

XIII. Discussion

A. NES Roger Williams Zoo Field Trip

Students in NES will be participating in a field trip to Roger Williams Zoo. It came to the School Committee for approval because it is located out-of-state.

B. Superintendent's End-of-Cycle Report

The School Committee will compile all of their responses. If the School Committee needs any additional information, Superintendent Amy McKinstry advised she could provide more.

C. Written Notice of Vacancy for BOS

There will need to be a written notice of a vacancy sent to the town hall advising that there is an open seat on the School Committee. Brian Paulhus is now on the Board of Selectmen. People can submit letters of intent or complete an application. Then, they will move into interviews and voting to appoint a 5th seat on the committee.

XII. Action

A. NES Roger Williams Zoo Field Trip

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the NES Roger Williams Zoo Field Trip. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue Yes

Kathryn Atchue Yes

Allan Richards Yes

Jill Leonard Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

B. School Choice

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve of school choice offering for the 2022-2023 school year and to close grades 2,3,5 and 9. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue Yes

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Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

C. Written Notice of Vacancy for BOS

A motion was made by Allan Richards to approve of a written notice of vacancy for the Board of Selectmen. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

XII. Information

A. SWCEC 3rd Quarter Report

XIII. School Committee Individual Comments

XIV. Adjournment (7:37)

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

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.