



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

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Erin Donahue, Chairperson, [Edonahue@nps.org](mailto:Edonahue@nps.org)  
Kathryn Atchue, Allan Richards, Jill Leonard

### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting

#### Tuesday, June 7, 2022 6:30PM

#### Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (6:30)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Attendance

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Erin Donahue   | Present |
| Kathryn Atchue | Present |
| Allan Richards | Present |
| Jill Leonard   | Present |
| Heather Alden  | Present |

Also in attendance was Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. Public Comment (6:35)

Beth Domouchel of 34 Willow St. spoke to provide her farewell to Northbridge Public Schools as she advised she has now removed all of her children out of NPS. She stated that the middle school destroyed them and a teacher made fun of her child in writing and on paper. She feels people have brushed everything under the rug and doesn't want her elementary school student to go through the same thing there. She feels that the only feedback followed through on is for students who are typical or who are in athletics. Special needs children see from the bottom up and they have to fight for the same treatment. She expressed concerns over students being forced to learn critical race theory and gender confusion.

#### VII. Student Representative Report (6:40)

Student Representative, Sarah Cowen reported that senior graduates attended class events from Monday to the graduation last week including baccalaureate, school walk through, class night, breakfast, and their graduation. Earlier this month, the freshman academy attended a field trip to battleship cove which the students all enjoyed, while the class of 2023 attended a trip to Mystic Aquarium. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the class of 2024 will be going to Roger Williams Park Zoo to educate themselves on the impact humans have on habitats and biodiversity. In addition to that, a recent group of students attended a student wellness conference where they learned about healthy and unhealthy relationships and leadership. For an athletics update, she wished luck to all teams playing in the MIAA tournament this week.

#### VIII. Superintendent's Report (6:45)

Superintendent Amy McKinstry started by welcoming Heather Alden to the School Committee. She thanked Sarah Cowen, the Student Representative for stepping in and doing an amazing job. The district is in high gear and NES is wrapping up their last ST Math student recognition activity where parents were invited to participate. Student's grades K through 2 had a field day yesterday and the grade 5 celebration will take place on Friday. There will also be field trips held throughout the district to make up for lost time. NES has met 100% of their journey goal for ST Math and will be hosting a summer camp for students in grades 2 through 5 for academics and SEL. Superintendent

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McKinstry recognized staff members at NMS who stepped up during difficult times, especially the NMS science department. Thursday, NMS is also hosting a fifth grade step-up day and summer school notifications will be going out shortly. Lastly, she advised that the graduating class received 2 million in scholarship money cumulatively.

#### IX. Introduction (6:50)

##### A. SEL Coordinator – Joel Khattar

The new SEL Coordinator, Joel Khattar introduces himself and provided information on his background. He has been with NPS for almost 2 months now. He is a father of 2 children with SEL needs and has a background of 12 years in education and 4 years as a program director for a mental health non-profit. His goal is to build an SEL PBIS system at the middle school and identify areas that need attending. He will also be interviewing potential PBIS coaches. He has worked closely with the liaisons for parent newsletters, started SEL files for teachers to grab resources, and developed SEL activities for families at home.

#### X. Presentation(7:00)

##### A. Teacher of the Year

Scott Sponseller was awarded teacher of the year. He was the most nominated staff member in the unsung hero awards and administration agreed. He volunteers to help, he helps run the freshman academy, plans field trips, serves as a class advisor, and is an amazing and humble person.

##### B. Retirees

Retirees of the district were honored. This included Ann Cunningham for 7 years of service, Bill Bishop for 2.5 years, Lisa Lukasek for 15 years, and Karlene Ross for 10 years.

##### C. Curriculum and Instruction Update

Director of Curriculum, Jill Healy provided an update on curriculum and instruction. In an effort to respond to learning loss due to Covid-19, the focus has been on calibrating and strengthening instruction. Teachers received PD on core reading instruction and a grant for writing was pursued, which the district received. K-5 staff and K-3 teachers will receive the PD on self-regulated strategy development through this grant. In the first year of ST Math grant, K-5 students have learned through puzzles and problem solving, the students love it as it is a fun way to learn. The NMS department chairs are developing proficiency scales as a framework to align curriculum and instruction, identify expectations for students, and make the teaching and learning process transparent. This summer, NMS science teachers will participate in training for new curriculum. Jill also touched on the success of the freshman academy and that they will work to refine the model for continued success. NHS is also working with the Blackstone Valley Ed-Hub to improve their science pathway and Mr. LeMay is now offering a new course on indigenous peoples history which has been the most popular elective class. They are also working on pen pal programs with students from Britain and creating student led research opportunities.

#### XI. Consent Agenda (7:10)

##### A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from May 24, 2022

##### B. Warrant 42-47s \$1,020.00

##### C. Warrant 42-50s 6/9/2022 \$270,803.92

A motion was made by Allan Richards to approve the minutes from May 24, 2022. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Erin Donahue   | Yes |
| Kathryn Atchue | Yes |
| Allan Richards | Yes |
| Jill Leonard   | Yes |
| Heather Alden  | Yes |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 5 | members having voted in the affirmative |
| 0 | members having voted in the negative    |

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A motion was made by Jill Leonard to approve warrant 42-47s and 42-50s. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Erin Donahue   | Yes                                     |
| Kathryn Atchue | Yes                                     |
| Allan Richards | Yes                                     |
| Jill Leonard   | Yes                                     |
| Heather Alden  | Yes                                     |
| 5              | members having voted in the affirmative |
| 0              | members having voted in the negative    |

## XII. Discussion

### A. Summer Meeting Dates

The tentative summer dates discussed include having meetings on July 19<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup>. These will be finalized during the next meeting. There will be no quorum for the next scheduled meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>, so the next June meeting will be held on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## XIII. Action (7:15)

### A. Superintendent's Final Summative Review

A motion was made by Allan Richards to approve the Superintendent's Final Summative Review. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Erin Donahue   | Yes                                     |
| Kathryn Atchue | Yes                                     |
| Allan Richards | Yes                                     |
| Jill Leonard   | Yes                                     |
| Heather Alden  | Yes                                     |
| 5              | members having voted in the affirmative |
| 0              | members having voted in the negative    |

## XIV. Information

### XV. School Committee Individual Comments

### XVI. Executive Session Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 21(a) for the Following Purpose Returning to Open Session:

A. Purpose (3) to Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining with Union Personnel: LOCAL 1709 Unit B - Secretarial Staff and Teamsters Union, Local #170 Instructional Classroom Assistants

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to move into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 21(a) for the Following Purpose Returning to Open Session:

A. Purpose (3) to Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining with Union Personnel: LOCAL 1709 Unit B - Secretarial Staff and Teamsters Union, Local #170 Instructional Classroom Assistants. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Erin Donahue   | Yes |
| Kathryn Atchue | Yes |
| Allan Richards | Yes |

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|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Jill Leonard  | Yes                                     |
| Heather Alden | Yes                                     |
| 5             | members having voted in the affirmative |
| 0             | members having voted in the negative    |

XVII. Return to Open Session

XVIII. Action

A. Local 1709 Unit B – Secretary Contract – July 1, 2021- June 30, 2024

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the Local 1709 Unit B – Secretarial Contract – July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Erin Donahue   | Yes                                     |
| Kathryn Atchue | Yes                                     |
| Allan Richards | Yes                                     |
| Jill Leonard   | Yes                                     |
| Heather Alden  | Yes                                     |
| 5              | members having voted in the affirmative |
| 0              | members having voted in the negative    |

B. Teamsters Union, Local #170, Instructional Classroom Assistants Contract – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the Teamsters Union, Local #170, Instructional Classroom Assistants Contract – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Erin Donahue   | Yes                                     |
| Kathryn Atchue | Yes                                     |
| Allan Richards | Yes                                     |
| Jill Leonard   | Yes                                     |
| Heather Alden  | Yes                                     |
| 5              | members having voted in the affirmative |
| 0              | members having voted in the negative    |

XIX. Adjournment (7:30)

A motion was made by Allan Richards to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard.

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Erin Donahue   | Yes                                     |
| Kathryn Atchue | Yes                                     |
| Allan Richards | Yes                                     |
| Jill Leonard   | Yes                                     |
| Heather Alden  | Yes                                     |
| 5              | 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.