



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 www.nps.org

Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org, Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,
Michael Clements, Kate Tracy, Randi Zanca

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 15th, 2016 7:00 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

I. Call to Order (7:00)

II. Attendance

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Present
Joseph Strazzulla	Present
Kate Tracy	Present
Randi Zanca	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Catherine Stickney, Business Manager Melissa Walker, and Student Representative Connor Nowlan.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording

V. Statement of Mission

VI. Public Comment

Maria Paulhus, of the MS Booster club, presented a check to the SC in the amount of \$9,053.00 to fund the MS basketball season.

The motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to accept the donation of \$9,053.00 from the MS Booster Club. The motion was seconded by Kate Tracy. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes

Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	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.

VII. Superintendent's Report

The staff at Northbridge Elementary School recognizes the importance of community involvement in schools. We have a great deal of gratitude and would like to give special recognition to the following:

- Mrs. Jennifer Lundquist, for organizing the Scholastic Book Fairs. It was a very successful week with \$3,662.13 in sales. We would also like to recognize high school volunteers and families who participated in the Family Literacy Night.
- Parent volunteers who assist classroom teachers with small group activities such as learning centers and the "I Can Read" program. The next family event will take place in March.
- Emily Murray, for serving on the NES School Council and the Beginning Bridges program for offering playgroups and workshops to support readiness for school success.
- The Northbridge Fire Department and Firefighter Tom worked with preschool and kindergarten teachers to offer the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) safety program. The primary mission of S.A.F.E. is to enable students to recognize the dangers of fire and the fire hazards of tobacco products. The main goal for the preschoolers and kindergarteners is recognition - what does a firefighter look and sound like, what does a smoke detector sound like. These instructional programs, along with their support with monthly fire drills are greatly appreciated.
- The Northbridge Police Department and School Resource Officer Tom Dejordy provided assistance with traffic safety during the Fairytale and Fable Parade. We also appreciate their support for the enhanced lockdown drills that have been conducted.

Students in first grade were visited by Pilgrims from Plimoth Plantation today. Museum teachers who visited NES introduced students to Colonial artifacts and clothing. Students made comparisons to their own household objects and wardrobes in the present day.

PBIS is alive and well at Balmer Elementary! The staff at Balmer were very excited to begin their grade level student recognition assemblies. Families were invited to a special celebration where each teacher

chose a student who exemplifies the Rams expectations. They are also hosting monthly school-wide celebrations for students who are referral-free each month.

Grade level curriculum nights and the Book Fair occurred in October. Staff members presented mini-sessions regarding the programs and curriculum at each grade. Thank you to our staff members for great presentations!

Balmer has been recognized by the DSAC for making notable progress on MCAS this past year. They have asked that we host other schools to share our practices.

The Middle School was honored to host the annual Veterans Breakfast. There were approximately 200 guests! Students and Gr. 8 teachers went above and beyond to create an amazing event. We're already making plans for improvements for next year!

Solitude Lake Management Corporation is conducting a "Little Gobblers Program". The corporation is donating gift cards to NMS to provide a Thanksgiving meal for 10 of our most needy families. Representatives will be bringing the cards to NMS on Wed. Nov. 16th. We appreciate being the benefactor of their program!

Grade 5 teachers collaborated with NHS Systems Dynamics teacher, Sheri Travers, to conduct a lesson on composting. Gr. 5 students visited the NMS program, learned about composting, and helped to winterize the vegetable bed at NHS.

We are proud to introduce our "RAMS Techs"! This is a small group of 7th and 8th grade students who meet with Mrs. Riolo once per 6-day cycle to discuss how they can provide technical support to the students and staff at NMS. The RAMS Techs are planning computer activities for students during "Computer Science Education Week" (Dec. 5-11). The RAMS Techs will lead and facilitate this sessions.

At NHS, the AP US Government and History classes visited the Kennedy Institute on Nov.15th. NHS students and Principal presented to NMS 8th graders on the opportunities at NHS. The updated annual brochure focusing on NHS' offerings is almost ready for publication.

Natalie Lyons and Ashley Senosk honored NHS today as guest keynote speakers at the MDSC conference at Holy Cross.

The Distracted Driving van for juniors came to visit NHS at the beginning of November. Thank you to SRO Dejordy for making these arrangements. In continuing to prepare for college and career readiness. ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) Assessments were offered for students at NHS this month.

We are very pleased to announce that we have been accepted into the Feasibility Phase with the MSBA. At the board meeting last week, the board voted to accept the Balmer project to this next phase.

Catherine was honored to participate in the Beam Setting ceremony at WCS in October. I also participated in the Chamber of Commerce's focus group for local women in leadership roles in the community - "Ready, Set, Goal" Network. The group is forming and will begin to gather in 2017.

Our staff members have been very busy with professional development in October and November. We will present information regarding our plan and activities for the year at the next meeting.

We thank the Sr. Center for collaboration with the Middle School to host an intergenerational storyteller in October. We look forward to partnering more this year.

Catherine is in the process of collaborating with town departments and the community center to focus our efforts to provide support to students after school and a summer lunch program. These are a few ideas which came from the Our Kids Community Reading Group. Our group will appear again on About the Valley on Dec 1st to continue our discussion regarding actions we can take in the community.

As always, we are focused on our students and improving teaching and learning. We are thankful during this holiday season for a supportive community, wonderful staff, and a strong group of students preparing to be the future of our community and country.

VIII. Recognitions

Catherine Stickney wanted to recognize the following businesses and students for their donations and generosity:

Koopman Lumber Company- Daryl Baker, the VP of Retail Operations, made a \$200.00 donation to the Town of Northbridge and the Northbridge Police Department to assist them in preparing to present the Northbridge Junior police Academy.

Whitinsville Country Club- Frank and Matt for the use of the Club and the donation of the services of the Golf Pro.

Whitinsville Christian School- for the use of their van for the Golf Team.

Northbridge High School Students- NHS students for their community service for the Budget Forums and Literacy Night.

IX. Consent Agenda

- a. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes from 7:00PM on October 11, 2016
- b. Warrant 37-16s 10/13/2016 \$399,377.82
- c. Warrant 37-18s 10/27/2016 \$142,230.57
- d. Warrant 37-20s 11/10/2016 \$370,265.03

The motion was made by Randi Zanca to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Kate Tracy. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	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.

I. Action Items:

- a. Fuel Efficiency Policy for Town of Northbridge's Green Communities Initiatives- Approval of Superintendent's Signature

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to approve the fuel efficient vehicle policy and to authorize the Superintendent to sign to acknowledge our approval of this policy as well as the energy reduction plan. The motion was seconded by Joseph Strazzulla. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes

Randi Zanca

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.

II. Presentation:

a. Aramark- Report for 2015-2016

Mary Farese Brown and Jay Gustaitis presented a report for 2015-2016. They discussed: 2015-2016 Opportunities-The Plan, The Results, Year over Year Comparison, and Moving Forward in 2016-2017.

X. Discussion:

a. High School History Club- Field Trip to Newport Mansions

Katie Dion presented an out of state field trip request to the School Committee. Ms. Dion requested to take students to the Newport Mansions in Newport, RI. This will be an action item on 11/29/16.

b. Energy Reduction Plan for Town of Northbridge's Green Community Initiative

This item was an action item. No discussion.

c. Policy Update- IHAMB

Catherine Stickney discussed the updates to this policy. We have a mandate by MA General Law to update our policy. There are only a few additions from the existing policy to the new policy

d. SWCEC First Quarter Report

There were no questions or comments in regards to this item.

e. FY18 Budget

Mike LeBrasseur reviewed the process thus far. There have been three budget forums. Last week, the School Committee met with Principals and Administrators to get their feedback and to share the feedback from the forums. They also discussed their priorities for the FY18 process. There was a budget meeting earlier this evening as well. They discussed the process, the development of the budget; a level services budget, as well as prioritizing the immediate recommendations of the administrators and a focus on the Balmer School.

f. MSBA- School Building Update

Joseph Strazzulla stated that the MSBA approved the feasibility portion. They discussed forming a small subcommittee from our SBC as we move along.

g. BPCC Representative

Joseph Strazzulla stated that he will need to find a replacement for his position on the committee. He will be unable to commit to both the BPCC and the SBC committees. A designee for this position will need to be appointed to represent us.

XI. School Committee Individual Comments

Kate Tracy- Thank you to Mr. Lizotte for the invitation to see the Six-String Soldiers perform. What a great hour-long concert! One of our HS band members performed along with them.

Randi Zanca- Enjoyed watching the Six String Soldiers perform online. It was a great event.

XII. Adjournment

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm. The motion was seconded Joseph Strazzulla. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	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.