



Brian

Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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www.nps.org

Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org, Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,
Alicia Cannon, Brian Paulhus

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 26th, 2017 7:00 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

I. Call to Order (7:00)

II. Attendance

Alicia Cannon	Present
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Present
Joseph Strazzulla	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Catherine Stickney, Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker, and Student Representative Emilee Angell.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording

V. Statement of Mission

VI. Public Comment

None.

VII. Superintendent's Report

We will begin with news from NES. Beginning of the year benchmark assessments are almost complete at NES. The information that is gathered will be used to provide differentiated instruction as well as tiered supports for students.

Our first character education assembly will take place on Friday. The character education curriculum and assembly program supports the following character traits: Honesty, Effort, Achievement, Respect, Responsibility, Teamwork, Safety, and Self-Control (HEARTS). This month teachers conducted mini-lessons and conversations that focus on HONESTY. Our assembly will take place on Friday,

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.

September 29th. On Friday, we are encouraging all students and staff to wear an article of clothing that is RED. This year Mr. Joel would like to add one more component. He has written a new song called "Messy Hair". The message in the lyrics supports the HEARTS character education program and also promotes kindness, individuality, and self-confidence. So Friday will also be a great day to come to school wearing RED and have MESSY HAIR. By doing so, we hope that together we can foster good moral character and HAVE FUN in the process!

The Balmer Elementary School had a successful beginning to the school year. Last week, we celebrated our first School-wide Event of Extra Recess. We had many parents help out during this event, which was greatly appreciated due to the inclement weather.

We have sent home our student AIMSweb oral reading assessment data to all families. The letter describes our RtI model and a description of how to interpret the oral reading fluency scores. We are committed to sharing this information with parents after the winter and spring assessment windows. We encourage parents who may have concerns or questions to reach out to Mrs. Ross.

The Balmer community will be working with a school in Texas as part of our Community Service project this year. The Barrett Elementary School community suffered tremendous devastation during Hurricane Harvey. The area where the school is located had the greatest amount of rainfall with 55". We are planning several events to support the students and families of the Barrett Elementary School.

Classes are in full swing at NMS! Students are working to earn Ram Bucks by following the school expectations. Team leaders at each grade level are running elections for class officers. In the past we've only had eighth grade class officers so this is new for our fifth, sixth, and seventh graders. Students will campaign with flyers, posters, and finally give speeches in front of the whole grade level. A representative from the Northbridge town clerk's office will visit Northbridge middle school to help run elections.

There will be a tree planting at NMS on Friday in memory of Ben Hamelin, a NHS student who passed away six months ago. Ben was very fond of his time at NMS, and his family will join us to present this memorial gift.

The NMS will hold its Curriculum Night on Wed. Oct 4th. Administration and staff are looking forward to greeting families and sharing information about our programs.

On Tuesday, September 5, the NHS Student Council, along with parents and community members, sponsored a "Fill A U-Haul Truck Drive" on behalf of the victims of Hurricane Harvey. This extremely

successful program resulted in the filling of two trucks of supplies. NMS students were also invited to participate.

The NHS Food Pantry opened its doors for business, and the extended summer has helped our Community Garden continue to thrive! The last weight brought the harvests up to 2,800 pounds. We should have a few more harvests to go before the end of the season. Due to the warm weather, the garden should remain open until mid-October. Food has been shared with the NAC Food Pantry, Piece of Bread, and John 21 participants.

As you can see, we have already started the school year with a focus on community service - both locally and globally.

At 7:05 AM, on Monday, September 10 an odor of gas was reported in the science department area of the third floor by an arriving staff member. The building was immediately evacuated, and Northbridge Fire was alerted. NFD, NPD, and our gas supply company's service department responded and determined the issue to be minor leakage from seven gas outlets in classrooms with for Bunsen burners.

After inspecting every outlet in the eight science classrooms, turning off gas to rooms with problem outlets, and thoroughly venting the classrooms, students were approved to return to classes by the Fire Chief at approximately 8:30 AM.

Repairs to all of the problem gas outlets were completed on Thursday, September 21 by a local gas contractor. This served as a reminder that maintaining our 17 year old high school is an important component to capital projects.

RAMS TV Coordinator Mrs. Debra Herbert was informed this morning that her students' competitive video submission, "Do-Over," earned an honorable mention in the Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation's MassRIDES and Massachusetts Safe Routes to School video competition. The NHS team will attend the Moving Together Conference at the Park Plaza hotel in Boston this Thursday,

Homecoming will take place at Lasalle Field on Saturday, October 7, with various sporting events starting from noon and concluding with boys' soccer at 6:30 PM. many activities and stands will be open throughout most of the day. The Annual Homecoming Dance will be held at NHS on Thursday, October 5th from 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM.

We have been very busy with the School Building Committee work in the district. The finishing touches are being added to the Educational Plan; the Geo Tec machines were out collecting dirt samples last week, and our community forums continue to provide a wealth of information to the community.

We are also applying for the designation of an Innovation Pathway Program for Northbridge High School. Based upon our work with the ICCR Demonstration Site, that assisted us in establishing the NCA's, we have many of the components already in place.

Tomorrow evening, I will host a Global Education Informational Session. There's been a great response, with over 90 students expressing interest.

We are preparing for our first full day of professional development on Oct. 6th.

We are also happy to announce that Oct. 2, Mr. Greg Palmer will be joining the staff as Director of Educational Technology. Welcome also to Mrs. Christine Cote who has joined us as an Instructional Technology specialist.

VIII. Consent agenda

- a. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes from September 12, 2017
- b. School Committee Executive Session Minutes from 8/4/15, 8/18/15, 9/22/15, 10/13/15, 11/24/15, 12/22/15, 4/26/16, 6/14/16, 9/27/16, 10/25/16, 11/29/16, 12/13/16, 1/10/17, 2/14/17, 2/28/17, 3/28/17, 3/28/17, 4/11/17, 5/23/17, 6/27/17
- c. Warrant 38-12s 9/14/17 \$256,127.66

A motion was made by Alicia Cannon to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
3 members having voted in the affirmative	
0 members having voted in the negative	
The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.	

IX. Action items

- a. Field Trip- DECA Trip to Philadelphia

A motion was made by Alicia Cannon to approve the DECA Field Trip to Philadelphia- November 10-12, 2017. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative
The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

b. Field Trip- DECA Trip to Boston

A motion was made by Alicia Cannon to approve the DECA Field Trip to Boston from March 8-10, 2018. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative
The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

c. Field-Trip- DECA Trip to Atlanta

A motion was made by Alicia Cannon to approve the DECA Field Trip to Atlanta from April 20-25, 2018. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative
The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

d. Trip to Europe, April 2018

A motion was made by Alicia Cannon to approve the Trip to Europe in April 2019. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

e. Fall Town Meeting Capital Article

A motion was made by Alicia Cannon to approve the changes to the Fall Town Meeting Capital Article. Striking specifically, the repairing and replacement of carpet and seating and replacing with MS student lockers. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

f. Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant Award

A motion was made by Alicia Cannon to accept the Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant Award for \$2,500.00. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

g. Polyfoam Donation for Northbridge HS Food Pantry

A motion was made by Alicia Cannon to accept the Polyfoam Donation in the amount of \$300.00 for the NHS Food Pantry . A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

h. Designee to Sign Payroll

A motion was made by Alicia Cannon to appoint Brian Paulhus as the Designee to Sign Payroll. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

i. Back-up Designee to Sign Payroll

A motion was made by Alicia Cannon to appoint Michael LeBrasseur as the Back-up Designee to Sign Payroll. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

X. Discussion:

a. Superintendent's Goals 2017-2018

Catherine Stickney discussed the Superintendent's goals for 2017-2018. Catherine discussed her Professional Practice goal, District Improvement Goal, and Student Learning Goal.

b. School Committee's Goals 2017-2018

Joseph Strazzulla discussed the School Committee's goals for 2017-2018. Joseph discussed the following goals: Secure the requested budget to secure the needs of our students, Demonstrate student achievement with the resources available, and Execute capital maintenance and building projects(s).

c. FY17 Budget Recap and FY18 Planning

Melissa Walker discussed the June 30, 2017 Year to Date budget report, FY17 Budget Recap, and FY18 Revolver Projections.

d. School Building Committee Update

Joseph Strazzulla stated that we are in our PDP phase – a “book report” of all of the work we have done since the process has started. After October 3rd, we will have our four recommended site plans for Balmer and grade configurations. The next Community Forum is on October 30th at Balmer, and October 12th is the Joint School Committee-FinCom- Board of Selectmen- and School Building Committee meeting.

e. Vacancy Approval Process

Joseph Strazzulla discussed the vacancy approval process for the open School Committee position.

XI. School Committee Individual Comments

Brian Paulhus stated that he has two kids at the High School and wanted to report back some great experiences that they were having. Wonderful things are happening in the classrooms. A job well done.

Alicia Cannon- attended Curriculum night at the HS, and it was a great night. The teachers have done an excellent job, and it was very informative.

XII. Adjournment (8:35 P.M.)

The motion was made by Alicia Cannon to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. The motion was seconded Brian Paulhus. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.