



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 10th, 2018 7:00 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

I. Call to Order (7:00)

II. Attendance

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

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

III. Public Comment

- Eleni Braley, Special Education Parent, addressed the committee in regards to the comments made by parents and teachers at the March 22nd meeting and in regards to the Special Ed program in general.
- Kerrie Hendee, Northbridge parent, expressed her concerns with the Special Ed Department regarding her grandchild.
- Elizabeth Haberski and Michael Dutreau addressed the committee with regard to the school lunch policy and stated that they will reach out for more information. They are interested in proposing a pilot program for school lunches.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Good evening!

With ELA MCAS nearly over, spring break next week, and spring sports underway, we are watching the end of the year quickly approaching!

We hope that the community will join us for the Celebration of Learning and the Evening of the Arts - tomorrow night from 5-8PM. We will have pizza for sale for dinner; student learning exhibits in the media center and cafeteria, student art displays in the lobby and field house, and our talented performers in the field house beginning at 7pm.

Thursday night is the Grade 8 Lip Sync Event. Tickets are still on sale for \$8 and available at the door.

Friday afternoon is the Kindness Drumming event at NES. Please join Mr. Joel as we make some noise for being kind to others!

Next week is Spring Break, and school will resume on April 23rd.

Students from NHS enjoyed an evening of festivities on Saturday night at the prom.

Students from MS and Balmer have been working hard to earn their PBIS challenges.

A select group of grade 6 students were chosen to debate staff members on Monday regarding the question of "Should music be outlawed for children under 18?" as part of an end of unit performance assessment for ELA. It was a thought-provoking debate, and the grade 6 students were victorious. Their prize was the opportunity to create a playlist and play music at lunch on Friday.

Mrs. Demeritt's class caused mayhem this week when the class monkeys escaped. Monkeys were discovered all over the school and around town. Thankfully, they have all been returned. The students will now write about their adventures.

This past week, Northbridge Public Schools was recognized at the BVEF Annual Forum for its leadership in the formation of the BV Ed Hub. We have been working to redesign and prepare the wood shop lab to become our manufacturing innovation lab in September.

Mrs. Perry and I have also been working with Dore and Whittier to submit our special education plan for the building project that needs to be approved by DESE as we prepare our final schematic design.

The Wellness committee met and discussed the results of the bullying survey. The information gathered was very helpful; we will put together the results to share with the public. It also served as a reminder that everyone needs to report - and has the ability to initiate a report. Please help us to continue to address this challenge. Report forms can be found online or in any school office. Any school personnel should be able to assist in completing a form as well.

In your packets, I have also included information that I received while attended the MASC Annual Summit of Poverty. The keynote presentation focused on the inability for children to learn and focus when subconsciously distracted by trauma, hunger, and housing insecurity. All students are currently affected in one form or another, and the symptoms manifest in a variety of covert ways for each child. This is why we have heard consistently that the levels of needs are continuously rising among our students. Suggestions were made as to how school systems could “disrupt” the effects of poverty and trauma on a daily basis. However, all of the suggestions would require a funding source: universal preschool; breakfast for all; afterschool supports and transportation. We will continue to focus on this important topic.

We hope everyone has a safe, relaxing spring break.

V. Consent agenda

- a. School Committee Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2018
- b. School Committee Meeting Minutes from March 27, 2018
- c. Warrant 38-38s 3/15/18 \$278,544.53
- d. Warrant 38-40s 3/29/18 \$196,781.86

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla 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	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Absent
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.

VI. Action items:

- a. Donation to NHS Food Pantry

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to accept the Donation from Pleasant Street Church to NHS Food Pantry in the amount of \$300.00. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Absent
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- Trip to China

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to approve the Field Trip to China. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
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Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
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Brian Paulhus	Yes
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Joe Richards	Absent
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Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
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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- NASA GLOBE Student Summit

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to approve the NASA Globe Student Summit on May 4-5th. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
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Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
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Brian Paulhus	Yes
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Joe Richards	Absent
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Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
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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. School Committee Self Evaluation

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to conduct the School Committee Self-Evaluation. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
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Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
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Brian Paulhus	Yes
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Joe Richards	Absent
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Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
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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. Donation- Computer Monitors

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to accept the Computer Monitor Donation. The motion was seconded by Joseph Strazzulla. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon Absent

Mike LeBrasseur Yes

Brian Paulhus Yes

Joe Richards Absent

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.

VII. Presentation

Kathleen Perry and Catherine Stickney presented the Special Education Process Overview to the committee.

VIII. Discussion

a. Special Education Department Independent Review

Catherine Stickney stated that she shared information regarding Special Education via email. This information included the 2015 Coordinated Program Review and information on the Mid-Cycle review that took place last week. The committee requested additional data which will be brought forth at the April 24th meeting.

b. SWCEC Second Quarter Report

Michael LeBrasseur stated that this is a discussion item and will be moved to an action item on April 24th.

c. School Choice

Michael LeBrasseur stated that this is a discussion item to vote on at the next SC meeting on April 24th on whether or not to accept school choice. Catherine Stickney stated we have already had a few people apply. The Superintendent's recommendation is to accept school choice.

d. School Security

Catherine Stickney stated that as we are preparing for the capital plan articles, and knowing how school security is an important topic, we have fielded some fantastic offers and suggestions from the community. It is a process in determining what the schools need and best practices, not necessarily the most popular items. We are speaking with the principals and the police department, walking through buildings, and the biggest issue that we see is an addition of security cameras.

e. School Committee Policy Review EBC

Catherine Stickney discussed the EBC policy. The revisions are based on the MASC boiler plate policy.

f. School Building Committee

Joseph Strazzulla stated that the next Community forum will take place on April 23rd from 6-8pm at the Northbridge Senior Center. The next big action is the cost estimates. We will have those by April 18th. May 9th deadline with the MSBA.

IX. School Committee Individual Comments:

- Emilee Angell- Spring sports are starting up and Evening of the Arts is tomorrow night and it will be a great time.
- Brian Paulhus- Wants to recognize the students of James Verdone for their unbelievable work with the concert. To see so many kids so well prepared and performing such a high quality concert was a testament to both the kids and Mr. Verdone.
- Michael LeBrasseur- Addition to next agenda: He wants to talk more about the school lunch situation and the collection of funds. There is an updated MASC policy that will be included in the next packet to look over.
- Joseph Strazzulla- Evening of the Arts and Celebration of Learning are tomorrow night. Joe will be upstairs in the Media Center for the SBC. A future agenda item: Some form of a town hall meeting with the School Committee in regards to next year's budget.

X. Adjournment (8:57 P.M.)

The motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Absent
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.