



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

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[www.nps.org](http://www.nps.org)

Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, [mlebrasseur@nps.org](mailto:mlebrasseur@nps.org), Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,  
Michael Alden, Bethany Cammarano, Brian Paulhus

### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 27th, 2018 7:00 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

#### I. Call to Order (7:00)

#### II. Attendance

Mike LeBrasseur	Present
Brian Paulhus	Present
Joseph Strazzulla	Absent
Michael Alden	Present
Bethany Cammarano	Present

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

#### III. Pledge of Allegiance

#### IV. Statement of Mission

#### V. Public Comment

None.

#### VI. Recognitions

Catherine Stickney recognized the 2019 Superintendent Award Recipients

Lauren Girouard- MASS Association of School Superintendents' Certificate of Academic Excellence

Heather Janson- Worcester County Superintendents' Certificate of Excellence

Meg Coughlin- Northbridge Superintendents' Certificate of Excellence

#### VII. Student Representative Report

Things are going pretty well for the students here at NHS. Fall Sports have come to a close with winter sport beginning with full force. First quarter grades have closed giving seniors a sigh of relief as they continue the college application process. As far as clubs, the Student Council delivered baskets of Thanksgiving food to families in town through DCF so these families can still enjoy the time with loved ones. Student Councils' next move is their holiday window painting. They are getting the town in the

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holiday spirit so keep your eye out around town and you'll see festive windows at some of your favorite local businesses. The holiday concert featuring the band, chorus, and a Capella choir will be held in the theater on December 19<sup>th</sup>, where the drama club will be raffling off baskets to fundraise for Mamma Mia. Those who ordered cookie platters from the Class of 2019's Operation Graduation can pick their cookies up at the concert. The NHarmonics, A Capella choir, and the band will be caroling at local nursing homes to continue spreading holiday cheer. A new club has started at the high school as well, spreading the Shine Initiative throughout the school to get people talking about mental health and what they can do if they are having a tough time. Students are still working hard as they begin to count down the days to Winter Break.

#### VIII. Superintendent's Report

It's hard to believe that the first semester is already over! We are looking forward to parent-teacher conferences coming up next week on Dec. 5th.

As discussed at our last meeting, we are very excited to move forward in planning for our new school. The design group has started weekly meetings to decide on specific details for programming.

We hope that people have been following the now monthly edition of News and Notes, which contains a wide range of information from around the district.

NES participated in the Candy Give-back where they donated their candy to send to our troops. They are working on their character education program and Second Step units.

Balmer School staff are participating in two DESE programs, which will run for three years. These are based on the state's work around universal design for learning and developing inclusive environments, which our district assisted in creating and piloting.

NMS held a very successful Family Fun Night and Veterans Day breakfast. They are working to develop strong relationships with students, families, and the community.

NHS inducted its newest members to the National Honor Society. The drama production is underway, and we are preparing for winter sports.

Staff members at all levels are working on a variety of projects from instituting project-based learning, mentoring, social-emotional learning, data teams, maker spaces, engineering design, to global studies involving clean water initiatives with students and teachers in Russia.

We are working as a leadership team to address attendance concerns. With the assistance of the District Advisory Council, we are planning an evening for parents and caregivers regarding bullying and prevention. We are planning a date for Feb. We plan to have Ellen Miller from the DA's office join us, as well as engaging a panel of parents, students, and staff members to address the topic and answer questions. Eighteen more days until holiday break, and hopefully no snow days until after Dec. 21st.

#### IX. Consent Agenda

- a. School Committee Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2018
- b. Donation Blissful Meadows
- c. Donation Shaws
- d. Warrant 39-18s 11/1/18 \$392,074.20

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

Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Absent
Michael Alden	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	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.

X. Action:

a. Superintendent's Goals

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to accept the Superintendent's Goals. The motion was seconded by Bethany Cammarano. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Absent
Michael Alden	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	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.

b. Budget Timeline and Parameters

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to accept the Budget Timeline and Parameters. The motion was seconded by Michael Alden. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Absent
Michael Alden	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	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.

XI. Discussion:

a. Senior Class Trip

The senior class trip will take place at Lake George, Great Escape Six Flags, New York on May

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24<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be an action item at the 12/11 meeting.

- b. School News and Updates- Northbridge Middle School  
John Zywiec shared updates and news from NMS.
- c. Special Education Updates: Staffing Request  
Catherine Stickney and Greg Rosenthal shared with committee that they would like to convert an Instructional Aide position to a Behavior Tech position. They also discussed adding a School Psychologist position to the district.
- d. Policy Review Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care (JFABF) Second Reading  
Catherine Stickney stated that this is a new policy, and it is the MASC version. This is the second reading.
- e. Policy Review Minutes (BEDG) Second Reading  
Catherine Stickney stated that they have updated the current policy, and it models the MASC version. This is the second reading,
- f. Early Professional Status  
Catherine Stickney informed the committee that she granted professional status to John Monahan.

## XII. Presentation

Amy McKinstry presented the 2018 Assessment and Accountability Report.

## XIII. School Committee Individual Comments

Bethany Cammarano- thanked everyone for all of the presentations. They were great!

Brian Paulhus- Good luck to all of the DECA students going to Nichols tomorrow for the business simulation. They have been working hard.

Michael Alden-Last Wednesday was the slime Officer DeJordy event. Thank you to Box tops for Balmer for the event.

## XIII. Adjournment (8:22 P.M.)

The motion was made by Brian Paulhus to adjourn the meeting at 9:12pm. The motion was seconded by Michael Alden. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Mike LeBrasseur	Present
Brian Paulhus	Present
Joseph Strazzulla	Absent
Michael Alden	Present
Bethany Cammarano	Present

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.