



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

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Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, [mlebrasseur@nps.org](mailto:mlebrasseur@nps.org),  
Brian Paulhus, Bethany Cammarano, Steven Falconer, Robert Dziekiewicz

### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

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

#### II. Attendance

Michael LeBrasseur	Present
Bethany Cammarano	Absent
Steven Falconer	Present
Brian Paulhus	Present
Robert Dziekiewicz	Present

Also in attendance Superintendent Amy McKinstry, Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker, and Student representative Ruby Holtz

#### III. Pledge of Allegiance

#### IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording

#### V. Statement of Mission

#### VI. Open Public Hearing for FY21 Budget

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to open the public hearing for FY21 Budget. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	Absent
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Robert Dziekiewicz	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.

#### A. FY21 Budget Presentation

Amy McKinstry and Melissa Walker presented an abbreviated version of the FY21 Budget Presentation that was presented at the March 3, 2020 school committee meeting. The presentation is available for viewing on the district website at [nps.org](http://nps.org) – school committee – public meeting presentations

#### B. Public Comment on Budget

Alicia Boudreau, NTA member, parent of a High School sophomore and the Northbridge High School Library Media Specialist and Michelle Muscatell, Balmer and Middle School Librarian as well as town resident, came to the podium for public comment. Alicia Boudreau shared concerns over the proposed elimination of the currently split Balmer and Middle School Librarian position. Expressed concerns about the proposed running of the Balmer and Middle School libraries being run by volunteers.

Mary Contino, former librarian at Northbridge High School and Middle School for 30+ years. Mary shared her comments and concerns over the proposed elimination of the split Balmer and Middle School librarian position.

John Swayze speaking on behalf of the Northbridge Teacher's Association (NTA) to share some comments and concerns from the members regarding the FY21 proposed Budget. They are appreciative that the budget does not actually result in a net reduction of classroom teachers. Some of the concerns are the reorganization over Title 1 at Balmer. Another concern is over the proposed loss of a computer teacher at the high school. Members had questions that were presented to the committee however, Michael LeBrasseur, school committee chairperson stated that school committee does not respond during public comment but would take the questions under advisement and try to provide responses at a later date. 1. Will the new Title 1 literacy specialist positions work directly with the students or is this a coaching position? 2. There is no mention that the resource room teacher at Balmer will be eliminated and that teacher be reassigned, is this still occurring?

Talia Berkowitz is a town resident, parent of students, and an Inclusion Preschool Teacher. Talia expressed concerns with the elimination of the assistants especially at the Balmer school and with taking the paraprofessional out of the inclusion classroom.

## VII. Close Public Hearing

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to close the public hearing for FY21 Budget. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	Absent
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Robert Dziekiewicz	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.

## VIII. Public Comment

No Public Comments

## IX. Superintendent Report (7:30)

Amy McKinstry shared information and highlights of events and happenings around the district. She also spoke about the current situation with COVID-19 and the Governor declaring a state of emergency. The full report is available to read on the district website at [nps.org](https://nps.org) - District Information – Superintendents Page – Superintendent Reports for School Committee.

## X. Consent Agenda (7:35)

### A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2020

B. Warrant 40-34s                      2/20/2020                      \$245,828.90

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to accept items from the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Steven Falconer. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	Absent
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Robert Dziekiewicz	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. Action Items

### A. NHS Program of Studies

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to accept NHS Program of Studies as presented. The motion was seconded by Steven Falconer. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	Absent
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Robert Dziekiewicz	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. Polyfoam Donation to HS Food Pantry - \$300

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to the Polyfoam Donation to HS Food Pantry - \$300 as presented. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	Absent
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Robert Dziekiewicz	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.

## XII. Discussion (7:45)

### A. FY21 Budget

Michael LeBrasseur pointed out how we have tried to look out in the future a year beyond. Michael asked to talk about the inclusion questions that came up. Amy McKinstry talked about their equity approach across the district looking at all IEP's, all grade levels. In doing so the goal is that the special education students are to have the most highly educated person in front of them at all times. They are looking to meet the needs of the students with 2 teachers instead of a single teacher and single aid. Still

keeping a good number of the instructional aids

#### B. Budget Subcommittee Update

Budget sub met prior to the 3-3-20 SC meeting and talked primarily about fees, athletics, parking, clubs, and transportation. Talked about scenarios about where we could make modifications to the fee structures. The next budget subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 3-24-20. Steven Falconer wanted to see if we could get a message out to the families to inform families that we are offering the 3<sup>rd</sup> sport for no fee this school year.

#### C. Policy Subcommittee Update

Policy subcommittee meeting was reschedule, no update.

#### D. Student Opportunity Act – Plan

Amy McKinstry talked about the Student Opportunity Act – Plan. The documentation is available in the packet for review.

#### E. Line item transfer – Athletics

Melissa Walker spoke about the line item transfer. The funds would pay for the athletic banners which are in need of updating and it is recommended that they be replaced.

### XIII. Information (7:55)

#### A. School Attending Report

No comments or questions

### XIV. School Committee Individual Comments

Brian Paulhus is looking forward to the Dodgeball Tournament being held Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Michael LeBrasseur wanted to share a “save the date” from the school building committee March 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am will be a school building topping off ceremony for the new school. More information to come. Our next meeting will be March 24.

### XV. Adjournment (7:54 p.m.)

The motion was made by Brian Paulhus to adjourn the meeting and move into Executive Session Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 21(a) for the Following Purpose Not to Return to Open Session:

- A. Purpose (3) to Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining with Union Personnel:  
Food Services Staff; Custodial Staff; Instructional Assistants. The motion was seconded by Steven Falconer. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	Absent
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Robert Dziekiewicz	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