



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org,
Brian Paulhus, Bethany Cammarano, Steven Falconer, Robert Dziekiewicz

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:00PM

This meeting is being held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, Section 20

- I. Call to Order (7:00)
- II. Statement regarding Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law
- III. 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

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. Public Comment

No emails were received for public comment and no members of the public were on the call for public comment.

VII. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent, Amy McKinstry provided a brief report including the new guidance received from the commissioner's office in light of the Governor's announcement. The guidance focused on our staff really focusing on the critical standards that the students need to know before they get to the next grade level. With this guidance we were able to update our remote learning planning to help the staff narrow the focus of their curriculum. The commissioner's guidance has been "work smarter not harder" with a real focus on the core subject areas. The principals had staff meetings to go over the new remote learning plan in which the superintendent sat in on those calls. The teachers had the opportunity to ask questions. The union and teachers are all in support of the new remote learning plan. A virtual presentation was held today with Tom Henglesberg from Dore and Whittier, and the joint staffs of NES, Balmer, and the 5th grade at Middle School. Tom went through the presentation of the entire building, all the rooms. He answered all their questions they had about storage, desks, and all the things they wanted to know about. On Thursday Mr. McCormick will be holding a virtual meeting with the Seniors to talk about their events. Some reminders tomorrow April 29th at 7pm, there

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will be a virtual Sped PAC meeting, the link is available in the update folder on the website. Thursday evening at 7pm our Social Emotional Learning task force is holding a workshop for parents on helping children deal with anxiety and worry during this pandemic time, the link is also available on the website. Lastly, I want to encourage anybody with questions or concerns to go onto the “What’s on Your Mind Survey” on the superintendents webpage. I take all the new questions and concerns and try to address them in my Sunday evening videos.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2020

B. Balmer Food Pantry Donations

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to accept items from 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:

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.

IX. Action Items

A. SC Self Evaluation vote to authorize

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to authorize the SC Self Evaluation 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. School Choice

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to approve School Choice 2020-2021. 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.

C. Bus Transportation fee refund

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to authorize Bus Transportation fee credit with authority of the administrations business office to issue refunds as requested on a case by case basis. 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.

X. Discussion

A. Last day of school

Amy McKinstry, based on the days taken prior to the closing and the snow days brings us to the 185th day, June 19th. It is always the purview of the school committee and the superintendent to extend that to June 30th. It is the recommendation the last day of school is June 19th.

B. Friends of Lasell Field fundraising

Michael LaBrasseur provided an update to the committee and get some input or direction. Amy, Melissa, and Michael met with Tim Labrie and Tim McCormick a couple weeks ago. The discussion was around continued fundraising to help fund the project. There were discussions around recognition of the contributors. What is the committee's interest or feelings around suggestions and recommendations on what we will allow as recognition/advertisement to happen on the field. The committee discussed possibly creating a subcommittee around this for policy and guidelines.

C. Lasell Field usage/rental fees

The committee talked about how other districts handle renting their facilities. Michael LaBrasseur wanted to start the conversation and share information. It is expected that the field will be ready late summer. Melissa wanted to point out that the examples were mostly charged on an hourly as we are currently structured as a per use rental.

D. School Committee Policy Subcommittee

Brian and Bethany are the current policy subcommittee members. With everything going on they have not been able to meet. We have quite a few policies that need to be updated. Michael let Bethany know that he was going to bring this up tonight, Michael would like to replace Bethany on the policy subcommittee, especially now as we will not have any new members before July at this point because of the election postponement. We could have a couple months to work through as this committee to get some policies updated. Michael opened it up to see if anyone else would be interested in serving on the committee. He put himself out there as being willing to do it as he is the one pushing to get this done.

The other committees approved of Michael replacing Bethany on the policy subcommittee. If there is no objection Michael suggested voting on this tonight.

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to form a new Policy Subcommittee appointing Michael LeBrasseur and Brian Paulhus. The motion was seconded by Robert Dziekiewicz. 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.

E. Policy BB School Committee Legal Status

Michael LaBrasseur rewrote the Policy BB as Robert Dziekiewicz noted when he joined that this policy was outdated, stating there would be nine committee members instead of five. This now mirrors the Board of Selectmen's policy. This is the first reading of the updated Policy BB.

F. Fee Based Program Refunds

Melissa Walker talked about the various fees based programs that they wanted to review possible refunds due to the closure. They reviewed all the scenarios and fees charged. Amy spoke with other districts in the area to see how they were handling charges/refunds during their shutdown.

G. FY20 Budget Update

Melissa Walker addressed the concerns going into FY21 with a lot of unknown due to the school closures during FY20. There are funds that have not been spent from FY20 also due from the school closures. The committee agreed that at this point it is not in the best interest to reallocate funds not spent from FY20 but to carry it over going into FY21 to best prepare for the unknown or potential costs associated with coming back to school in the fall. There is much more to find out after the state approves their budget.

XI. Information

A. Remote Learning Plan

Amy shared the updated Remote Learning Plan in the packet.

B. AP testing information and schedule (HS)

AP testing information and schedule was shared in the packet.

XII. School Committee Individual Comments

School Committee members shared individual comments.

Next School Committee meeting: May 12, 2020

XIII. Adjournment (8:24pm)

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: 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