



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 [www.nps.org](http://www.nps.org)

Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, [mlebrasseur@nps.org](mailto:mlebrasseur@nps.org),  
Brian Paulhus, Steven Falconer, Allan Richards

### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:00PM

**Remote public attendance only via the Google Meet Link 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
Steven Falconer	Present
Brian Paulhus	Present
Allan Richards	Present

Also in attendance: Superintendent Amy McKinstry and Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker.

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. School Committee Reorganization

#### A. Chairperson

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to appoint Michael LeBrasseur as Chairperson. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	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. Vice-Chairperson

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to appoint Steven Falconer as Vice-Chairperson. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	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. Secretary

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to appoint Brian Paulhus as Secretary. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	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.

## VII. Appointments and Subcommittees

The committee agreed to postpone the appointment of most subcommittee positions (Items A through J) until after the next meeting when a fifth committee member would be appointed. Only to appoint positions that required appointment this evening to keep things moving with no interruptions. All other appointments will stand until the vote at the next meeting

A. Budget Subcommittee

B. Negotiations Subcommittee

C. Policy Subcommittee

D. Building, Planning and Construction Committee Representative

E. Cable Corporation Board of Directors Representative

F. Community Preservation Committee

G. Safety Committee Representative

H. Solar Committee Representative

I. Green Committee Representative

J. Fields Committee Representative

K. Town Charter Review Committee

A motion was made by Michael LeBrasseur to appoint Steven Falconer as the representative to the Town Charter Review Committee. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	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

#### L. Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Board Member

A motion was made by Michael LeBrasseur to appoint Amy McKinstry as the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Board Member. The motion was seconded by Steven Falconer. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	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

#### M. Warrants

A motion was made by Michael LeBrasseur to appoint Michael LeBrasseur as the warrant signer. The remainder of the committee will be alternate signers. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	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

#### N. Weekly Payroll

A motion was made by Michael LeBrasseur to appoint Brian Paulhus as to the Weekly Payroll. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	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. Public Comment

*Comments for this meeting may be emailed in advance of the 7:00 p.m. start time to [school\\_committee@nps.org](mailto:school_committee@nps.org). All comments will be recorded in the record, and all attempts will be made to mention them live during the meeting. Any emails received during the meeting before the public comment period ends will also be attempted to be mentioned.*

**No Public Comments were made. No emails were sent prior to the meeting. No members of the public present on the call for comment.**

## XIII. Superintendent's Report

Amy McKinstry shared district updates with the Committee.

## XIV. Consent Agenda

- A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from June 23, 2020
- B. Warrant 40-50s                      6/11/20                      \$166,238.63
- C. Warrant 40-52s                      6/25/20                      \$222,590.37
- D. Balmer Food Pantry Donations

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

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	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.

## XV. Action Items

### A. Line Item Transfer – Middle School oil tank removal

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to approve the Line Item Transfer – Middle School oil tank removal as presented. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes

Allan Richards

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

## XVI. Discussion

### A. Superintendent Goals

Amy McKinstry shared updates on Superintendent Goals.

- Professional Practice Goals focused on communication
- Student Learning - creating opportunities for students who have experienced regression or maybe even students who didn't experience any regression but did not participate in remote learning. Create more learning opportunities to close the gaps in Math and ELA k-12
- District Improvement Goal - cultivating a more inclusive and diverse district culture

Committee shared comments and asked questions.

### B. Student/Family Handbook

Amy McKinstry shared some updates to the Student/Family Handbook.

### C. Summer School update/status

Amy McKinstry shared updates to the Summer School running in person at the Middle School and the High School and the Social Distancing practices taking place.

The committee shared comments and asked questions

### D. Fall Reopening Plan update

Amy McKinstry shared a presentation with the committee. DESE asking districts to prioritize the safe return of students to in-person school settings to maximize learning and address students' holistic needs. The district is working on three models

- In person learning with new safety requirements
  - o Students learn in-person with new safety requirements. Our goal for fall: to get as many students as possible back into schools for in-person learning -- safely
- Hybrid learning
  - o Students learn both in-person and remote. Available in the event districts/schools are unable to bring all students back to school despite best efforts, or in case of COVID-19 related circumstances
- Remote learning
  - o Learning takes place remotely. Available for individual students who cannot yet return in-person and for all students in the event of future closures due to COVID-19
- Across all three models all districts and schools need a plan for how special populations will receive necessary services and accommodations
- All three plans have to be submitted to DESE by July 31.
- School districts are still waiting on answers and guidance from DESE to prepare many aspects of the plans.
- NPS has five task forces working very hard within the district (between 15-22 people on each task force consisting of administration, teachers, support staff, parents, students, Northbridge police, fire department, and board of health, as well as a

member of the executive board of the NTA on each of the boards).

- Management and Operations
- Special Education and Student Support
- Facilities and Building Safety
- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
- Health and Wellness

School Committee shared comments and asked questions.

#### E. Committee Vacancy/Appointment

One position still open – one year term. Michael LeBrasseur formally announced that there is a vacancy on the committee. The proposed schedule would be holding a joint meeting between the School Committee and the Board of Selectman at the meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup> to formally interview and elect a candidate.

The vacancy and Talent Bank form is posted on the school committee site and all applications must be submitted by Wednesday July 22, 2020 at 5pm

## II. School Committee Individual Comments

School Committee shared individual comments.

Next School Committee Meeting: July 28, 2020

## III. Adjournment (8:19 pm)

The motion was made by Brian Paulhus to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	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 3-0